

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTFC.

Academic School/Department: General Education

Programme: Combined Studies

Level: 3

Course Title: Planet Pioneers

Course Code: FYS 3140

Course Leader: Sara Chetin

Student Engagement Hours: 160

Lectures: 30

Seminar / Tutorials: 30

Independent / Guided Learning : 100

Semester: Fall or Spring

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

Through the beginnings of conservation early in the 20th century, the development of the new science of ecology and the emergence of a new understanding of how we affect the world in which we live, this course explores the discovery of the nature of our planet. Through pioneers of exploration, scientific inquiry, television and the media and the developing environmental movement the course asks the question...
Can One Person Really Make A Difference?

Prerequisites: none

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide students with a basic grounding in an appreciation of the nature around us, the environmental issues affecting our planet and a basic historical overview of the development of environmentalism throughout the world
- To introduce students to a selection of people ('Planet Pioneers') who have dedicated their lives to studying nature and the environment and to provide a forum where students can begin to understand why these people have chosen to dedicate, and in some cases lost their lives in this way

- To provide students with the information and skills necessary to critically assess some key historic, scientific, economic, social and political implications of nature and environmental issues
- To emphasize the role that film and other media in the second half of the 20th century have shaped our knowledge of nature, our planet and environmental issues
- To introduce students to the means by which they can monitor, build and reflect upon their personal development.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

3A(i); 3B(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a familiarity with the basic history of nature exploration and how this became the modern environmental movement
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic ecological terminology introduced early in the course and be able to apply the terms to subsequent sections of the course while showing clear evidence of basic critical thinking
- Draw upon a selection of people and organizations ('Planet Pioneers') and critically assess how they have shaped our knowledge of nature, our planet and the development of environmental issues and environmentalism from the beginning of the 20th century to the present day
- Address the concept of 'Can One Person Really Make a Difference?'
- Demonstrate a reflection of their own academic and social skills and be able to plan for their personal, educational and career development.

Indicative Content:

- A brief introduction to the history of nature exploration and environmentalism
- The role of the media in environmentalism
- A basic introduction to ecological terms
- A basic introduction to critical thinking within the lecture material and the concept of 'Can One Person Really Make A Difference?'
- A selection of Planet Pioneers, basic history of their lives and work, and how they address the concept of 'Can One Person Really Make A Difference?'
- PDP

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

