ENVE 560 - INVESTIGATING AND EVALUATING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Instuctor:

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Course Description:

Specifically designed for teachers and other educators, course focuses on the identification and evaluation of specific environmental issues, leading to possible environmental/service action projects by their students, with attention to the potential outcomes of such projects on the physical environment, other humans, and other living things.

Course Resource Materials:


Course Objectives:

ENVE 560 students will be able to:

- Assist their school-age students in the use a variety of community inventories designed to assess potential environmental problems.
• Guide their students in the identification of local, community environmental problems or threats and related community information, including its strengths.
• Research an issue, narrow and refine its definition. Select an environmental issue for further study from several choices.
• Identify and analyze relevant public and private policies and community practices. Examine who makes policy and how. Understand different perspectives on the issue.
• Identify possible project options for affecting change in policy or practice in school or community, and select one.
• Guide students in the development and implementation of the plan of action (i.e. environmental service learning project) for the class to undertake.
• Assess the project and the process. Identify any next steps for addressing the problem.

Content Outline:

• Community environmental inventory
• Issue selection by students
• Policy and community practice research
• Options for influencing policy and practice
• Planning and taking civic action
• Reflecting and looking ahead

Instructional Activities:

• Assignments in the Earth Force CAPS Manual, professional journals and media will be utilized.
• Students will complete the Earth Force Six Step service learning process.
• Students created projects will be shared with the class.
• Portions of the instructional time will involve active experience, reflective Discussions and min-lectures.
• Guest speakers

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken and recorded at the beginning of each class period. If a student is tardy, it is the student's responsibility to see the instructor after class to insure that the recorded absence is changed to tardy. Since the development of
professional behavior is one of the objectives of this course, attendance is stressed. Please note that some of the instructor's assigned points are earned for punctuality and attendance (minus 10 points per unexcused absence).

**Evaluation:**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the period on the date given in class or identified in the syllabus. Late work must be preapproved for credit. In case of extenuating circumstances it is your responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the due date and arrange for a conference. During this conference a mutually agreed upon due date will be negotiated. Work submitted for any other class will not be accepted and assignments that have been plagiarized will be assigned a grade of "F" and could result in the student failing the course. Neatness, use of correct grammar, proper format, etc., will be considered in the evaluation of activities and projects; unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be word processed.

**Expectations and Grading Procedures:**

Service learning class project; culminating project which is based upon the entire course content and process - 30%

Individual service learning action plan – 20%

Midterm and Final Exam - 30%

Class Participation - 20%

(Attendance at all classes and field experiences is expected and will therefore impact a student's grade.)