

## **Capstone courses that fulfill the Sustainability Minor requirement (revised 11/15/22)**

### Community Greenworks **ONLY OFFERED IN SUMMER TERM**

This Capstone offers students an analysis of social justice; a framework that promotes successful civic engagement; and an application of these principles in community settings. Students choose from several projects that best fit interests, expertise and schedules, and complete team projects with community partners addressing a pre-determined need and promoting lasting change in the community. Projects will focus on the three areas of...

### Environmental Justice and Salmon

Celilo Falls: Decolonization, Dams and Salmon in the Pacific NW In recent years, social movement organizations have increasingly strived to address the overlapping problems of environmental degradation and social inequality. Realizing that environmental problems disproportionately affect marginalized communities, these movements have attempted to address the social, political and economic root of what they frame “environmental injustice.”

### Food Justice\*

This Capstone explores visions for a just food system that empowers all community members to have equitable access to healthful, nutritious and culturally appropriate foods, information and education about food systems, and land to grow, without exploitation and with a commitment to sustainability. Students will engage with readings, group discussions, group activities, and Capstone team project work, to investigate the concepts of sustainability, food justice, and food sovereignty.

### Garden Wellness K-6\*

This course will explore the theory and practice of garden-based education for youth grades K-6th. The capstone will be partnered with McKinney Elementary School in the Hillsboro School District and will assist in developing a school garden program that emphasizes "trauma-informed" wellness practices in a garden setting. To support this work, students will explore the history and benefits of garden-based education in schools, develop mentorship and mindfulness skills for working with diverse youth in a garden setting, practice fundamental gardening skills to run and maintain a school garden and develop and implement standard-based garden lessons for the youth. \*Spanish-speaking skills are not required but helpful!

### Gardens, Community Engagement and Sustainability (Oregon Food Bank)\*

This course will explore sustainability, food security and personal connection to the environment through community engagement at the Oregon Food Bank and Wombyn's Wellness Garden. Students will examine community-based learning through the lens of sustainability leadership, and engage with alternative and critical perspectives on sustainability. Class time will focus on hands-on activities in the learning gardens, group discussion and community engagement projects in support of the Oregon Food...

### [Gathering Garden Stories\\*](#)

This Capstone will partner with the Learning Gardens Laboratory (LGL), a 12-acre garden education site on Portland's southeast side. Students work collaboratively to gather stories of community gardeners, teachers, and community partners who regularly gather at LGL to learn and farm. Capstone students will gain skills in interviewing, storytelling, and using narrative as a means for social change, in addition to learning about sustainable food systems and the impact of learning gardens.

### [Grant Writing for Environmental Advocacy](#)

Grant writing skills are critical to the survival of many non-profit environmental organizations. In this course you will learn grant writing skills by developing real grant proposals for Rising Tide. Rising Tide (<http://www.portlandrisingtide.org/>) is an international, all-volunteer, grassroots network of groups and individuals who organize locally, promote community-based solutions to the climate crisis and take direct action to confront the root causes of climate change.

### [Grantwriting for Environmental Defense](#)

Environmentalism is a philosophy and social movement (come call it a revolution) involving both protection and improvement of the health of our natural environment. Environmentalism is an attempt to achieve sustainability so that both humans and the Earth thrive without compromising future generations. The movement in this country is credited as starting with Rachel Carson and her extremely popular book *Silent Spring* published in 1962, when in fact it was spawned in 1945 with the return of...

### [Grantwriting: Environment](#)

This service-learning class uses an experiential approach: students learn to research and write compelling grant proposals by engaging in the process of writing real proposals to be used by our Community Partner in its pursuit of funding. Students in this Capstone course partner with a Portland based nonprofit organization who advocates for our natural resources, the wild, and the preservation of these special places.

### [Indigenous Grantwriting](#)

Grant Writing for Indigenous Sustainability In the online Capstone course Indigenous Grant Writing, students work collaboratively in teams to research and write grants, and to understand the issues of Indigenous communities. Students gain an understanding of collaborative work and the importance of equal participation from every team member. Students examine the role of non-profit organizations in addressing social, ethical, and political issues. They also consider the role of funding and...

### [Learning Gardens, Community Engagement and Sustainability](#)

AND

### [Learning Gardens, Community Engagement, & Sustainability](#)

This course will explore the concepts of sustainability, growing food, and personal connection to land/nature through community engagement with the PSU Learning Gardens Lab (LGL). This course focuses on community building, group discussion, and

personal reflection and will involve working on projects that support the mission of LGL. LGL is located in SE Portland at 6745 SE 60th Ave, Portland, OR 97206.

### [Multimedia Production Team](#)

The Multimedia Production Online Capstone addresses community issues and needs by developing educational interactive online media. Continuously taught since 1999, the class has undergone adjustment to the changes in technology - from output on CD-ROMs and video, to web pages and blogs developed entirely by teams of students working completely online and working remotely, from around the world! Each term students attend the class online, and learn new skills to combine to their existing...

