

Assessing Sustainability: Project Experience

ENR/AEDE 4567

Credit Hours: 3

Spring 2024

Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:10a.m. – 12:30p.m.

Ag Admin Bldg. 246

INSTRUCTORS

Greg Hitzhusen - hitzhusen.3@osu.edu

Phone: 614-205-7787

Office hours: Office hours will be by appointment, please email me to arrange a meeting in person or via Zoom.

Bruce Braine - bhbraine@gmail.com

Phone: 614-562-7588

Office hours: Office hours will be by appointment and generally conducted by Zoom by phone. **Please contact the instructor via email.**

Teaching Assistant:

Andrew Bergmann (AEDE) – Bergmann.46@osu.edu

Office hours: via appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENR/AEDE 4567 is the capstone course for the Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability (EEDS) major. The overall goal of the course is to provide the opportunity for you to learn, synthesize, and apply concepts and methods of environmental, economic, and social analysis to address real world sustainability questions faced by businesses, government, and institutions. Students will have a choice among a variety of real-world projects that allow them to apply the skills they've been developing in their previous EEDS courses. Each project will feature a Request for Proposals (RFP) for our class that lists several goals, objectives, and specific actions related to that project. Students will develop a proposal that meets the given RFP and at the end of the term, your research group will present your findings and recommendations. Since every project features an outside partner, your research has the potential to meaningfully contribute to the future of sustainability and economic development programs beyond the classroom. This format is intended to give you practical work experience that helps launch your own career in sustainability.

PREREQUISITES: Senior standing or permission of the instructor(s)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Gain real world experience in developing and carrying out research related to the sustainability and economic development plans of an organization.

- Apply data analysis methods to measuring specific economic, environmental, and social factors and assessing the implications for sustainability and economic development projects.
- Learn how to apply project appraisal tools and methods, including but not limited to aspects of sustainability accounting, cost-benefit analysis, benchmarking, case studies and key informant interviews to sustainability planning and management.
- Gain experience with project management.
- Work effectively in interdisciplinary teams.
- Communicate effectively in oral and written forms in researching and evaluating contemporary sustainability issues and their potential solutions.
- Demonstrate professional and ethical responsibility in addressing contemporary sustainability issues.
- Develop a general appreciation for communication, scientific writing, proposal development, resume writing, peer review, presentation skills, team dynamics, and critical thinking skills.

TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

There are no textbooks for this course. Most of your work will be focused on a unique, real-time sustainability project that your team will complete in collaboration with a community stakeholder. Any needed readings or resource texts will be provided in Carmen electronically.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED MATERIALS

Research teams are expected to pay the printing costs (less than \$40 per team) for their group research poster at the end of the term. If Covid or other factors change how we handle the end of the semester, this component may be irrelevant.

GRADING

The course is graded A – E, with the weighted distribution outlined in the course requirements section. Transformation of numerical grade to letter grade will follow:

A	100% to 93%	B	< 87% to 83%	C	< 77% to 73%	D	< 67% to 60%
A-	< 93% to 90%	B-	< 83% to 80%	C-	< 73% to 70%	E	< 60%
B+	< 90% to 87%	C+	< 80% to 77%	D+	< 70% to 67%		

ASSIGNMENTS

Class Participation	100
Research Proposal Presentation Plan	10
Research Presentation Peer Critique	10
Written Project Proposal (in response to RFP)	40
Research Report Peer Review	50
Final Presentation	50
Final Research Report	140
Total	400

More detailed explanations of each assignment, grading standards, and due dates will be provided in class and on Carmen. All assignments in ENR/AEDE 4567 relate to your group research term project. These can be further subdivided as follows:

- **Individual Evaluation: Class Participation, Peer Critique, Peer Review**

Active participation and leadership in group project work and related classroom activities will be critical to the success of your research project and will form a significant portion of your course grade. The peer critique will require you to evaluate another research group's proposal presentation. Each student will also peer review another group's final research report, and peer evaluations within each group will constitute half of each student's class participation score.

- **Group Evaluation: Proposal Presentation Plan, Written Proposal, Final Research Poster Presentation, Final Written Report**

Group assignments, both written and oral, will make up 240 of the total 400 points in the class. Group assignments increase in point value as the term progresses, reflecting the importance of developing good teamwork habits over the course of the semester. Your group proposal presentation plan will help organize and develop the required content (as detailed in the RFP) of the oral and written portions of your research proposal. Your final research presentation will be a poster presentation plus Q&A during an Environmental Professionals Network event and at one other venue; your group's final written report must be 15-20 pages. Be sure to consult further assignment details that will be handed out and discussed in class for all major assignments. Final research reports will be uploaded to OSU's Knowledge Bank digital repository for Campus as a Living Laboratory (CALL) sustainability projects, and permanently archived by OSU libraries.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: To receive full credit for writing assignments, work must be turned-in on time and in condition to be evaluated. Papers with excessive errors will be returned for resubmission and will be treated as if they are late. Late assignments will incur a deduction of 50% of the total point value for each 24-hour period (or portion) that they are late (including weekends). In-class assignments missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made-up or repeated.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/ ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

From: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coamfaqs.html#academicmisconductstatement>: "The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct may constitute "Academic Misconduct." Sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University."

In the Ohio State University's [Code of Student Conduct](#), Section 3335-23-04 defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct."

ACCOMMODATION POLICY

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, you should contact me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion.

SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the **Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS)** by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling 614-292- 5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkun Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614--292--5766 and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273--TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. Also, the OSU Student Advocacy Center is a resource to help students navigate OSU and to resolve issues that they encounter at OSU – visit <http://advocacy.osu.edu/>.

