

INTERDISCIPLINARY FYS: GOING GREEN (Freshman Seminar Limestone College)

Vandy Scoates

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar focuses on an instructor-selected topic that faculty and students explore together in a shared intellectual adventure. Topics for this course will be engaged by way of selected print and non-print “texts” such as film, art, case studies, architecture, public policy, and digital media. Faculty will guide students through the seminar experience so that students enter an Academic Conversation and learn to practice Critical Thinking in the college setting. Throughout the course, students will also engage a variety of learning experience modules designed to foster success in College Life in areas such as study skills, time management, research, academic integrity, decision-making, etc.

SECTION DESCRIPTION:

This particular section will focus on Sustainability and the “Triple Bottom Line”. Students will practice academic inquiry skills while learning how to be more sustainable and incorporate the triple bottom line into their daily lives and future careers.

To complete this task, students will read critical theory and research about sustainable design and practices. Students will evaluate these sources and will become familiar with the methodologies required for analysis of primary sources.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through reading articles and watching videos, writing positions, reading class handouts, completing self-evaluation surveys, completing assignments, and engaging in online and in person discussions, students will be able to

- 1) Identify and articulate basic issues in sustainability
- 2) Analyze sustainable practices
- 3) Discuss the areas of the triple bottom line: Environment, Economy and Society in relation to their own lives and decisions
- 4) Investigate a “problem” in sustainability through integration of resources from the class
- 5) Reflect upon the implications of at least one problem based upon basic perspectives in sustainability
- 6) Self-evaluate the level of preparation for college and the future

TEXTS & MATERIALS:

• **BOOK:** *Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability—Designing for Abundance* by William McDonough and Michael Braungart ISBN-13: 978-0865477483. The book is available in the student store and from online sellers. It is also available in digital form. Readings for the classes are vital and are **NEVER** optional. They are expected to be completed before class begins!!!! Books and *notes* must be brought to class on all days.

• **WEBSITE:** [Limestone College Student Success Module](http://libguides.limestone.edu/studentsuccess)

<http://libguides.limestone.edu/studentsuccess>

• **MATERIALS:** You must have something to take notes on every day you attend class. This can be a notebook or a laptop/tablet but you should house all notes and information from the course in the same place in order to have it organized for your final notebook. You will not be allowed to take notes on your phone.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ETS (Proficiency Profile Testing) 10%

Students will have two weeks to complete a first-year “Proficiency Profile Test” as part of their freshmen experience. Stephen Jennings and I set the dates of the two week testing period to conclude shortly before fall break. You will receive your students’ scores from Stephen in time to complete midterm grades. Because the test takes up to two hours to complete, students do it outside of class, either on their own computers or in the testing center.

ETS Instructions and Scoring:

Proficiency level scales and explanations are provided by ETS on their website at www.ets.org. For your information, a clickable link about the test is on the home page of ETS. There is a clickable tab titled “Proficiency Classifications” that will explain what each proficiency level entails. For this course, the grading

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scale for the ETS portion of the final grade (10%) will be determined by combining the scores from the Critical Thinking, Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences parts of the test. Limestone College will allot points in this course as follows:

TOTAL SCORE	Percentage Grade	Points
Below 420	70	7
420-433	75	7.5
434-447	80	8
448-461	85	8.5
462-475	90	9
476-489	95	9.5
490+	100	10

FRESHMAN SUCCESS COMPONENTS (20% of total grade):

Throughout the course, you will engage various Freshmen Success issues through online modules, speakers, assemblies, and other related assignments. You will earn up to 20% of the course grade by engaging in such components as Convocation/Honor Code, Research Orientation, Limestone Online Resources, etc. Your engagement score will be relayed to your instructor for grading purposes.

You will have cultural events that will be taking place in the evenings. Due to the extra time needed to attend these events, we will end class early on several days throughout the semester. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND all events.** Failure to do so will result in an "F" for that particular section of the Success Components.