### [Portland's Water](#)

Portland's Water: History and Challenges. This course is designed to give students an opportunity to learn about tap water and create community outreach products for the Portland Water Bureau. Our community partner for this class is the Portland Water Bureau. This class will focus on the Bull Run watershed (the source of Portland's drinking water) and the work of the Portland Water Bureau -- how they deliver our water to our taps. We will learn about the history of the water system, the...

### [Reclaiming the Commons](#)

Encouraging the stewardship of our shared resources. This course will focus on the concept of "the commons" - those resources that humans share and depend on to thrive and survive. Examples of the commons include clean air and water, shared scientific knowledge, or publicly funded resources such as parks, libraries and schools. Increasingly, many aspects of the commons are controlled by the market or private interests. Students in this course will partner with the "Oregon Commons" project.

### [Rise for the Planet](#)

This course will focus on the issue of climate change and individual steps we can take to respond to this global problem. In this course, we will explore the complexities of this issue, its impact on marginalized communities, and a variety of responses to climate change. Students in

this course will be encouraged to reflect on their own identity and skills to determine a meaningful response to the issue. Our community partner for this course is 350PDX, <https://350pdx.org/>. Students will...

### [Sustainable Food Systems and Educational Farms at Learning Garden's Lab Site](#)

The time is ripe to be part of the growing sustainable food movement! This class addresses the current food issues that face urban citizens by holistically engaging students in the many layers of Portland's local food and farm culture. Students will critically analyze the state of our current food systems while being engaged in positive solutions to agricultural-related issues. The community partner and classroom is the Learning Gardens Lab, where students will gain hands-on farming...

### [Sustainable Living](#)

In light of looming environmental crises, what can individuals do to change direction? In this course we collectively examine our society to determine which cultural values support, and which inhibit, sustainability. Working with established green teams and enrichment programs, students develop and facilitate sustainability activities for youth. Our partner groups, The Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) and the Center For Earth Leadership (CERL) empower individuals and organizations to...

### [Tryon Creek: Cultural And Ecological Education](#)

Students will participate in interpretive programs facilitated within the Tryon Creek State Natural Area. It is important to ground ourselves and acknowledge the people whose land we are utilizing; the Clackamas Chinook, the Wasco-Wishram, the Willamette Tumwater, the Multnomah, and other Chinookan peoples, as well as the Tualatin Kalapuya, the Cayuse, the Molalla and other tribes and bands of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. It is important to acknowledge the original inhabitants of the...

### [Water Scarcity \(online\)](#)

The project will work alongside Water4 Foundations, a non-profit that is focused on water scarcity issues. Students will address needs affecting the field of water scarcity. Students may participate in the following service-learning: Research cultural practices and country dynamics to assist NGOs transition into new markets; Research water technologies, benefits/drawbacks of each, identify best practices; and Survey water scarcity activities, map out industry trends, and...

*\* newly added courses as of Fall 2022*

## Legacy Capstone courses that fulfill the Sustainability Minor requirement but are not currently offered

1. [Belize Environmental Studies](#)
2. [Building EcoDistricts](#)
3. [Carbon Neutrality](#)
4. [Case Studies in Environmental Problem Solving](#)
5. [Creative Reuse](#)
6. [Cultural And Ecological Education](#)
7. [The Citizen Tree Project](#)
8. [Documenting Sustainable Development in the Pacific Northwest](#)
9. [Documenting Sustainable Practices](#)
10. [Educating the Community about Metro's Travel Options and Nature in Neighborhoods](#)
11. [Empowering Portland's EcoDistricts: Tree Inventory](#)
12. [Engaging Environmental Education](#)
13. [Environmental Activism and Community Engagement in Mexico](#)
14. [Environmental Education through Native American Lenses](#)
15. [Environmental Issues In Nicaragua](#)
16. [Environmental Justice](#)
17. [The Feasibility of Interstate Water Transfer](#)
18. [Food, Democracy and Sustainability](#)
19. [Grantwriting: Bike Transportation](#)
20. [Grant Writing for Friends of Trees](#)
21. [Grantwriting: Sustainability](#)
22. [Interpretation of Sustainability](#)
23. [Interpreting Wildlife Areas and Refuges](#)
24. [Native American Grantwriting](#)
25. [Natural Food Industry](#)
26. [Nature in the Neighborhood](#)
27. [Neighborhoods and Watersheds](#)
28. [Non-Profit Grantwriting Northwest Earth Institute](#)
29. [Outdoor and Environmental Education](#)
30. [Portland's Stormwater](#)
31. [Promoting science inquiry in middle school classrooms: Water quality in freshwater habitats](#)
32. [Race and Sustainability](#)
33. [Reducing Toxic Air Pollution in Portland](#)
34. [Solid Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling](#)
35. [Sustainable Business in Action](#)
36. [Sustainable Cities](#)
37. [Sustainable Food Systems and Educational Farms at JEAN's Urban Educational Farm Site](#)
38. [Sustainable Rural Development in NW Argentina](#)
39. [Sustainability Outdoors: Communicating Sustainability through the Forest](#)
40. [Stormwater Pollutant Reduction through Urban Retrofits](#)
41. [Urban Agriculture and Food Systems](#)
42. [Volunteer Stream Monitoring](#)