**8/12/2016**

**Subject to Change**

**Check Latte for updates!**

**GREENING THE IVORY TOWER:**

**Improving Environmental Sustainability**

**Of Brandeis & Community**

Fall 2016, AMST 191B

**\*\*\*THIS IS COMMUNITY- ENGAGED, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING COURSE\*\*\***

6 Credits

Mon 3-4:50pm and Wed 2-4:50pm

**Read this Syllabus!**

***"We will walk on our own feet; we will work with our own hands; we will speak our own minds."\****

**Together we will be engaged, aware and involved individuals in quest of sustainable ways of living and healthy, vibrant, inclusive communities.**

\*Ralph Waldo Emerson, oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Cambridge, MA, Aug. 31, 1837

Laura Goldin, [goldin@brandeis.edu](mailto:goldin@brandeis.edu) **Terrific** Teaching Assistants:

Rabb 347, #781-736-3075 Annie Fortnow [afortnow@brandeis.edu](mailto:annie@fortnow.com)

Office Hrs: “Open Door Always” Allison Marill [amarill@brandeis.edu](mailto:amarill@brandeis.edu)

Also Thurs 1:30-4:00pm or by appt.

See [“make your own meeting”](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1j5PXYPzW6_O0x4Zum00juJoYJWtD852h4mkR6s2Kg0M/edit#gid=0) calendar, also on LATTE site.

This is updated regularly.

**\*Special Sunday Events!**

**Required:**

**1) Low-Income Housing Community “Barnraising” and Weatherization: Energy and Water Conservation Project: Sunday during semester (TBD), 10am – 2pm, including training and free lunch.**

**2) Sun, Oct 23 (Tentative date): “Sustainability Ideation Challenge”**

**Optional:**

**Sept 24, 2-5pm: Waltham Fields Farm Community Farm Day**

**Note: please prepare in advance for these possible late class days:**

**--Wed Oct 26: We may return late to campus from our field trip to the anaerobic digestor in Rutland.**

**--Mon Sept 12: Please be prepared to remain for full showing of *“Flow*” (93 min)**

***Please let me know if you need a note for a class conflict or work.***

**This is an experiential learning and community engagement course. Be prepared to be active, involved and out of the classroom and take an active role in your own learning. We’ll take weekly field trips, share LATTE reflections and class discussions, do hands-on work, visit with experts, develop projects and engage with the community. All of this will highlight an intimately related backdrop of top-notch books, films and other materials. Through our curriculum and experiences, including considering our own material use and waste output, we’ll reflect on our own relationship and impact with the environment and potential as individuals and as a collective group to create environmental change.**

**Together we’ll explore strategies for creating healthy, resilient, environmentally sustainable communities in the face of increasingly daunting environmental challenges. Throughout the semester we’ll be learning and working on the ground with local non-profits, assisting efforts affecting low income communities in farming, weatherizing and more. \*\***

**You each will work in teams to create your own “Greening” projects that can change the face of Brandeis or the local community as have prior successful Greening class projects such as the Rooftop Farm, Deis Bikes , Tap Brandeis and others. You’ll present your projects at the final Greening Project Showcase, and produce your own website for posting on both the ENVS Greening Class Projects and Sustainability Office websites on the Brandeis web to serve as a resource to the community.**

**During the course of the semester, you should gain greater understanding of the connection between campus operations and built environment on the natural and human environment, experience in identifying, researching, planning and implementing viable sustainability projects and working together and with others across campus or in the community to achieve measurable sustainability goals, skills in simple presentation and writing for the web, real world exposure to the topics covered, from the challenges of healthy food access, waste management, toxic exposure and water quality, the meaning of individual and community involvement and commitment and great knowledge and connection with the local community outside the bounds of the Brandeis campus.**

**The University and the Environment**

We’ll also consider the tremendous power of universities in grooming future scientists, engineers, lawyers, policy-makers, activists and citizens to respond thoughtfully to environmental concerns. Universities themselves are significant environmental consumers -- Brandeis is a substantial community of more than 7000 individuals with enough fossil fuel-burning (and idling) vehicles to require jockeying for limited parking spaces, vast temperature-controlled buildings, landscaped grounds subject to visitor-pleasing standards, enormous food consumption and waste, numerous chemical-filled laboratories, reams of paper and other materials , extravagant water use, mounds of trash and so much more.

