2014

ENVR 499a and 499b: Environmental Studies Senior Thesis I & II ACE 10 Course

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ENVR 499 Course Sequence

- ENVR 499a (1 Credit Hour) and ENVR 499b (2 credit hours) are bundled.
- Successful completion required to complete an Environmental Studies degree in CASNR or CAS.
- Primary goal is to generate a creative or scholarly product, referred to as a Senior Thesis.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student will:

Meet ACE 10 outcome to generate a creative or scholarly product that requires broad knowledge, appropriate technical proficiency, information collection, synthesis, interpretation, presentation, and reflection.

ENVR 499a
- Identify a scholarly, creative and/or research topic of interest.
- Identify a thesis advisor and thesis reader.
- Compose an actionable research question/hypothesis/objective for the project.
- Formulate an action plan to complete the project.
- Assemble a literature review that adequately describes and supports the relevance and action plan for the project.
- Effectively present an oral presentation of your scholarly, creative and/or research

ENVR 499b
- Complete a written thesis having properly formatted bibliography.
- Prepare and present an oral presentation and poster of your thesis.

Rubric Development

Basic Assumptions
- Limited resources for assessment (people, time)
- Growing number of students
- Complete during end-of-semester Environmental Studies Show case (1.5 hours)
- Rubric needs to include ACE 10 components
- Needs to be relatively easy to use

Design
- Use a series of questions for which the responses are:
  - 0 = No evidence he/she addressed question
  - 1 = Some evidence, not as clear as it could be
  - 2 = Evidence and linkages are clearly presented.

Improving ACE 10 Learning

- Rubric will be implemented for the Spring 2014 Environmental Studies Showcase.
- Results will be used to identity areas in which students need additional guidance and assist...curricular/course requirements may need to be modified.
- This modification to our ACE 10 assessment approach will contribute to our continued annual examination of thesis products to improve what we do.