

<b>Course Code &amp; No. - Section:</b>	SUST 381-1
<b>Course Title (Credits):</b>	Holistic Sustainability in the Arctic (3)
<b>Term &amp; Year:</b>	Summer 2015
<b>Course Ref. No. (CRN):</b>	60121
<b>Instructor:</b>	Brennan Lagasse
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<b>Office:</b>	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment
<b>Class Meeting Time:</b>	August 4 <sup>th</sup> -August 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2015
<b>Location:</b>	Fairbanks, Alaska; Arctic Village, Alaska; SNC Campus
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Corequisites</b>	none

## Course Description

The primary objective and purpose of this class is to connect students to the political, economic, social and environmental issues surrounding Arctic Village, Alaska, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and the Gwich'in Tribe that calls this unique landscape home. For example, who will receive the benefits and burdens associated with proposed resource extraction plans in ANWR? What long-term impacts are associated with proposed plans for petroleum exploration in this corner of the world? This field trip intends to immerse students in the Arctic environment to help them better understand the traditional and contemporary lives of Indigenous people living in Arctic Village, those that advocate for ecosystem health in the local bioregion, and how the world's dependence on a finite, polluting resource compromises the attainment of Holistic Sustainability. Time will be spent speaking with elders concerning qualitative data associated with climate change, trekking across unique alpine environments while learning about local flora and fauna, and deconstructing the multiple issues associated with proposed development plans in the region. Students will live in Arctic Village, camping during their trip and will have daily interdisciplinary engagements that touch on Outdoor Adventure Leadership, the Social Sciences, Sustainability, and Environmental Science. This is a special opportunity to live with members of the Gwich'in Tribe, visit the wild landscape of ANWR, and address issues of sustainability through an intimate experience in a unique setting.

## Student Outcomes

1. Demonstrate interdisciplinary work through and understanding of the political, economic, social and environmental issues surrounding Arctic Village, ANWR and the Gwich'in Nation

2. Better understand the marginalization Indigenous people face in an age of globalization
3. Convey problems and issues that have led to the proposed development of ANWR for finite natural resources
4. Apply critical examination and analyses to this multifaceted complex issue, with the ability to formulate sustainable solutions to this and other diverse, related interdisciplinary conflicts
5. Articulate the connection between climate change, the people, and the local flora/fauna in the region
6. Understand their role and ability to be vehicles for positive socio-environmental change

## Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Class Participation/Attendance
2. Daily Journal Entries
3. Zine/Paper Preparation with Focus Topic in Sustainability
4. Advocacy Letter
5. Individual Presentation on Zine/Paper with Focus Topic in Sustainability

## Instructional Strategies

This class will utilize the internet, movie clips, lectures, texts, class discussions, Socratic seminars, current news, group work, case studies, all framed around a field trip.

## Required Texts and Materials

1. Bass, Rick. (2004). *Caribou Rising: Defending the Porcupine Herd, Gwich'in Culture, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*. Sierra Club Books.
2. Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements)

## Recommended Texts and Materials

1. *Little, Brown Compact Handbook*, seventh edition (or 6<sup>th</sup>); Jane Aaron; Pearson/Longman.

Keep any class handouts. A binder to organize readings and handouts will be helpful to your success. Course readings will be made available prior, during and after our trip.

## Attendance/Participation

These are two cornerstones to being successful in Sustainability 381. You are expected to arrive in Fairbanks, Alaska on August 4<sup>th</sup>, and be involved in all course functions until its end on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We will also meet once during the summer prior to the course start date, and once during the fall semester to prepare for your presentations that will take place on campus in the early fall.

## Daily Journal Entries

You are expected to keep an active, daily journal during our field trip. Entries should start with a date and time for each entry, and include observations and reflections on daily activities. You will also be required to choose one sustainability topic to focus on during our field trip. As a group, we will discuss topic choices in Fairbanks prior to our touchdown in Arctic Village. Each day, you will be required to make a separate entry related to your focus topic.

## Advocacy Letter

You will be required to write one advocacy letter, on a topic of your choice related to the course, and submit it to the sustainability focused news site Ecowatch. Examples of your fellow student's work from 2014 can be viewed by reviewing this link: <http://ecowatch.com/2015/02/09/drilling-anwr-threatens-gwichin/> and this link: <http://ecowatch.com/2015/03/05/trash-treasure/>

## Zine/ Paper

There will be no final exam for Sustainability 381. In absence of a final exam, your requirement will be to produce a Zine or paper (with works cited) and present your research at a gathering in the early fall on SNC campus. To learn more about Zines visit this site: <http://twentyfourhourszine.blogspot.com/2012/04/zines-in-academia-with->

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[zinester.html](#) and to learn how to make one go here: <http://www.rookiemag.com/2012/05/how-to-make-a-zine/>. Your Zine or paper should be framed by your focus topic in sustainability, and related to our course and its multiple components.

## Class Requirements

The following is a list of course requirements

- All students are required to attend and participate in all course activities
- All students must attend and present at our gathering during the fall semester on SNC campus
- All Students must arrive in Fairbanks on August 4<sup>th</sup>

## Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

### The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

### Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Student is expelled.

## Grading Policy

Assignment	Number of assignments	Points
Class Participation/Attendance	Daily	25%
Journal	Daily	15%
Advocacy Letter	1	10%

Zine/Paper	1	25%
Final Presentation	1	25%
Total		100%

Grading scale:

A+ 100-98 A 97-93 A- 92-90 B+ 89-87 B 86-83 B- 82-80 C+ 79-77 C 76-73 C- 72-70 D+ 69-67 D 66-63 D- 62-60  
F 59 and below

*Assignments are due on the announced date unless alternate arrangements have been made with me in advance of the due date.*

### ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, [hconover@sierranevada.edu](mailto:hconover@sierranevada.edu) or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

### The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

### The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

### The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts  
Sustainability

Professional Preparedness  
Entrepreneurial Thinking

### Class Schedule

Below is an itinerary for our field course, which is subject to change. We will adapt as necessary during our course.

Day	Date	Topics	Activity
1	8/4		Travel to Fairbanks, AK

2	8/5	Federal Land Management Federal Land Protection Alaskan Native Stories, Dance, Language, Art	Meet with Joanne Bryant, Community Liaison for ANWR, USFWS.  Visit Cultural Center, Attend Native American Cultural Connections Show  Attend and Participate in Cultural Connections Workshop (2)
3	8/6	Colonization of Native Americans  Traditional Gwich'in Food	Bush Flight to Arctic Village  Holistic Sustainability Introduction, Sustainability Focus for the Week
4	8/7	The Porcupine Caribou  Ecosystem Health  ANWR History and Ecosystem Health Concerns	Meet and Work with Activist and Gwich'in Elder Sarah James
5	8/8	Resources Extraction in Alaska  Resource Extraction Plans for ANWR	Meet and Work with Native Elder, Charlie
6	8/9	Economic Justice, Concerns and Realities Related to ANWR  The Political Process	Meet and Work with Native Elder, Gideon
7	8/10	Boat Trip in ANWR  Climate Change  Qualitative and Quantitative Methodology	Work with Sarah James and the Newly Elected Chief of the Village
8	8/11	Hiking in ANWR  Local Flora/Fauna Identification  Social Justice Issues in ANWR	Tour ANWR with Native Elder, Charlie
9	8/12	Community Work in Arctic Village	Service Learning
10	8/13		Travel Back Home

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11	TBD	Group Meeting	Catch Up on Campus After Returning Home from the Trip Prepare for Presentations
12	TBD	Group Meeting	Group Presentations

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