You will also be given in class time to start/complete certain online components. You will find detailed information on these assignments and events via the online modules. All components for a given section must be completed to receive credit for that section.

The Student Success Site (LibGuide):

The Students Success Website (<http://libguides.limestone.edu/studentsuccess>) has been designed especially for our Academic Inquiry Courses to guide students through the Limestone Experience beginning in their Freshman year, but continuing through their academic career. We feel this site will be a valuable resource in the ID110/150/201 classes, and just as valuable a resource after the Academic inquiry class is over.

Freshman Success Components:

1. Blackboard/Email Competency (3%)-

- First Discussion Board post (see details under "WRITTEN WORK") (1%)
- Email me FROM YOUR LIMESTONE EMAIL (vscoates@limestone.edu) (1%) with
 - NAME?
 - PROSPECTIVE MAJOR?
 - ADVISOR NAME ?
 - WHERE YOU ARE FROM?
 - WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT IN HIGH SCHOOL?
- After you meet with your advisor regarding your Spring 2018 Schedule show me a print out or email me a PDF of your schedule.(1%)

2. Library Tour & Quiz (1%)

- Attend a tour of the library in-person or complete the Library Tour and Quiz.
- Depending on the topic and instructor, there may be additional instructor-assigned tasks for a research project.
- <http://libguides.limestone.edu/content.php?pid=473697&sid=3899379>

3. Student Ethics (2%)-

- Attend convocation and sign Honor Code Form (1%)
- [Take Plagiarism Workshop and quiz:](#) (1%)
<http://libguides.limestone.edu/content.php?pid=473697&sid=3878809>

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4. Financial Literacy (5%)-

- Register for [SALT modules](http://libguides.limestone.edu/c.php?g=544997&p=3735861): <http://libguides.limestone.edu/c.php?g=544997&p=3735861>

• SALT was created by American Student Assistance® (ASA), a nonprofit organization, to help Limestone College students like you become more financially savvy. This program rewards you for making smart money decisions, and we're providing all of its services to you—including your membership as a gift—free of charge.

• You will see a list of 12 SALT modules in your SALT account. Students only complete the first 10 modules. • A grade of 75% or better must be obtained in order to pass each SALT module. A screen shot of your completed module will need to be taken and submitted to your professor (see <http://www.take-a-screenshot.org> for examples of how to create a screen shot from different devices and operating software).

You may use the GoogleDrive folder for the class to upload there screen shots:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_HTMMJJPfaMEVW91NVdPQ3FVZTg

5. Title Nine Training: “Safe Colleges” (4%)-

Comprised of 2 online assignments that should be open after the first few weeks of the semester.

<https://limestonestudents-sc.safecolleges.com/login>

- Both assignments should take under 50 min. to complete.
- Score of at least 80 is required to pass
- We will have a library day in class were you can start/complete both assignments.

6. Cultural Events (4%)-

- Attend 1 Student Services speaker, 1 Student Success Workshop, 1 Fine Arts event.
- information on all events will be emailed out and posted on blackboard.

7. Jobzology (1%)-

- Create a Jobzology account at: <https://limestone.jobzology.us/login> and take the career assessment.
- Submit the downloads for your 4 assessments as well as a PDF of the first page of your career matches.

You may use the GoogleDrive folder for the class to upload there screen shots:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_HTMMJJPfaMEVW91NVdPQ3FVZTg

SECTION PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

READINGS:

You will have required reading from *Upcycle* and other readings that will be posted on Blackboard. Required reading will be assigned from this book as well as other readings provided in class or on Blackboard. Readings for classes are vital and are **NEVER** optional. Readings and discussions posts on readings are expected to be completed before class begins (i.e. before 11am)!!!! Book and/or notes must be brought to class on all days.

PRODUCTIONS:

You are required to see **one (1)** Limestone College Theatre productions this semester and write a response. Please keep your program as a guide for your response and to turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

You may see a second production at Limestone, another college or theatre in the area and write a response for extra credit. The extra credit production must be approved by me. See below for details.

