Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation and Horticulture

Date: December 17, 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 217

   Course Name: Environmental Planning and Impact Assessment

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: This is an introductory course in the multi-disciplinary field of environmental planning. Techniques used to identify, inventory, and evaluate natural resources are examined. Local case studies, regulatory laws, and the environmental decision-making process are reviewed. Topics are developed further through assigned readings and classroom discussions. Students put concepts into use with realistic projects involving local environmental land use issues. (Also listed as ENV 217.)

   Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum including SUNY Gen Ed designation if applicable: Environmental Planning and Impact Analysis is a Conservation elective course that will fulfill Conservation elective requirements in the AS Environmental Studies degree, the AAS Natural Resources Conservation degree, and the AAS Natural Resource Conservation: Environmental Law degree. It may also be selected to fulfill general elective requirements in other FLCC degree programs.

II. Course Student Learning Outcomes:

   1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the environmental planning process, especially the sources of environmental information, steps in conducting a natural resource inventory, strategies of land protection, and the complexities of environmental decision making.
   2. Students will observe local planning agencies and conservation groups, and recognize their role in the environmental planning process.
   3. Students will improve their skills in resource inventory and evaluation of environmental impacts using multiple problem-solving techniques including environmental overlays, impact matrices, geographic information systems (GIS), air photo interpretation and remote sensing.
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course: (check each College Learning Outcome addressed by the Student Learning Outcomes)

- writing
- oral communications
- reading
- mathematics
- critical thinking
- computer literacy
- ethics/values
- citizenship
- global concerns
- information resources

III. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed): For each identified outcome checked, please provide the specific assessment measure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List identified College Learning Outcomes(s)</th>
<th>Specific assessment measure(s)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral communications</td>
<td>Students will complete an oral presentation to the class based on their visitation, observation and participation in a meeting of a local planning agency. At the end of the semester, students will also complete an oral presentation of their class master plan project to the sponsoring agency.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical thinking (problem-solving)</td>
<td>Students will complete a comprehensive examination of environmental and cultural features of several land parcels for a particular planned use, and then students will create an evaluation matrix to select the most suitable location.</td>
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<td>Citizenship</td>
<td>Students will recognize the value of becoming involved in the environmental planning process and helping to guide their own community’s development, and will successfully answer exam questions on this topic.</td>
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<td>Information resources</td>
<td>Students will locate, evaluate and use library/Internet resources for their class master plan project.</td>
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IV. Instructional Materials and Methods

**Types of Course Materials:** Selected readings relevant to weekly topics are assigned from various books and government documents including but not limited to this list:


**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar ...):** A combination of lecture, class discussions, field trips, guest speakers, student oral presentations and group projects are used in this course.
V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

1. Overview of the environmental planning process
2. Sources of natural resource data
3. Ecological community classification
4. Wetland inventory
5. Aerial photographs, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS)
6. Resource inventory techniques
7. Coastal zone management
8. Watershed planning
9. SEQR process in New York State
10. Protecting special land uses: natural areas, agricultural land, rural features, gateway communities, site conservation planning
11. Governments and the planning process
12. Master plan concept, environmental risk assessment
13. Field work, master plan writing
14. Class project presentation