UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ENGAGED LEARNING AT GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

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LIB 491: Sustainability in Practice Learning Objectives:
1. Deeply explore the interdisciplinary nature and meaning of sustainability.
2. Engage in the hands-on practice of sustainability.
3. Partner with community organizations to create a more sustainable local and global community.

Practices & Assignments Supporting Learning Objectives:
- Classroom discussion based on readings and films
- Reflective journals
- Relevant guest speakers from the community
- Group site visits to community partner sites
- Independent research project
- Completion of on-site hours with community partner
- Final synthesis paper and presentation at end of semester potluck
- Student and Supervisor evaluations
A Pedagogy of Praxis: Cycle of Mutual Learning

- Readings and films
- Dialogue with student peers and community partners
- Community work with partners
- Independent reflection – journals, research and papers
- Group reflection and synthesis
- New questions and insights are formulated
Examples of Student Projects in Sustainability

- **Blandford Nature Center**: Students help to plan farm, build hoop houses and develop youth farm team activities. Students learn and utilize organic farming methods, complete earthworks projects, develop local markets for produce grown, create learning opportunities for youth in organic farming and gardening.
Examples of Student Projects in Sustainability

- **The Bloom Collective**: Students organized a Critical Mass bike ride and 350 Day Rally in observance of Climate Justice Day 2009 and Copenhagen Climate Summit. Students mobilized a community coalition focused on demanding corporate accountability and climate justice.

See link for short video: http://griid.org/2009/10/24/climate-justice-day-in-grand-rapids