**The Brandeis campus, as a small, socially responsible community with direct impact on surrounding Waltham, is ours to change this semester**. We will examine the University’s buildings, grounds, operations and infrastructure -- from energy use and sewage disposal to landscaping and food services -- to identify and assess the environmental impacts created by the campus population. You will work in groups to conceive, design and implement workable “greening” projects intended to create measurable benefits to the campus and local community environment. To do this, you’ll collaborate as needed with University administration, staff, local officials and others. Qualified on-campus projects can apply for BSF funding by the fall deadline (Nov 2 Letter of Intent, Nov 30 Application) and you’ll have the special access, time, resources and support of our class. **Students with strong projects continuing into the spring semester may be eligible for independent study or other academic credit. Just discuss with me.** At the end of the semester you’ll present your projects at the **Greening Project Showcase and produce Greening Class Project websites** **worthy of** **posting** on the Brandeis web to serve as a resource to the community.

For this reason, the semester is meticulously planned and integrated for you to make the most of your own talents, depth of thought and ability to address challenges. Ultimately you can learn most from your own experiences, even from those that may not work out as you’d hoped. Taking risks and making mistakes can be just fine in this class!

So be ready to take an active role in your own learning as we go on weekly field trips, freely share LATTE and class discussions, do hands-on work, visit with experts, develop projects and engage with the community, along with a carefully integrated curriculum designed to stimulate, inform and illuminate.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1) **Attendance** (just in case it’s not obvious): In this course, **it’s a big deal** if you miss class or a field trip. Each day and week is a new experience with a carefully planned purpose. Of course illness and extenuating circumstances always happen, but otherwise we are counting on you.

2) **This is a paperless class!** All written assignments should be submitted on LATTE (or very occasionally by email attachment) as directed. Submit in **WORD.doc or .docx format**.

3) **All field trips will leave campus by 2:10 SHARP, usually in front of Spingold Theater. If you are late, you may have to be left behind!** Out of courtesy to everyone elsek so we won’t be late and so you won’t miss out, please make sure to be on time.

4) **Laptops, smartphones, other technology: We are all in this challenge together (if not you’re in the wrong class!) So use of these during class time in any way that could tend to distract you or others or reflect lack of involvement just isn’t okay. Respect for all, attention, class connection is key.**

5) **You are expected to be honest in all your academic work.** The University policy on academic honesty is in the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please do ask.

6) If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please let me know immediately.

**7) Success in this 6 credit-hour course** is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 12 hours of study time per week in preparation for class, including readings, writings, discussions, presentations and preparation, project planning, applications for approval and implementation, class community collaborative events and reflections.

8) **International Students:**

If you enroll in a internship or experiential learning (EL) practicum course, and are required to pursue an activity off-campus as part of the course, you may be required to obtain authorization from the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services based on your student visa status BEFORE beginning the off-campus activity.  Please email [isso@brandeis.edu](mailto:isso@brandeis.edu) to schedule an appointment with your ISSO advisor to determine if such authorization is required.

**Required Books:**

1. **The Omnivore's Dilemma**, Michael Pollan (Penguin Group, 2006 )
2. **Garbology,** Edward Humes, (Penguin, 2013 )
3. **Cradle to Cradle**, William McDonough & Michael Braungart (North Point Press, 2002)
4. **Last Child in the Woods**, Richard Louv (Algonquin Books, 2005)
5. **Eaarth**, Bill McKibben (Times Books, 2010)

For more optional reading, you might like to check out:

* The Nature of College, James Farrell (Milkweed 2010)
* Bottled and Sold, Peter Gleick (Island Press, 2010)
* Ecological Intelligence, Daniel Goleman (Crown Business, 2009)
* Plan B 4.0, Lester Brown, (Norton, 2009)

**Other Required Readings:**

\* All assigned readings on Latte, films.

\* All “GREENING NOTES” emails. Also read, syllabus initially and consult as we go along, and read relevant Latte resources like suggested projects list and reflection guidelines, other.

**Grading\*:**

\* Response essays and comments to others on LATTE forum, including your choice of at least 4 of the 5 books (see guidelines posted on LATTE); other written assignments: 30%

\* Class participation, exercises and activities, including: engagement in whole-class projects, thoughtful contribution to book and other discussions, on-time attendance and attention in class: 35%

\* Greening projects -- including planning, submissions of proposal and plans, design and development, implementation and communication, Showcase presentations, Final WEBSITES: 35%

***\*All Response essays and assignments are due before class by the due date. To make it fair for all and so everyone can participate in a quality discussion, a half- grade may be deducted for each day an assignment is turned in late.***

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**due to the realities of field trips, partner organizations, weather**

**Assignment for first class August 29: Watch film before first class: *“Into the Wild”* (available on LATTE site, 90 min) and submit brief forum thoughts on LATTE.**

**Question: Why do you think this film was shown in relation to this class?**

**Required Sunday Community Projects and other Events See me if these present difficulties:**

**Sustainability Ideation Challenge: Sunday October 23 (Tentative date)**

**Low-Income Housing Community “Barnraising” Weatherization: Sun in Sept,Oct or Nov (TBD),**

**10am – 2pm including training and lunch, provided. Energy conservation and community organizing in collaboration with** [**WATCH**](http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/environmental/undergrad/clinic.html)**, low-income residents tenants and community volunteers. Location: TBD. Rides provided.**

**AUG 29, 31**

# Individuals, institutions, communities & deeper connections:

***Are we locked in the wrong vision? What is your own relationship with the earth?***

# Your own Ecological Footprint and the

# Environmental Responsibility, Power and Promise of the University

**August 29: WELCOME! Why This Class?**

\*Assign for next class: Do quick **Ecological Footprint quiz** (see Latte link) and **Footprint of Nations**, save results for Wed. Aug 31.