WRITTEN WORK & PROJECTS:

Discussion Posts: (15% of Final Grade)

There are 11 readings throughout the semester of which you must do 10 discussion posts. Each post is worth 1.5% of your final grade. **All discussion posts are due at 11:59pm (23:59) the day the reading is due.**

Discussion Posts will include:

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- **Subject line MUST include your name and reading number** (Failure will result in F for post)
- Identify two “elements” that came up in the reading
- Quote the line/s that best represents why you associate it with two “elements” and include a simple citation (Author & Pg.)
- Write at least one sentence explaining your choice.

Failure to include ALL requirements listed above will result in a zero on that discussion post. Discussion Posts are due at **11am the day the reading is due.** Subject line **MUST BE** your name and the reading number (Failure to do this will result in F for post).

If you complete all 11 readings/discussion posts you will receive 5% extra credit. Discussions will be available after the due date but you will not receive credit for late posts. If all 11 posts have been completed by Dec. 4th you may still receive the extra credit even if you did not receive the credit for the original post.

DISCUSSION POST REPLIES: You may earn up to 6% extra credit for responding to someone else’s discussion post/s. Each reply to another’s post will equal 2% extra credit and must be at least **200 words** and **YOUR NAME** in the subject line. The response will address the quote, elements and whether you agree or disagree and why. You should also include any other elements that this post could apply to (if applicable). You may reply to discussion posts at any point during the semester.

Production Response- (5% of Final Grade)

You are required to see **one (1)** production this semester and write a response. Please keep your program as a guide for your response and to turn in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

I would suggest writing your response (or at least take notes) shortly after seeing the show while it is still fresh in your mind. I am looking for a clear and concise 2-4 page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font. You will submit both responses on Blackboard.

Please use the following guidelines when completing your reviews.

Response should include:

- A brief description of the plot, production, the design and the theater space.
- What did you think of the play and performance (story, acting, directing etc...)?
- What did you think of the design and production (set design, house management etc...)?
- What was your favorite and least favorite part of the production and why?
- What elements of the production do you suspect were the least sustainable?
- Of these unsustainable elements can you think of ways to make them more sustainable?

Sustainable Theatre Research and Presentation-(10% of Final Grade)

Many theaters and arts organizations around the world have started adapting sustainable means of production. You will present a report on one of these theaters to the class.

CHOICE (1%): Each student will choose from a list of theaters and email me their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice of theater to research. Theater choice will be given on a first come, first serve basis and I will do my best to give everyone their first choice.

OUTLINE (3%): Students will be required to write a brief 1-2 page outline detailing that theater’s sustainable practices. The outline will be presented in class along with a brief statement of your opinion about the theater’s practices and what was the most “valuable” thing you took away from the research.

PRESENTATION (6%): The presentation will be no longer than 10 minutes and the outline will be turned in at the time of your presentation along with any visual elements (including slideshows) shown during presentation. Photos or other visual aids are required to supplement your outline. You must also include an informal work cited page as part of your presentation.

Group Design Concept -(5% of Final Grade)

You will be working in a group throughout the semester creating a design based on the tenets of Biomimicry. The project will include a written design concept (created as a group) and a notebook compiled

individually with all materials used to work through your group's design. You will have multiple assignments throughout the semester that contribute to your grade and your final notebook.

The Design Concept will be a written, typed, clear and concise one (1) page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font. You may turn this in digitally or on blackboard. There will only be one (1) statement per group. The same grade will be given to everyone in the group for the Concept Statement.

Voting Assignment -(5% of Final Grade)

For this 2 part assignment you will register to vote, register absentee if necessary, and research what races are happening in your district on Nov. 6th.

