Sustainability Themed Composition Course

**Objective:** To create an English 2010 course in which the semester is built around the theme of “Sustainability,” specifically in terms of the four writing projects that will make up the majority of the coursework.

**Student Outcomes:** Students will exit the course with both a greater understanding of environmental issues (and their personal responsibilities of stewardship) and the ability to research and write inherent within my traditional English 2010 structure. Consistent with English 2010, each project will teach and require a different form of research.

**Actions Taken:** I’ve restructured my course, replacing the four major projects with sustainability themed assignments, as illustrated below (I’m following my established four project structure, but with assignments designed to enlighten students on issues of sustainability.

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**Project #1: Personal Essay/Memoir**

Students will write an essay focusing on how their environmental/geographical surroundings and origins have impacted them on a specific personal level, with a focus on the way the environment provoked personal change. This will emphasize personal research.

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**Project #2: Formal Research**

Students will write a research paper on how changes to the planet (climate, population growth, etc.) will or already have affected the field of their choosing (either their majors or a field of interest).

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**Project #3: Group Project**

This is a “Virtual Study Abroad” assignment in which I will ask students to work together in small groups a “travel” to a global location in order to discuss the way that location is being affected by environmental impact. There will a group-written assignment, a group “tour” for the rest of the class, and a individual response.

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**Project #4: Argument Research**

This is a “Time Travel” project where students will construct a vision of the future based on what could happen in a specific societal aspect and discuss whether or not their projection is sustainable.

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This significant revision to my English 2010 syllabus will assure student engagement both in the class with writing and research and, crucially, toward student involvement with sustainability, environmental awareness, and ownership of their both their natural surroundings and their global community.