Writing Consulting: Students wishing to have additional help with the writing of their papers can meet with a consultant at the Writing Center (<https://cstw.osu.edu/make-writing-center-appointment>).

COURSE SCHEDULE (NOTE: SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES, EVENTS
1	January 9,11	TUESDAY: <u>CLASS INTRODUCTION</u> ; VIDEO ON PAST CAPSTONE; SYLLABUS REVIEW AND RFP PREVIEW- STUDENTS SUBMIT TOP-THREE PROJECT INTERESTS (NON-BINDING) W/ BIO SURVEYS THURSDAY: <u>RESEARCH PROJECTS BRIEFING AND Q&A</u> [W/ COMMUNITY PROJECT SPONSORS]
2	January 16,18	TUESDAY: <u>FINAL PROJECT CHOICES AND FORM RESEARCH TEAMS</u> ; GROUP SUCCESS DISCUSSION; INITIAL GROUP MTGS; <u>SUBMIT COMM PLAN (BEFORE CLASS ON THURSDAY)</u> THURSDAY: PROJECT TEAMS WORK ON RESEARCH GOALS AND PROPOSALS; BREAKOUTS WITH INSTRUCTORS
3	January 23,25	TUESDAY: "PROJECT MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND TIPS" ; WORK ON PRELIMINARY RESEARCH GOALS; <u>SUBMIT PRELIMINARY RESEARCH GOALS BY WEDNESDAY NOON</u> THURSDAY: <u>GROUP METHODS ROUNDTABLE AND DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS METHODS</u> (QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE): NPV, COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS, SURVEY, FOCUS GROUPS, KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS, ETC
4	Jan 30, Feb 1	TUESDAY: <u>GUEST PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP BREAKOUTS</u> : ALUMNI PROJECT ADVICE SESSION: EEDS ALUMNI, GUEST PRESENTERS; GROUP TIME THURSDAY: <u>GROUP WORK-DAY AND MEET WITH INSTRUCTORS</u> : LOGISTICAL PREP FOR PRESENTATIONS; DISCUSS PROPOSAL AND PRESENTATION PLANS WITH INSTRUCTORS (REFER TO GROUP PROPOSAL PRESENTATION PLAN HANDOUT)
5	February 6,8	TUESDAY: <u>PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS</u> (10 MIN W/ 10 MIN. FEEDBACK/Q&A) [W/ COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT] THURSDAY: <u>PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS (10 MIN W/ 10 MIN. FEEDBACK/Q&A)</u> [W/ COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT]; PEER CRITIQUES DUE FRIDAY, 5PM
6	February 13,15	TUESDAY: <u>COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND GROUP BREAKOUTS</u> : COMMUNICATION TOOLS: WRITING ; GROUP TIME TO FINALIZE PROPOSALS THURSDAY: <u>NO IN-PERSON CLASS GROUP WORK-DAY AND OPTIONAL TEAM CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTOR VIA ZOOM</u> : ANALYSIS METHODS AS NEEDED; WRITTEN PROPOSALS DUE BY 1:00PM [SEE RFP FOR SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS]
7	February 20,22	TUESDAY: <u>CRITICAL THINKING ROUNDTABLE</u> ; PROPOSAL FEEDBACK RETURNED FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND INSTRUCTORS; GROUP TIME THURSDAY: <u>GROUP TIME: CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM</u>
8	February 27,29	TUESDAY: <u>GROUP TIME; CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM</u> THURSDAY: <u>GROUP WORK-DAY AND MEET WITH INSTRUCTORS</u>
9	Mar. 5,7	<u>TUESDAY: RESEARCH PRELIMINARY RESULTS PRESENTATIONS</u> <u>THURSDAY: RESEARCH PRELIMINARY RESULTS PRESENTATIONS</u>
10	Mar 11-15	<u>SPRING BREAK ----NO CLASSES</u>
11	Mar 19,21	TUESDAY <u>ALL CLASS ZOOM MEETING</u> : PLANNING FOR PROJECT COMPLETION THURSDAY: <u>GROUP TIME; CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM</u>
12	Mar 26, 28	TUESDAY <u>GROUP WORK DAY (CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM)</u> THURSDAY <u>GROUP WORK DAY (CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM)</u>
13	April 2 April 4	TUESDAY: <u>POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS</u> THURSDAY: <u>POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS</u> (FURTHER INFO ON PEER REVIEWING WILL BE POSTED BY THURSDAY)
14	April 9, 11	TUESDAY: <u>ALL-CLASS MEETING FOR QUESTIONS</u> ; WRITTEN REPORT DUE BY 5PM TO PEER REVIEWERS AND INSTRUCTORS; COMMENTS RETURNED WITHIN 48 HOURS NOTE: <u>POSTER PRESENTATIONS will occur during this week at an EPN event, details TBA</u> THURSDAY: <u>GROUP WORK DAY</u> PEER REVIEWS DUE BY 5PM; (CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM)
15	APRIL 16-18; 23-25	TUESDAY/THURSDAY: <u>GROUP WORK DAY; CHECK-IN WITH INSTRUCTORS VIA ZOOM</u> MONDAY: <u>FINAL REVISED RESEARCH REPORT DUE BY 11:00AM MONDAY</u> , APR. 22ND NO CLASS TUESDAY (MONDAY APR. 22 IS LAST DAY OF CLASSES) FRIDAY: <u>UPLOAD APPROVED FINAL REPORT TO KB CALL REPOSITORY BY COB. FRIDAY, 26TH</u>

