

# Syllabus

## Social Innovation Practicum for Sustainability (EVPP 741-006) Syllabus - Fall 2015

**Room:** Nguyen Engineering Bldg rm 4104

**Class Website:** <http://sips.pbworks.com>

### Instructor

<b>"Dr. Dann" Sklarew, Ph.D.</b> <b>(faculty lead)</b> Email: <a href="mailto:dsklarew@gmu.edu">dsklarew@gmu.edu</a> Voicemail: 703-993-2012 (but try electronic media first)	Office: David King Hall Room 3018 or via Skype to "jendann" Office Hours: Tues. 3-4pm in lounge beside IH 323, Wed 3-4pm in FH 656 or via skype whenever "available"
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### Course Description

Students engage in guided reflective discourse and facilitated social learning in order to derive wisdom from sustainability interventions and positive impact on our community. Course includes semester-long consulting or interning with local organizations to advance ecological integrity, economic prosperity and social justice.

### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students should demonstrate how: <sup>[1]</sup>

1. To articulate impacts of social innovation contributions made and lessons learned in service to clients at individual and cohort scales.
2. To use a Theory of Change (ToC) diagram model to understand causal pathways to affect social change
3. To work with clients to identify and test the assumption of their ToC model.
4. To assess the extent to which student contributions contributed to clarification and progress towards realization the clients' ToC and real impact.

### Materials

Useful information resources identified by professor or students for this course are provided on our [resources](#) wiki page.

### Graded Course Components

1) This course requires students to:

1. 10% - participate **5 class meetings** (or arrange make-up activity with instructor(s) for any missed sessions), **sharing** ongoing challenges and lessons learned from this experience with peers, including providing peer-to-peer guidance
2. 80% - complete at least **80 logged hours of project-related service**, for one or more clients, based on a signed **Project Agreement** (see [resources](#), within 2 weeks after Session 01), with hours recorded in a timely fashion (i.e., within 1 week) on our [service log](#);
3. 05% - Construct and test a **Theory of Change diagram model** (see [resources](#), draft by Session 02, final by Session 03) for one or more client(s);
4. 05% Present **the degree to which (and how) your interventions affected progress towards** realizing clients' ToC, i.e., impacted the organization and/or its beneficiaries (interim report by Session 04, final by Session 05) -- along with lessons you learned pertinent to realizing social innovation and impact at this organization and more generally.

## Grading

1. Participation - 20 points per class x 5 classes - 100 points
2. Service Hours - 800 points (10 points for each service hour recorded in full on our [service log](#)).
3. Theory of Change model - 50 points (10 for draft, 40 for final).
4. Lessons presentation and feedback to peers - 50 points (10 for preliminary, 40 for final).

## Grading scale:

970-1000 <b>A+</b>	870-899 <b>B+</b>	770-799 <b>C+</b>	600-699 <b>D</b>
930 - 969 <b>A</b>	830-869 <b>B</b>	730-769 <b>C</b>	000-599 <b>F</b>
900 - 929 <b>A-</b>	800-829 <b>B-</b>	700-729 <b>C-</b>	

## Course Web Site and Submission Policy

Updated syllabus, all electronic course materials, announcements, rubrics, etc., will be posted to our course website. Wherever practical, written assignments will also be submitted through this site, in order to reduce paper usage and ensure proper logging of submissions. If you have trouble accessing the site, please contact your instructor.

Assignments are to be submitted **before** the beginning of class on the day due. Late work will be reduced one grade per day. No work will be accepted over one week late without a valid written medical excuse or notice of death in the family.

## Honor Code

When you enrolled in this course you agreed to abide by the university's [Honor Code](#) and pledge "not to **cheat, plagiarize, steal**, and/or **lie** in matters related to academic work."

The Honor Code does not preclude collaborative work, such as informal discussions and studying in communities. Nor does it preclude assigned group work. The Honor Code does require that work you, as an individual, turn in ultimately be the product of your own individual synthesis or integration of ideas, and that the work a group turns in ultimately be the product of the group's collective ideas.

If you are uncertain of the line between collaboration and cheating, see an instructor. As always, cite your sources. If you do not, it is plagiarism. Plagiarism means lifting someone else's ideas or words and presenting them as your own without proper attribution of the source. This includes all sources, including those found on the Internet. Use an approved citation method, such as MLA, APA, etc.

Finally, please note that accurate reporting of service hours - which may be audited - is also important part of academic integrity. Misrepresentation of service learning hours will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

## Accommodation for Students With Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please communicate such to your professor and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

## Sick Policy

If you are too sick to come to class, have high fever, etc., please inform your professor ASAP. Insofar as no assignment is due that day, you will generally be offered attend in via [skype] webinar or provided with one or more optional make-up sessions (see "optional" items on schedule below). Assignments which are not submitted on-time on sick days will still be marked according to "Late Work" criteria above, unless medical excuse provided by your doctor's office.

## Email Policy

GMU faculty and staff may only correspond with students through the students' GMU assigned email accounts. Emails sent from other accounts will not necessarily be answered.

## Examinations

There are none. (Hurray!)

## Need Help?

*We're here for you!*

## Librarian Liaison for Environmental Science and Policy (EVPP) Courses

She may be able to assist you in your research for any aspect of this course (service, action research or CSL session leadership). Her contact information is:

Kathy Butler  
A244 Fenwick Library  
[kbutle18@gmu.edu](mailto:kbutle18@gmu.edu)  
703-993-3341

## The Writing Center

The Writing Center is staffed by both undergraduate and graduate tutors, who can help improve your writing skills through direct support on specific assignments or in general, face to face or online. <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

## Learning Services

Learning Services provides a variety of experience based learning opportunities through which students explore a wide range of academic concerns. [Study skills workshops](#) and individual study skills counseling provide learning experiences to improve academic skills. Information about tutors available through many Mason academic departments can be found on our [Tutoring](#) page. <http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices/>

## Office of Student Support (OSSCM) and Resources for Crises

OSSCM -- <http://osscm.gmu.edu> -- provides comprehensive (and confidential) services for your safety and well-being.

Some students struggling to make ends meet may be trading off studies for shelter, food, healthcare or other human needs. Others are in crisis in other ways. If you or a friend are facing any of these sorts of challenges, please help others to help you! Here are two lists of local resources, originally compiled by an EVPP 480 START team in Spring 2014:

- On campus resources: <http://osscm.gmu.edu/resources/campus-resources>
- Off-campus resources: <http://osscm.gmu.edu/resources/off-campus-resources>

We hope these resources may help you to achieve lasted personal security, sustainability and well-being!

## Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS provides a wide range of services to students by a staff of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors. CAPS individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs are designed to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance. <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

## WAVES

**WAVES** helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through one on one support, and interactive programs and resources. Topics addressed include healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use and sexual health. <http://waves.gmu.edu/>

## Other Information

See [schedule](#).

### Footnotes

1. Any learning objectives YOU would like to add or change? If so, please do so within 3 days of the first class! ▲