

EMS : Special Topics: Planning for the Sustainable Campus
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Credits: 3

Location: Higgins Hall North Rm 406

Time: Wednesdays 6-10:00 pm
Or as arranged

Type of Course: Lecture/Workshop Elective

Enrollment Capacity: 10

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Course Description:

The course explores opportunities for sustainable campus planning and management. Students will study Green Campus Initiatives in the U.S. and identify opportunities at Pratt Institute's campus in coordination with Pratt staff and faculty. The class will evaluate Pratt's ecological footprint; compare it to the footprint documented in the summers of 2000, 2004 and 2005; and undertake the implementation of specific opportunities for green campus development.

Goals/Learning Objectives:

The goal of this summer course is to provide graduate students in Pratt's Planning and Environmental program with practical as well as theoretical experience in environmental planning. The lessons learned from this course should prepare students for producing and implementing environmental plans in many other situations and contexts.

Specifically, the course will focus on studying various aspects of the Pratt Institute campuses and programs to identify and implement opportunities for Pratt to become a "greener" more environmentally exemplary educational institution. In the process, students will learn about the actual relevance of federal, state and local environmental laws and policies to their own "local" university environment. Students will be able to examine the potential for creating and adopting innovative strategies for promoting sustainability and will learn strategies for implementation.

Course Requirements:

The following texts are required readings:

William E. Rees, Phil Testemale, Mathis Wackernagel, [Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth](#)

Sarah Hammond Creighton, [Greening the Ivory Tower](#), MIT Press, 1998

Blueprint for a Green Campus: The Campus Earth Summit Initiatives for Higher Education, January 1995. <http://www.hfp.heinz.org/pdfs/Blueprint-For-Green-Campus.pdf>

Peggy F. Barlett and Geoffrey W. Chase, editors; [Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change](#), MIT Press, 2004.

Online materials as assigned.

** Each student or project team must schedule a time to meet or speak with Faculty during the week between class sessions

The student's work during the course of the summer will include the following

- 1) The course will first examine the literature on and the experiences of Pratt and other campuses that have developed "green" campus projects, including the work of the Summer 2000, Summer 2004, and Summer 2005 Planning for a Sustainable Campus classes.
- 2) The class will meet with various Pratt faculty and staff (in particular facilities staff and members of Sustainable Pratt) to become familiar with Pratt's existing and proposed programs and facilities and to identify potential for implementing specific "greening" recommendations from 2004 and 2005.
- 3) Students will research new environmental practices and technologies in areas such as energy conservation, water management, pollution prevention, recycling, waste exchange programs, "green" procurement and "green" building design.
- 4) The class will update Pratt's current "ecological footprint" in systems such as energy, water, air, material resources and waste, food, land, transportation and the built environment comparing it to earlier years. The class will develop a documentation format for monitoring progress on reducing Pratt's footprint and for evaluating the success of specific "greening" and sustainable initiatives and measures. Specific campus activities examined may include: purchasing, dining services, buildings and grounds, academic programs, classrooms, offices, labs, studios, the bookstore and student activities. Also, in 2006 the class will work on research for the populating of a website that is being developed for Sustainable Pratt.
- 5) Each member of the class will select a specific opportunity/recommendation for incorporating environmentally exemplary practices and new technologies into the Pratt program and operations and will identify both benefits as well as constraints to implementation
- 6) Finally, working with Pratt staff and with Sustainable Pratt members, students will each develop and commence work on specific implementation strategies for achieving their recommendations.
- 7) Working in collaboration with Pratt staff and with Sustainable Pratt as the client, areas of special focus in 2006 may include:
 - Establishing a new solid waste program that includes recycling and waster exchange.
 - Implementing a new water management system including rainwater harvesting and increased permeable surfaces and improved landscaping management strategies
 - Designing and developing a website for sustainable Pratt that includes all "green" and sustainable activities and resources on campus including curriculum, facilities, and events
 - Working with the Pratt Bookstore and Arties Hardware in Pratt Manhattan developing an inventory of "green" products, designing a "green" label, creating a "green products" window display, and assisting them in identifying and procuring more environmentally sustainable products.

Class Schedule and Readings:

May 17 - Introduction and Campus "Walk"

- Concept of Ecological Footprint
- History and concepts of Campus Sustainability
- Examination and Discussion of:
 - Case Studies from other Campuses
 - Work of Previous Pratt Sustainable Campus Classes
 - Other Sustainability Initiatives at Pratt – Sustainable Pratt
- Discussion of Focus of Class
 - Preliminary Selection of Research/Implementation Projects
 - Identify relevant Pratt Staff and Faculty with whom to collaborate

Readings: Blueprint for a Sustainable Campus
Pratt Student Work from Years 2000, 2004, 2005
Materials from CD

May 24- Campus Walk

Discussion of Ecological Footprint

Application to Sustainable Campus Planning and Analysis

Discussion of Lessons Learned from Other Campuses

Identification of Examples relating to specific areas of research from other Campuses

Discussion of documentation format for monitoring progress and evaluating success

Presentation of draft work outline for individual research/implementation projects

Readings: Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth

Greening the Ivory Tower

Sustainability on Campus: Stories and Strategies for Change

Internet Research on Specific Selected Topics

June 7- Presentation of Progress on Individual Projects

Presentation of Research to date

Discussion of questions, problems, opportunities and ideas

Work with faculty on Individual Projects

Readings: Research from Internet and literature on specific issue area

June 14 - Presentation of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations

Implementation work plan and timetable

Discussion of questions, problems, opportunities and ideas

Work with faculty on Individual Projects

June 21 – Final Presentation

Methods of Assessment:

As the class will be held as a workshop/seminar students will be required to actively participate in class discussions. 20% of the grade will be for class participation; 50% for research and implementation; and 30% for the final paper documenting the research, findings, recommendations and implementation.

Supplementals: Bibliography:

Keniry, Julian; Ecodemia, Campus Environmental Stewardship at the Turn of the 21st Century,;National Wildlife Federation, 1995

Smith, April A. and The Student Environmental Action Coalition, Campus Ecology: A Guide to Assessing Environmental Quality & Creating Strategies for Change; Living Planet Press, 1993.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Pollution Prevention Unit; The Environmental Self-Audit for Campus-based Organizations, 2000.