C A P I L A N O U N I V E R S I T Y **COURSE OUTLINE**	
TERM:　　　　**Summer 2016**	**COURSE NO:**　　　　**SOSC 300**
INSTRUCTORS:	**COURSE NAME:　Eco-literacy**
OFFICE:　　　**LOCAL:** **E-MAIL:**	**SECTION NO(S):**	**CREDITS:　3**

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line of other activities for 15 weeks, which includes 2 weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:　45 credits of 100 level or higher coursework.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to concepts involving ecological practice and connectedness within the framework of bio-environmental sustainability. Students move through several core themes such as: introduction to eco-literacy, applied biodiversity, community sustainability, connectivity and unintended consequences, community resilience, protecting natural systems, and initiating transformational change. Through lectures, research, site visits, guest speakers and networking, students will gain valuable knowledge on the principles of ecology, practical field-based skills, connection with communities and community leaders, and the role of business and government in an eco-literate society.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Successful students will be able to:

GENERAL ECOLOGICAL CONNECTEDNESS
- Explain basic ecological principles.
- Define biodiversity and explain categories and measurement
- Apply an ecosystem-based approach to local environmental issues and ecosystem function.
- Articulate various worldviews (bio-centric, egocentric, indigenous) as they relate to eco-literacy and environmental issues.

COMMUNITY & SOCIETY
- Critically explore the values and philosophies that direct human behaviour to make decisions and move their communities in specific directions
- Articulate the challenges of ecologically-based decisions together with the actions taken, the impacts assessed, and the solutions realised in BC communities
- Critically analyze current community planning documents through the lens of the shared habitat model
- Apply sustainability principles within a service-learning community project

BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT
- Evaluate the role of municipal, provincial and federal policy, global regulations, and non-legislated processes such as codes of conduct, as they apply to a sustainable and eco-literate society

REQUIRED READINGS:

A selection of readings will be required relating to the topic including articles and chapters of books from a wide range of eco-literacy scholars and practitioners:

COURSE WEBSITE: TBA

COURSE CONTENT:

Week	Topics
Week 1	Introduction to Eco-literacy
Weeks 2 & 3	Biodiversity and Worldviews
Weeks 4 & 5	Embracing Sustainability as a Community Practice
Weeks 6 & 7	Connectivity and Unintended Consequences
Weeks 8 & 9	Building Resilience
Weeks 10 & 11	Protection of Natural Systems
Weeks 12 & 13	Initiating Transformational Change
Weeks 14 & 15	Final Exam Period

GRADING PROFILE:

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A+  = 90 - 100%    B+  = 77 - 79%    C+  = 67 - 69%    D  = 50 - 59%
A   = 85 - 89      B   = 73 - 76     C   = 63 - 66     F  = 0   - 49
A-  = 80 - 84      B-  = 70 - 72     C-  = 60 - 62
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EVALUATION PROFILE:

Discussion Forum (4th-hour)	5%
Research Paper	30%
Field Studies	20%
Transformational Change Project	25%
Final Exam	20%
	100%

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Forum (4th-hour Activity): Students will be required to participate in an online discussion of selected papers on the Moodle Discussion Forum.

Research Paper: In this major research paper students will select one of the course themes (from themes 2 through 7) and critically evaluate challenges and opportunities associated with implementing this theme within an ecosystems-based management and shared habitat/community framework.

Field Studies: Field trips and field exercises will allow students to learn the basics of field ecology, to meet with local experts and community organizers.

Transformational Change Project: Students will be introduced to 'transformational change' projects and organizations during week one. They will select an organization to shadow for the duration of the course. Completing a template, students will describe the mission and vision that guides the organization, detail the results of an interview with one of the organizations project managers regarding the efforts underway for a current /recent campaign or project, and with the assistance of their instructor volunteer for hands-on service within one of the organizations community projects.

Final Exam: This test will be cumulative and will evaluate a student's understanding of information and concepts covered throughout the course.

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class and for all material on the course outline. Although the instructor may discuss only portions of assigned readings in class, the student is responsible for studying all assigned reading materials – e.g. journal articles and/or chapters from assigned texts.

Appropriate university level behaviour is expected (see the University Calendar).

Missed Exams: Make-up exams are given only in exceptional circumstances and with ***prior*** notice to the instructor.

Late Assignments: Due dates for papers and assignments will be announced and guidelines will be distributed in class. All papers must be submitted directly to the instructor at the beginning of the class period. Late penalties will be 5% per day to a maximum penalty of 25%, with no assignments or papers accepted after one week, except in the case of a documented emergency.

Incomplete Grades: Incomplete grades will be given only in exceptional circumstances.

English Usage: University-level writing skills are required in all assignments. Correct use of MLA or APA referencing style, including the use of non-sexist language, must be followed. The research report would be in a discipline based format approved by the instructor, such as APA or MLA research report or paper format. Resources outlining these procedures are available in the Library and the Writing Centre (Fir 402).

All assignments must be original and must be used for this course only. Keep a copy of all work and hand in the original.

Computer Usage: Students are expected to abide by the Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services in any use of computers at the University. This statement

can be obtained from your department, the Library, Computer Services or on the University web site: (www.capilanou.ca/policies/cap-aup.html).

Electronic Devices: Laptops may be used during class for note-taking only. No personal electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc.) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor. During an exam, turn off all cell phones and pagers and remove them from the desk.

Emergency Procedures: Please read the emergency procedures posted on the wall of the classroom.