



EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A. Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Effective Date: September 2004

B. Department / Program Area: **LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND PERFORMING ARTS COMMUNICATIONS** Revision New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised: **C**

Date of Previous Revision: **June 30, 1993**

Date of Current Revision: **September 2004**

C: **ID** _____

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the following:

1. Local environmental protection issues in the Lower Mainland.
2. Social perceptions of the environment.
3. Consensus building, conflict resolution and paradigm shifts as social processes.
4. Pollution prevention and the minimization of waste in a sustainable community.
5. Solid waste reduction and commercial aspects of recycling.
6. Liquid waste reduction.
7. Toxics use and industrial waste reduction.
8. Air pollution prevention through technological and social change.
9. Air pollution prevention through urban design.
10. Setting and enforcing pollution prevention standards.
11. Interrelationships between the economy and the environment.
12. Consumer awareness and the marketing of recyclables and green products.
13. Environmental citizenship as a new lifestyle approach.

N: Course Content:

1. Environmental problems in the Lower Mainland and their sources
 - a) population growth trends in BC, with a focus on patterns in the Lower Mainland
 - b) the local physical and natural environment
 - c) land use patterns as they relate to transportation and green space issues
 - d) general considerations of solid wastes, liquid wastes, toxic chemicals, and air quality
 - e) the history of the livable region strategy and its influence
2. Social perceptions of the environment
 - a) what constitutes the “environment” and “nature”
 - b) the expansionist (domination), Malthusian, and ecological world views
 - c) intrinsic versus instrumental value; deep ecology versus shallow ecology
 - d) challenges to the expansionist world view from ecological, economic, and political domains
 - e) history of current attitudes towards the environment—Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Arne Naess and the Club of Rome
 - f) moral and ethical issues relating to our use and abuse of the environment, and possible solutions to environmental problems
 - g) comparison of different cultural perspectives on the environment, especially those of aboriginal peoples
3. Consensus building and public consultation
 - a) definition of circumstances in which there are equally valid priorities
 - b) dispute resolution techniques and approaches as they pertain to social solutions to environmental problems—e.g. Fraser River Estuary Management Program
 - c) the Commission on Resources and the Environment, its successes and failures
 - d) global processes such as the United Nations Commission on the Environment and Development, and the Rio Conference (especially Agenda 21)
 - e) environics—poling
4. Making communities more sustainable
 - a) description of the activities of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
 - b) description of the activities of the BC Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
 - c) general implications of social equity and economic balance in a more environmentally sensitive society
 - d) indicators of progress in areas of social equity, economic balance, and the environment
 - e) bioregionalism and appropriated carrying capacities as considerations in designing sustainable communities
5. Reducing solid waste and improving solid waste disposal
 - a) options for reducing solid waste and their busi

- b) sources and types of solid waste characteristic of a city, and Greater Vancouver in particular
- c) differences in dealing with municipal, industrial, commercial, and institutional sources, including demolition, land clearing, and construction wastes
- d) unique problems each sector faces with collection and disposal
- e) the strengths and weaknesses of the 3 R's approach in changing people's values in adopting more

- a) options and problems in marketing recyclables and other wastes
 - b) techniques to change buying habits of consumers
 - c) effectiveness of consumer action groups in encouraging less packaging, and promoting the use of uniform beverage containers
 - d) business opportunities created by new environmentally friendly products
 - e) resource accounting and defensive spending as they relate to the GNP
13. Environmental citizenship as a new approach to help build sustainable communities
- a) elements of environmental citizenship
 - b) the environmental citizen in the Lower Mainland
 - c) improvements to one's quality of life through environmental citizenship
 - d) the environmental citizen in a global community

O: Methods of Instruction

1. Lectures
2. Guest speakers from the community, government and industry in most weeks
3. Public participation through sessions with guest speaker (the general public is invited to these presentations and will join the class)
4. Additional readings may be assigned as required
5. Class discussions will be encouraged
6. Slide shows and/or films