Beloit College Sustainability Course Listings, AY 2014-15				
Course Code	**Course Title**	**Course Description**	**Sustainability Course Type**	
			Course	**Included**
ANTH 100	Society and Culture	An introduction to cultural anthropology. A comparative study of contemporary cultures and the influence of culture on thought and behavior, social relations, and dealings with the natural and supernatural.		1
ANTH 258	Environmental Archaeology	Environmental archaeology attempts to understand the interrelationships between cultures and environments of the past. This course examines how archaeologists study the environmental contexts of past societies, and it engages students in the practice of environmental archaeology. Students review the theoretical bases of cultural ecology and paleoecology and learn the principal methods of paleoenvironmental reconstruction from archaeological and non-archaeological data. Major topics covered are climate, landscape and geoarchaeology, vegetation, fauna, and human impacts on environments. Students visit nearby archaeological sites and laboratories, process soil samples from archaeological sites, conduct team research on plant and animal remains recovered from these samples, and present oral and written research reports.	1	
ANTH 375	Stuff: Approaches to Material Culture	Material culture studies focus on the forms, uses, and meaning of object, images, and environments in everyday life. Once primarily the domain of archaeology, material culture is now central in many fields of study, including ethnography, museum studies, history, art history, as well as psychology, sociology, and geography. This course examines how the intersections of these different interests and approaches have influenced the ways by which anthropologists understand the tangible products of human behavior. Through readings, discussion, and individual research, students learn how objects went from being viewed as passive residues of economic behavior to dynamic social actors. These topics are illuminated through discussions of the theoretical and methodological shifts surrounding such topics as production,		1

		consumption, identity, social agency, and technological choice.		
ANTH 262	Medical Anthropology	This course explores the biocultural basis of health and disease in a cross-cultural perspective. We use the concept of adaptation as a means to evaluate the biological and cultural components of health and disease. We will focus on both applied and basic research interests in medical anthropology. Topics to be covered include: the relationship between diet and health, the biology of poverty, gene-infectious disease-environment interactions, the epidemiological transition, the relationship between health beliefs and health behaviors, indigenous vs. Western medical practices, and the role of medical practitioners and their patients in various medical systems.		1
ANTH 375	Anthropology of Consumer Society	What is consumer society? What does it mean to have so many aspects of our social lives organized around the consumption of media, mass produced commodities and pre-packaged experiences? In this course, we will critically examine consumerism around the world and its impact on culture, how we organize our lives and how political and economic power have been increasingly linked to "purchasing power." Utilizing materials from anthropology as well as other disciplines (e.g. sociology, gender studies, cultural studies) we will examine how consumption has had a dramatic effect on society and culture over the last century.		
ARTH 285	Video Games as Agents of Social Change	Ever since the first documented video game controversy—way back in 1976, over Death Race—games have been subject to increasing scrutiny from experts and the general public alike. A common thread is the notion that video games have the potential to be agents of social change, in ways both positive and negative. Questions often include whether or not games lead to violence, whether games and gaming culture encourage sexism and misogyny, and how games might be made to produce positive social change. This course will take a critical look at how games may contribute to societal myths and norms that, in turn, can lead to effects far beyond the world of a game. In particular, we will focus on notions of gender, race, violence, and consumerism.		1

ARTH 335	The Culture of Nature	Nature, culture: why is it that these words are so often linked — or, more precisely, separated — with a slash? Does the trendy phrase “the culture of nature" signal a different understanding of the way these "entities" are intertwined? This arts-and-humanities course begins with two premises: 1) that the advances in science and technology that began with the Industrial Revolution are not solely responsible for global warming; 2) that science and technology alone will not solve the environmental challenges we face in the 21st century. Through close study of specific works of art, literature, film, and select objects and images from popular culture and our immediate Beloit environment, we examine the ways in which representations of nature shape our relationship to (and treatment of) the earth.	1	
ARTH255	Contemporary Art in an Age of Global Warming	What role, if any, can art play in solving current environmental challenges? Is it ethical for artists to make more objects in a world already littered with too many? What would an art based on a true integration of ecological, aesthetic and ethical consciousness look like? This course explores artist-based perspectives on building a more sustainable future -- exciting territory where the very purpose and practice of art are being redefined. We examine a range of contemporary art practices and pressing environmental concerns. Through historical and contemporary readings and field trips, we consider artists’ initiatives within the context and history of environmental thought and contemporary art theory. Scientific labs and fieldwork allow us to test the viability and ethics of key artworks. Additionally, the Science Center building serves as a case study of green architecture.	1	
BIOL 111	Zoology	A survey of the animal kingdom emphasizing evolutionary relationships, structure and function, representative forms, adaptations, ecology, and behavior of invertebrates and vertebrates. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on small research projects. Laboratory work requires dissection.		1
BIOL 151	Marine Biology	A survey of marine organisms from microbes to mammals. The course emphasizes ecology, evolution, anatomy, reproduction, behavior, and physiology of marine organisms, and reviews		1

