

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7019S
Date of Senate Approval 05/02/19

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 59 (IST): Add new course, **IST 330, Sustainability Seminar**

Effective Date: Fall 2019

1. Add: On page 183, new course, **IST 330, Sustainability Seminar:**

330 Sustainability Seminar (1)

Drawing on the combined expertise of faculty, staff and students from across the university this course will explore sustainability issues and challenges in local to global contexts. The concept of sustainability lies at the nexus of socioeconomic, humanistic, and environmental systems. The diverse perspectives, theories, and terminology in the field of sustainability are explored. The course focuses on key knowledge areas of sustainability theory, policy, and practice, including population, ecosystems, climate change, energy, agriculture, water, the built environment, economics, policy, ethics, and cultural history. Readings and discussions will touch on topics such as natural resource use, local and global sustainability efforts, environmental justice, and current emerging topics in sustainability. We will apply different academic lenses and scales of analysis to reach a complex and multi-faceted understanding of our collective opportunities and impacts. Prerequisite: Junior standing or permission of instructor. Fall.

Impact: This seminar will be co-taught by the Director of Sustainability and a rotating set of instructors from multiple departments who, with the support of their department, will teach it as part of their schedules. As such, this course will have minimal impact on instructor burden. Similarly, the course is not required for any major, minor, or LAC requirements so it should not have a negative impact on departments. As the course is a required core course for the proposed Certificate in Sustainability, it should be offered once a year, preferably in the Fall semester to allow for outdoor activities. The course will make use of a standard lab block of 2.5 hours per week which will allow flexibility in scheduling off-site sustainability field experiences and community-engaged projects, as needed. Class size will be capped at 20 participants. No specialized space or materials will be required.

Student Learning Objectives:

- Apply diverse perspectives, theories, and terminology to a sustainability case study
- Apply an interdisciplinary approach to a sustainability challenge

The following faculty members have expressed interest in co-teaching the course and have received preliminary approval from their department chairs to do so:

- Jennifer Rhode Ward, Biology
- Evan Couzo, Education
- Alison Ormsby, Instructor (Environmental Studies and Humanities)
- Carrie Tomberlin, Art
- Jeffrey Shields, Management & Accountancy
- Elizabeth Porter, Economics

Rationale: This course will allow students who are pursuing the Sustainability Certificate to be part of a learning community, to share their experiences with other students, and to learn through additional resources including workshops, guest lectures, and community engagement. The class is intended as a common academic experience for students pursuing the Sustainability Certificate, and could be taken at any point in the certificate process. The opportunity to interact across disciplines and academic stages is a strength of the proposed course.