

## Magnolia Scholars - Sustainability Integration in Course Activities

### FYS – Globalization, Education, and Technology

Although this course addressed topics associated with global climate change last year, I wanted the students go a bit further than awareness and consider the present and future value associated with opportunities arising through sustainable living. My goal is for my freshmen to start thinking about the value of creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and how education needs to promote the development of these skills in addition to teaching content knowledge. The globalized workforce of tomorrow will have an even greater need to solve sustainability issues and the skill sets necessary to do not rely solely on knowledge of core content. To that end, I made the following modifications to my course thanks to the opportunities provided by the Magnolia Scholars Program and ZSR Library:

- Invited Hannah Slodounik to come to class and help my students understand the concept of sustainability, as well as make them aware of how they may adapt their lifestyles to live more sustainably at home and on our campus.
- Modified my research paper/presentation requirement to focus on a sustainability topic so students will learn about challenges and solutions for living sustainably on our planet.
- Engaged the help of Roz Tedford to help students identify and access scholarly source materials for their research papers. Hopefully, they will want to pursue further study of sustainability topics while at WFU, and knowledge of how to locate and access scholarly material will be valuable.
- Added more contemporary resources to help students develop their abilities to make associations across academic fields of study in order to help them improve their critical thinking, problem-solving, and general awareness of how the three fields in the name of the course can be aligned to support sustainability efforts around the world.

### EDU 307 and EDU 717 – Instructional Design, Assessment, and Technology

Dedee DeLongpre Johnston came to my class, provided an overview of sustainability (globally and locally), outlined strategies for lifestyle changes my students understand, and helped increase their awareness of how sustainability topics could be integrated into their content areas.

I have not taught this course in three years, but I am glad to be teaching it during the first year that the North Carolina State Board of Education has implemented its Global-Ready Schools initiative. In an effort to help my future teachers understand the importance of helping their future students develop global awareness and intercultural competence while increasing their competitiveness in the job market, I require them to incorporate a topic associated with global sustainability in their instructional design project (modeled after the SBE Global Digital Badge for Teachers' required Capstone Project). My hope is that they will begin to recognize how easy it is to teach their content and engage students appropriately with local and global sustainability efforts in order to help them develop awareness and strategies for conserving resources and living lives that contribute to human wellbeing. I also have my students/future teachers create a beginning of the year newsletter in an effort to develop a home-school connection with the parents of their students. They are expected to describe how students will engage in grade and content appropriate sustainability topics and provide tips for lifestyle changes that parents can reinforce in the home.