To Register to vote:

- Google your state's voting and follow the steps to register to vote if you have not done so already
- For SC use can use: <https://www.scvotes.org/south-carolina-voter-registration-information>
- You may also go to <http://www.vote411.org/> and enter your address on the left hand side of the page. First, click on "Register Yourself and encourage others to register to vote". This will take you through the process for your state and county to register to vote.
- Once you are registered, if you are not a Cherokee County SC resident, register for absentee voting. This should be available on the same page as registration and if not, google it again.
- For SC you can use: <https://www.scvotes.org/absentee-voting>
- Once registered take a screen shot of the words and your name (please do not include private information) and attach on blackboard or the Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_HTMMJPfaMEVW91NVdPQ3FVZTg

Research races in your district:

- Go to <http://www.vote411.org/>
 - Click the green button that says "Get Personalized Information on candidates and issues"
 - Enter your home address is applicable
 - The website will give you your results for all the races in your district.
 - Click on each race and write down who is running for each race or, take a screen shot of each race and attach to Blackboard or the Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_HTMMJPfaMEVW91NVdPQ3FVZTg
 - Pick 2 races and look up the individual candidates of each race.
 - In your own words, write down a brief synopsis of what the platform(s) of the candidate are
- For yourself, make a note of who you think fits best with your beliefs and who you will consider voting for. When you receive your absentee ballot in the mail or, go to the polls on Nov. 6, you can bring these notes with you and vote for your chosen candidate.

-IF YOU ARE NOT A US CITIZEN: Please do research on your countries voting procedures and hand in the following

- One paragraph describing your voting system
- One paragraph describing the United States voting System
- One paragraph talking about the differences and the problems you think are prevalent within the US voting system.

Problem Paper- (15% of Final Grade)

You will be working on a paper throughout the semester turning in different components as the semester progresses. Your first task will be to pick one sustainable "problem" that you found in your department; in the college's facilities (ex. dorm, classroom, or athletics); in a college event (ex. football game concessions); in a piece of merchandise use/buy regularly (ex. Big Macs, Paper Towels); **OR** in a company/cooperation/organization (ex. Exxon, Monsanto, McDonalds). You may pick from the general problems and then, as the semester progresses, get into the specifics of that problem.

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Next, you will brainstorm three questions to answer in your paper. We will be talking about some questions in class and you may use those or, come up with your own. We'll then work through a process for collecting and evaluating sources, organizing your information, drafting, and revising.

You will be expected to identify, explain and research the problem and its affect locally and globally. You will need to address all aspects of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) in your paper. The components for your paper will be due on the following days:

- Focus of paper for approval:
- 5 Guiding questions
- Source List
- Outline
- Draft #1:
- Peer Review/Draft #2: **(you must bring a printed copy of your paper to class)**
- Final Paper

Additional and more specific information will be given to you about the problem paper components.

Extra Credit:

You may see a second production at another college or theatre in the area and write a response for 2% extra credit. The extra credit production can be dance, theatre, concert, or opera. You may not do an extra credit response on film. You will have a limit of two (2) extra credit responses. Other extra credit may be offered throughout the semester.

You may also receive 1-5% extra credit for **going to the writing center** with your Problem Paper above and beyond the required meeting.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: (20% of Final Grade)

This class is based on discussions and learning from your classmates. You must actively participate in discussions and answer questions in order to succeed. If you are not in class you cannot participate so excessive absences will also contribute to your participation grade.

I consider good class participation to be:

- Active listening for both lecture and videos
- Asking and answering questions
- Participating in class discussions
- Making helpful comments on your classmates' and your own work
- Keeping up with assignments and readings in order to be informed for discussions
- Abstaining from being on the phone, tablet and/or computer (unless taking notes or doing in class work)
- Actively participating in group projects and contributing to their success.

GRADING:

Grading Breakdown:

ETS Test	10% of Final Grade
Freshman Success Components	20% of Final Grade
Class Participation	15% of Final Grade
Theatre Production Response	5% of Final Grade
Sustainable Presentation	10% of Final Grade
Discussion Posts	15% of Final Grade
Problem Paper	15% of Final Grade
Design Concept	5% of Final Grade
Voting Assignment	5% of Final Grade

GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:

90%-100%---A	80%-89.9%---B	70%-79.9%---C	60%-69.9%---D	59.9%-0%--- F
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