**Aug 31: We Get Started! Visit with Mary Fischer, Sustainability Director**

**\*Assign for Sept 6: Submit “Eco-Run” observations by Sept 6 on Latte.**

**\*Assign for Sept 7: Read on Latte: “The Nature of College”**, “**Wake Up to Nature”** & “**Nature of Stuff”** (chs1,2**.**

**\*Assign Environmental Impact Essay due Sept 14 on Latte.**

Recommended readings: “The Problem of Education”, “Ecological Design.”

**”PART i: How Green is Brandeis?**

**OPERATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE, CAPITAL PROJECTS: PLanning for sustainability & Greening Day-by-Day.**

**WHAT MAKES BRANDEIS RUN? Lifeblood of campus: Energy, Buildings, Landscape, Materials and More.**

**\*Due Sept 6: Eco-Run observations**

**Sept 7**: **Eco-Run Part I and II: “View with a Difference”**

Dennis Finn, Director Grounds, Vehicles & Recycling .

What is there REALLY to see on campus? How keen were your observations?

**Sept 8: Eco-Run part II**

Talk, discussion and tour with Energy and Water Manager and expert William Bushey and more How is Brandeis doing?

**Sept 12:** Film screening “***Flow: For Love of Water”***

The Clean Water Challenge: robber barons, conflict and future hope

Sept 14: The Clean Water Challenge at Brandeis

Surfaces, surfaces everywhere; where can the water go?

Campus groundwater flow, stormwater runoff and the impact on Charles River quality.

“Following our Water” with civil engineer Dave Conway and Dennis Finn

Class starts outside [facing front entrance to Shapiro Science Center] locationTBD

\* Submit Environmental Impact Essay assignment

***\******Begin reading Last Child in the Woods, response essay due Sept 26**

***Suggested schedule: read parts I-IV by Sept 21, read parts V –VII and write Response Essay by Sept 26. Focus on what’s of most interest to you and skim the rest. Some of the research is outdated but the overall ideas are sound.***

**\*Assign: Share your Preliminary Group Project Ideas and Choices on Latte Forum, due Sept 24**

Sept 19:

TBD: Discuss “Nature of College” and other themes so far; brainstorm project ideas\*. \*

\*Review Project Ideas List on LATTE for ideas.

Note: official BSF Project Statements of Interest Due Nov 2 . Completed Applications due Nov 30.

Continue discussion online!

**\*Reminder: Last Child response essay due Sept 26)**

Sept 21:

Inspiring Kids to Protect Campus Groundwater: The Next Generation

Bio-Swales and Cherry Trees!

Collaborative Project with Lemberg Learning Center and Environmental Educator Judy Fallows.

\*\*Sept 24: Optional Special Event: Kids and Food – our next topic.

Waltham Fields Community Farm Day. Celebrate local farming with games, fun & music for the whole family. Lead games, help the Farm and local organizations. Event 2-5pm.

Helper also need before and after. Come for some part or all.

\*Sept 24: submit preliminary group project ideas and choices on Latte. (May be by group but name all students.)

Brandeis Eats

Local Food, Healthier Choices, Reusables and more.

Sept 26 : Presentation and Discussion with Chris Henrickson, Boston Director of the Humane League farm animal welfare reform organization

**\*Due: Submit Last Child response essay.**

\*Begin reading Omnivore’s Dilemma, response essay due Oct 10

Suggested schedule: read parts 1 & 2 by Oct 1, finish part 3 & write Response essay by Oct 10.

\*For Sept 28: Do “Food” topic readings on LATTE before class

Sept 28: Meet, eat, tour, discuss and make recommendations with Sodexo’s Directors of Brandeis Dining Services

\*Make sure to do “Food” topic readings on LATTE before class.

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# PART II

# A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS: Rethinking the Model

CHANGING THE FACE OF CAMPUS & COMMUNITY:

SUSTAINABLE FOOD, FARMS, COMMUNITIES;

treading more lightly with ingenuity, mindfulness & lifestyle

**Oct 5:**

**Field trip** to **Natick Organic Community Farm**

All Field Trips: Meet in front of Spingold Theater, we depart campus 2:10 sharp!

