

# RISE Environmental Issues Seminar

NSC 192, Fall 2014, 1 credit

Tuesdays, 2:40-4pm

112 Brody

RISE Twitter: @msuRISE



*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* –

Margaret Mead

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## Course Format:

A seminar is a type of learning experience in which the responsibility for learning is shared by the students and the instructor. Cooperative learning will be fostered through a variety of opportunities such as field trips, guest speakers, outreach projects, in-class team activities and discussions.

## Course Text:

We will be using the book "StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academic, Career, and Beyond" by Donald O. Clifton, Edward Chip Anderson, and Laurie A. Schreiner (2006). The access code is \$9.99 and comes with an downloadable pdf version of the text. The code can be purchased here by clicking "Purchase a Single Code":

<https://www.strengthsquest.com/schoolaccess/default.aspx>

## Expectations:

- Students will arrive on time to class prepared to learn.
- Assignments will be turned in on the due date. Printer or any other technology malfunction is not an acceptable excuse for late work.
- Students will maintain a respectful learning environment.
  - This includes maintaining an open mind with peers, instructors and guest lecturers
  - Texting and use of social media during class will result in zero participation points for that class period

## Learning Objectives:

LO1: Students will be introduced to environmental issues in an interdisciplinary approach so that they may articulate multiple perspectives about complex problems

LO2: Students will identify environmental and sustainability learning opportunities at MSU to enhance their major field of study

LO3: Students will gain self-knowledge and leadership skills to effectively participate in community action for social change

LO4: Students will develop skills for academic success including: teamwork, effective communication, and collaborative learning

LO5: Students will be able to describe their skills and interests in order to make meaningful academic, life, and career choices

### **Communication:**

Instructors are available by appointment to answer questions you may have concerning this seminar or other issues related to your living and learning experience here at Michigan State University. Learning Assistants will have regular weekly office hours. If you have questions regarding assignments you should email **at least 2 instructors or Learning Assistants** with "NSC 192" in the subject line. We will be communicating with you regularly using the **D2L course management** system; **you should check your email daily**. The RISE website offers current information regarding tutoring hours and curricular requirements.

### **Attendance:**

Prompt regular attendance is expected and crucial to your success in this seminar. If you are late or absent (without a university excused absence) it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to go over class content. Class will begin and end on time every day, and students are responsible for all topics and materials discussed within that time. Attendance and participation will count toward a portion of your total class grade.

### **Tutoring and Mentoring:**

Students in RISE have access to free tutoring for math, writing, physics, and chemistry classes. RISE tutors hold regularly scheduled evening office hours in C204 Bailey Hall to assist students with homework and help students prepare for exams. Tutoring hours will be posted outside the office and on the RISE website. Your mentors are also an important resource for your success. Be sure to meet with them regularly.

### **Evaluation/Grading:**

Your final grade in this seminar is based on a 100-point scale. Late work is penalized 10% for each day past the designated due date, unless accompanied by a university approved excuse. The grading scale used for this class is as follows:

Total Points	Final Grade
93-100	4.0
86-92	3.5
80-85	3.0
74-79	2.5
68-73	2.0
62-67	1.5

## **ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **Survival MSU! Resource Search—5 points**

*Due end of class 9/9*

You will discover the many resources available at MSU to support your academic success by working in teams to scout out and document various sites across campus.

**LO4**

### **MAP-Works Reflection—5 points**

*Due end of class 9/23*

Complete the MAP-Works assessment sent to you by MSU via email, open and read the report, meet with your RISE mentor, and write a short one page reflection on what you discovered about yourself through taking the survey.

MAP-Works is a web survey system offered by MSU exclusively to FIRST YEAR students, and is an important MSU resource. You will receive an email invitation, from September 16-29, to take the self-assessment (roughly 15 minutes needed to complete). The questions assist you in determining if you are making a successful transition to college life. You will receive a personalized report that provides indicators of academic success. To learn more about MAP-Works, visit <http://www.webebi.com/mapworks/process>

**LO3, LO4**

### **StrengthsQuest—5 points**

*Due end of class 10/7*

Complete the StrengthsFinder 2.0 Inventory on the StrengthsQuest website using the purchased code (see instructions and link above). Print the report and bring it to class with your StrengthsFinder reflection 10/7. Read as much of the book *StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career, and Beyond* as possible, but specifically read Chapters 10-11 for your Career Plan.

**LO5**

### **Grant Writing Proposal—30 points –(20 points proposal + 10 points Shark Tank pitch)**

*Due beginning of class 10/28*

The Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) annually funds grant proposals up to \$5000 for students to explore solutions to our most pressing challenges in sustainability here at MSU. In a team, you will conceptualize, write and submit a proposal to OCS. See example posted on D2L. Your mentors also have written grants be sure to use them as a resource for this assignment.

**LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4**

### **Career Plan—25 points**

*First check on 10/14, Due beginning of class 11/25*

You will develop a detailed plan of action for your next 4 years at MSU to support your career exploration and development. This includes measurable annual goals, a resume, networking database, strengths application, and exploring the job market. See example posted on D2L.

