New Course Request

Indiana University

South Bend Campus

Check Appropriate Boxes:  Undergraduate credit ☑️  Graduate credit ☐  Professional credit ☐

1. School/Division: Academic Affairs
2. Academic Subject Code: SUST
3. Course Number: SUST 5490 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor: KEEN
5. Course Title: SUST 5490 Sustainability Practicum
   Recommended Abbreviation (Optional):  
   (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)
6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year):  Spring 2011
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3 or Variable from ________ to ________
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes ☐  No ☑️
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ☐  No ☑️
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication: Students apply concepts and strategies of sustainability to develop a sustainability action plan for a local business, not-for-profit agency, or governmental unit. This is a classroom based course.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3/WK or Variable from ________ to ________
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at ________ or Variable from ________ to ________
13. Estimated enrollment: 20 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: 1/Yr  Will this course be required for majors? Yes ☐  No ☑️
15. Justification for new course: Required for new minor in sustainability studies
16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes ☑️  No ☐
17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.
19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by:  
Department Chairman/Division Director  
Date: 7/13/09

Approved by:  
Dean  
Date:

Dean of Graduate School (when required)  
Date:

Chancellor/Vice-President  
Date:

University Enrollment Services  
Date:

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

UPS 724  
University Enrollment Services Final—White; Chancellor/Vice-President—Blue; School/Division—Yellow;  
Department/Division—Pink; University Enrollment Services Advance—White
In this course, you will put what you have learned through the course work for your minor in sustainability studies into practice in a real setting. We will adopt a local business, not-for-profit, or government unit and work with them to create a sustainability action plan for their organization.

**READINGS LIST**
Readings will be drawn from these sources, as well as additional articles to be identified during the course of the semester.

Daniel Esty and Andrew Winston – *Green to Gold: How Smart Companies Use Environmental Strategy to Innovate, Create Value, and Build Competitive Advantage*
Sara James and Torbjorn Lahti – *The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices*
Brian Nattrass and Mary Altomare – *The Natural Step for Business: Wealth, Ecology, and the Evolutionary Corporation*
Peter Senge – *The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization*

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class members should come to each session prepared to engage in discussion. A thorough reading of each assignment is expected.

2. Each class member is required to keep a logbook in which a 1-2 page response paper will be written for every reading assignment. These responses should be completed before the class in which the reading is to be discussed. Less formal than a term paper, a response paper is an opportunity for you to summarize the reading in your own words, identifying as best you can the major point(s) being made and issue(s) being raised by the author, and discuss how it might apply to our setting. This assignment is intended to encourage you to use writing as a means of thinking and to think about how the concepts and processes we are learning can be used in real world settings. The logbook will be evaluated three times during the course.

3. Students will be divided up into groups of 3 or 4 members. Each group will work together to produce a sustainability action plan for the organization we adopt. Each stage of the project will be given a group grade which will contribute to the final grade. Stages of the project will include a sustainability audit, identification of best sustainability practices and products for the organization we have adopted, and a final sustainability action report complete with recommendations.
4. Finally, each class member will be responsible for an ongoing self-evaluation of her/his performance in the class. This will include maintaining a portfolio in which all work completed for the course (notes, logbook, tests, rough drafts, project materials) will be collected. A self-evaluation will be due each time the logbook is turned in. The final self-evaluation must be accompanied by the full portfolio at the end of the semester. At this time, students will also assign 10% of their own grade based on the self-evaluation and the portfolio.

5. Each stage of the project will contribute 20% to the final grade. The journal will contribute 30% to the final grade.

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

The flow of any practicum depends not only on the goals we set at the beginning, but also the real-world challenges we encounter working with a client. For this reason, we cannot offer a set of firm dates for our syllabus. However, the practicum will move through the following stages:

1. Introduction and overview of practicum.
2. Meet with principles of the business, not-for-profit, or government unit we have adopted.
3. Carry out sustainability inventory (may involve follow up interviews).
4. Conduct visioning exercise with members of organization.
5. Identify best sustainability practices, services, and products, including cost and pay back.
6. Meet with principles and discuss priorities and costs.