

**NRES 499: Scholarship of Sustainability 2012**  
Spring Semester offering 10 week course  
2 Credits

Lecture/discussion

4:00-5:50 p.m.

Discussions on Tuesdays beginning Jan 31 in Turner N-221

Lectures meet Thursdays in 103 Mumford Hall

**Instructor:**

M.M. Wander

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Turner Hall N-225

333-9471



**Course description**

**The class will meet over 10 weeks, starting on Tuesday, January 31, and ending Thursday, April 12.** The class will meet each Tuesday for one hour (from 4:00-5:50) for discussion of the readings. The main sessions will be on Thursdays, starting February 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 103 of Mumford Hall, on the University's south quad (just across the street (south) of the Morrow Plots on campus—about an 8 minute walk from the law school). This unusual format is due to the fact that the main, two-hour sessions, will include students from other campus courses as well as community members. (They are open to the public.) The format of the main sessions will involve comments by Dr. Freyfogle and (usually) two other campus faculty members, followed by questions and open discussion. The general topics of the 10 sessions are set forth below. All of the readings will come in two, spiral bound photocopy volumes, available in late January (cost—perhaps \$35 total). (Note—the order of the topics is still subject to change.)

Professor Eric Freyfogle, who has organized the series on behalf of the Office of Sustainability, is a law faculty member for over twenty-five years. He has written widely on issues of humans and nature for scholarly and popular audiences.

**Graded elements of the course**

*Participation in discussion of assigned readings (50%)*

All students will participate in discussion of the campus forum and associated readings. Students will be expected to bring forward points or ideas covered in discussion and/or readings and, ideally relate these to areas of interest. Students are welcome to disagree with the points of view presented but objections should be backed up with knowledge of the issues gained from assigned readings. Students will take turns facilitating the discussion by i) briefly summarizing the on campus session and setting up the class discussion, and leading the discussion of selected articles. One absence for illness or an important professional conflict will be permitted. Participation grades will be lowered by 4 points for each unexcused session.

*On line assessments (quizzes) (50%)*

Individual students will complete five online assessments. Students can choose any five of the 10 quizzes offered during the term. These will be based on the ten topics covered by the series. Quizzes will be posted on Saturdays following the campus session and are due one week later.

**Notes on grading for the class; grading on a 100 point scale.**

<b>Participation 50%</b>	unacceptable	poor	adequate	excellent
completion of assigned roles: reporter, summary, article lead	0-10 points	11-20 pts	21-25 pts	30spts
attendance and contributions to general discussion	0-9 pts more than 3 absences and failure to participate	10-14 pts absences and limited participation	15-19 pts regular attendance, intermittent participation	20 pts regular attendance frequent participation

**On line assessment 50% (Compass)**

4 points each for 5 quizzes; 0-2 points for addressing the question in a thoughtful manner, 0-2 points for using the assigned readings to support the points you make.

**Topics and Schedule**

Topic	Discussion	Forum
Introduction		
Is Sustainability a Meaningful Goal?	January 31	February 2
Why Do We Misuse Nature?	February 7	February 9
Environmentalists and Animal Lovers: Friends? Foes?	February 14	February 16
How Should We Share the Planet?	February 21	February 23
Can We Save Biodiversity?	February 28	March 1
What Can Business Do to Promote Environmental Goals?	March 6	March 8
The Environmental Backlash: Useful Opponents? Destructive Force?	March 13	March 15
Getting People to Live Green: Helpful? Diversionary?	March 27	March 29
Capitalism: OK? Reform? Replace?	April 1	April 5
Is a Broad Coalition Essential?	April 8	April 12