**LO4, LO5**

### **Baker Woodlot Reflection—5 points**

*Due end of class 9/30 or 10/7*

A quiet walk in the woods can be a time for re-connecting with nature and reflecting on what sustains us. **LO2**

**Find Your Passion—5 points**

*Due end of class*

College is a time for you to gain knowledge and skills to become an engaged and productive citizen. This activity gives you the opportunity to think BIG with your classmates to explore your passion. Using the Open Space group facilitation technique you will generate RISE co-curricular project ideas for the year based on your passion. From these project nominations we will vote on the best idea for the RISE Class of 2018 Legacy Project. Past legacy projects are: the Class of 2016 compost system and the Class of 2017 Bailey tiny library. **LO1, LO2**

**Class Participation—20 points**

Each class period you will be awarded zero or 1 point for your participation totaling 15 points maximum. In addition there will be 5 pop quizzes throughout the semester to assess your attention to the prior week's content covered.

Criteria for earning 1 participation point: on time, respectful to others, asks questions, participates in discussions, helps others, generates ideas

Criteria for earning 0 participation points: arrives late, disrespectful to others, texting or Facebooking in class, physically present but mentally absent

**LO4**

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Activity	Due Dates
1	9/2	Introduction, review syllabus, D2L tutorial, participation points, email etiquette, Laurie's Top 10 Tips for Success Review <i>HW-MSU Survivor</i>	
2	9/9	Guest Dr. Ramani Narayan, Zero Waste research Compost bin distribution and 101	MSU Survivor Resource Search due
3	9/16	Office of Campus Sustainability Panelists Kris Jolley, Carla Iansiti, and Ann Erhart, Grant Proposal Assignment <i>HW-Take the MAP-Works Assessment &amp; Discuss report with your RISE mentor.</i>	
4	9/23	Career Planning Assignment overview and activity	MAP-Works Reflection Due
5	9/30	MSU Recycling Center/Baker Woodlot Tours and Reflection <i>HW-Take StrengthsQuest &amp; print report to turn in 10/7, Read StrengthsQuest book</i>	Woodlot reflection due in class
6	10/7	MSU Recycling Center/Baker Woodlot Tours and Reflection <i>HW-Career Plan Check 10/14 Start of Class, Read StrengthsQuest book</i>	Woodlot reflection due in class  Strength Quest report and reflection due
7	10/14	Strength Quest lecture and activity  <i>HW-Watch episode of Shark Tank</i>	Career Plan check at beginning of class
8	10/21	Find Your Passion or The World is Calling...Are You Listening? Michael Wesch TedX talk followed by Open Space and introduce the Social Change Model of Leadership Development	Project flip chart ideas due in class
9	10/28	Shark Tank Grant Pitch for Funding \$\$ <i>HW- Take the MAP Works Check-up survey</i>	
10	11/4	The Big Carbon Lesson Drs. Rowntree, Raven and Skole	Grant proposal due
11	11/11	Prof Kyle Whyte Climate Change and Traditional Ecological Knowledge	
12	11/18	Unequal Resources class activity	
13	11/25	RISE Student Panel	Career plan due
14	12/2	Wrap Up, Reflections, Course Evaluation	

## Accommodation of Special Needs

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [rcpd.msu.edu](http://rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation form. Please present this form at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.).

## Academic Integrity

Please review the MSU Student Handbook for any questions you may have concerning academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or your rights in the classroom. The MSU policies on academic freedom for students can be found at <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/academic-freedom-for-students-at-michigan-state-university>

## E-Learning Policies

Information technologies such as D2L and email are widely used in this class. As a result there are some additional policies that need to be understood.

- Students should visit the course's D2L site on a regular basis (as a minimum the day before and day of class).
- Students should check their email daily (all class email is sent to the student's official MSU email account).
- All assignments submitted electronically, either via dropbox or email, should be free of any viruses and/or worms. Any infected file or media that is submitted will receive a zero (0) for that assignment.
- This course recognizes the students' right to privacy and adheres to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Students need to review the university policy "Acceptable Use of Computing Systems, Software, and the University Digital Network" at <http://lct.msu.edu/guidelines-policies/aup/>.
- **Excessive emails make an unreasonable time demands on both sender and recipient. Please ensure you have a legitimate need before you write. Ask yourself if this question can be answered by reading the syllabus, asking a classmate or mentor.**
- Drs. Raven and Thorp will answer email about:
  - Questions arising from difficulty in understanding course content.
  - Requests for feedback about graded assignments.
  - Private issues appropriate for discussion within the teacher-student relationship.
- Drs. Raven and Thorp will NOT answer email which:
  - Poses questions answered in the course information sections of the course D2L site
  - Poses questions answered in the course syllabus.
  - Lacks a subject line clearly stating the purpose of the email and the course number
  - Lacks appropriate greeting, grammar, and signature
- Drs. Raven and Thorp will make every effort to answer email received on a given day no later than close of work on the next workday.
- The Web site [tech.msu.edu](http://tech.msu.edu) provides a number of information technology resources for students.
- You are responsible for the operation of any personally owned computers you use on or off campus. A malfunctioning computer system is NOT a valid excuse for submitting late work.