**Oct 10:**

Discuss Omnivore’s, Projects and BSF applications

**\*Submit Omnivore’s Reflections**

**\*Begin reading Garbology, reflections due Oct 26.**

***Suggested schedule: Read through up to Part III by Oct 19, read Part III, book and write response essay by Oct 26.***

***\**Submit your preliminary project ideas. (Start discussing with each other and with me. Allison and Annie can also help.)**

**October 19:**

**New Ideas for Urban Farming , Maximizing Open Space, Healthy Food and Entrepreneurship**

**Field Trip to Higher Ground Farm, Boston**

**\*Assign: “Collect Your Waste” Oct. 24-28.**

**Four *consecutive days 24/7 hrs***

***\*Submit your Reflections on Latte by Oct 30 .***

**\*\*\*Sunday October 23 (Tent date): Sustainability Ideation Challenge\*\*\***

***24 hour campus event.*** *Concept: this as student-driven event in which teams of students will compete to present a project for improving sustainability and efficiency at Brandeis. I will focus “Improving our Carbon Footprint.” Project ideas will be judged at the end and project teams will be encouraged to submit to the*

*BSF. Part of the goal is to help raise the profile of BSF and sustainability on campus.****The Greening class is an active partner and participant in this event, and Prof G is involved in planning, mentoring and judging.***

WASTE: there is no “away.”

Following OUR GArbage - Where does it go?

Oct 25: TBD (film or other)

Oct 26: FOLLOWING OUR WASTE TO ENERGY:

Grand Field trip to Anaerobic Digestor: Rutland MA

Note: It’s in a remote cowfield and a long drive. We may return late so please be prepared! Readings: TRASHED“ excerpts and other readings on Latte. Review assigned chapters of the “Nature of Stuff .”.

Oct 26: Submit Garbology essay.

Oct 26: Begin reading Cradle to Cradle, response essay due Nov 7

*Suggested schedule: Read pgs 3-92 by Nov 2, finish and write essay by Nov 7.*

Oct 31:

“Food Foolish: The Hidden Connection between Food Waste, Hunger and Climate Change”

with Eric Schultz

\*Submit draft BSF Letter of Intent on LATTE (Final due on BSF website Nov 2.)

Nov 2: FOLLOWING OUR WASTE TO RECYCLING & TRASH

Field Trip: Casella Sorting Facility, Charlestown, MA

**\*NOTE: BSF Letter of Intent due. Submit to** [**BSF website**](http://www.brandeis.edu/sustainability/fund/index.html)**: http://www.brandeis.edu/sustainability/fund/index.html**

# THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: GREENER STRUCTURES, OPEN SPACE, Incorporating Nature. The ART OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & Architecture & Effect on kids.

# GREENING CHILDREN’S SPACES

**Nov. 7:**

Carrie Simmons of Communications, “Writing for the Web”

Watch TED Talk with William McDonough: Cradle to Cradle in deed or work on projects)

**\*Submit Cradle to Cradle response essays.**

\*Assign website text and pictures, due Nov 16 in draft

**\*Begin reading Eaarth, response essays due Nov 28.**

***Suggested schedule: Read pgs 1-102 (hs 1-2) by Nov14, read pgs 102-213 (ch 3,4) and write essay by Nov. 28.***

**Nov 9:**

***The Plastic Dilemma: Waste to Treasure Indeed?***

*Where problem-solving, innovation and an entrepreneurial approach come together.*

**Field trip to Preserve Manufacturing Facility, Leominster, MA**

**\*Be prepared to return to campus late**

**Nov 14:**

**TED talk or work on projects (see Nov 7, above)**

**Nov 16**:

**GREEN DESIGN** with James Carr, AIA, LEED-Certified Architect.

Field trip: Walking tour of award-winning “Green” Elementary School.

**\*Nov 16: Website text and pictures due in draft**

YOUR LIFE AFTER GREENING and BRANDEIS: LIVING MORE LIGHTLY?

REVISITING INDIVIDUAL CONNECTION AND IMPACT.

Nov 28: TBD

\* Eaarth response essays due

\*Submit preview copy of final BSF project proposals (due Nov 30 to BSF Board.)

Nov 30:

Discuss Eaarth, finalize projects, practice for Showcase

\*Note: BSF Final Proposals due to [BSF link](http://www.brandeis.edu/sustainability/fund/index.html): http://www.brandeis.edu/sustainability/fund/index.html

**Dec7:**

**FINALE: CLASS PROJECTS SHOWCASE!**

Share your presentations and food with each other, friends, collaborators, visitors.

Due DEC 8: FINAL PROJECT WEBSITE CONTENT READY FOR POSTING

May you cherish your connection with the natural world.