		marine ecosystems from intertidal to deep sea. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on small research projects. Laboratory work requires dissection. For science and non-science students.		
BIOL 215	Emerging Diseases	An exploration of the relationships between microorganisms, environment, and diseases. General principles of genetics and evolution, as well as historical and political factors, are examined in an effort to explain the emergence of new diseases. Laboratory experiences include basic microbiology, data analysis, simulations, and survey research. Small groups of students design, perform, analyze, and report on a research project.		1
BIOL 372	Ecology	Ecology is the study of interactions among organisms and interactions between organisms and the nonliving environment. Ecologists study these interactions to understand the patterns of organism abundance and distribution of organisms that occur in different ecosystems. In this course, students examine these interactions at the population, community, ecosystem, and landscape levels through classroom, field, and laboratory activities. Contemporary questions about sustainability, biological diversity, and global change will be examined at each of these levels using quantitative methods. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on a major research project.	1	
BIOL 110	Human Biology	The anatomy and basic normal functions of the human body with consideration of development, genetics, immunology, endocrinology, and related molecular, cellular, and ecological concepts. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on small research projects. Laboratory work requires dissection.		1
BIOL 121	Botany	The structure and function of plants emphasizing adaptations to the environment. The primary focus is on the ecology, evolution, reproduction, anatomy, physiology, and growth and development of flowering plants. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on small research projects.		1
BIOL 289	Genetics	Mendelian, population, quantitative, and molecular genetics are developed through a problem-solving approach. Social controversies surrounding such items as genetic counseling, domestic breeding of crops, genetic engineering,		1

		mutagenic substances in our environment, and natural selection will be discussed. Small groups of students design, perform, analyze, and report on a research project.		
BIOL 337	Population Biology	An investigation of the factors that determine the size of a population, its distribution, and the kinds of individuals that it comprises. Population genetics, population ecology, ecological genetics, and evolutionary ecology are introduced using observational, experimental, and theoretical analysis. Laboratory exercises stress examination of natural populations in the field. Students design, perform, analyze, and report on a major research project.		1
CHEM 117	Chemistry	Why is chemistry important to other sciences, technology, and society? What processes do chemists use when dealing with real problems? What conceptual models do chemists use to understand and explain their observations? The focus of this course is on the reasons for doing science, the intellectual and instrumental tools used, the models developed to solve new problems, and the assertion that chemistry has a tremendous effect on your personal life and on the decisions made by society. Along the way, we cover atoms, molecules, ions, and periodic properties; chemical equations, stoichiometry and moles; Lewis structures and VSEPR model of bonding; reactivity and functional groups; states of matter and intermolecular forces; relationships between structure and properties. Topical applications and issues vary with the instructor and may include climate change, food and fuel, and energy use for lighting.		1
CHEM 220	Environmental, Analytical, and Geochemistry	Chemical equilibria are fundamental in the understanding of biological and environmental processes and in chemical analysis. This course emphasizes quantitative and graphical interpretation of acid-base, solubility, distribution, complex ion, and redox equilibria in aqueous solution and soils. Laboratory work stresses application of gravimetric, volumetric, spectrophotometric, and potentiometric techniques.		1

CHEM 370	Mining in Wisconsin	Mining in Wisconsin (.5). Wisconsin has a long mining history, dating from the "badgers" who mined for lead near Mineral Point. Today, with the rapid growth of hydraulic fracturing for gas and oil wells, Wisconsin has become a major source of "frac sand" for that industry, raising environmental issues for western Wisconsin. The proposal by Gogebic Taconite to build what could become the largest open-pit iron-ore mine in the world (4.5 miles long, half a mile wide, and 1,000 feet deep) and process the ore on-site in northern Wisconsin raises a number of environmental, economic, and political issues. We will use these two case studies to explore the environmental impact of mining and mine reclamation on air and water quality, as well as the impact on other related issues such as habitat, tourism, and regulation (e.g. Wisconsin DNR, U.S. EPA, Native American treaty rights, local control).	1	
CHEM 380	Chemistry Seminar	Discussion of issues involving chemistry, biochemistry, health, environment, and technology using current articles from the scientific literature.		1
CHEM 370	Chemistry, Energy & the Environment	What is involved in hydraulic fracturing, getting oil from tar sands and refining it, or making nuclear fuel? What is the environmental impact of extracting fuels or disposing of their wastes, and what analytical techniques are used to measure the impact? What is the process for making solar cells or LEDs and how do they work? What new materials are making an impact on energy production or conservation? Can biofuels or hydrogen provide an alternative to fossil fuels for transportation? We will look at selected energy sources systematically from the perspective of the chemistry needed to understand their potential and environmental impact, and use current scientific literature to follow new developments in the field.	1	

CRIS 265	Women, Race, and Class	This course examines the intersections of race, ethnicity, and class as categories of analysis for understanding both diverse and common experiences of inequalities faced by women in the U.S. The basic objectives of this course are to understand: 1) the social, political, and historical forces shaping the dominant meanings of "Womanhood," in U.S. society; 2) what it means to be a woman at different social locations (race, ethnicity, class) in the U.S., and how these differing social locations shape life experiences and chances; 3) how race, ethnicity, class and gender locations constitute hierarchical relations of power; and 4) the social, political, and historical forces shaping the emerging significance of race, ethnicity, and class as categories of analysis in studying women. In examining the question of what it means to be a woman in the U.S., we will primarily explore the following areas: power inequalities in relations between women; power inequalities in relations between women and men; power relations in domestic employment/work; sexuality & interpersonal relationships; and adolescent girls & identity construction.		1
ECON 199	Principles of Economics	This course takes an analytical approach to economic reasoning and contemporary economic issues. It introduces microeconomic and macroeconomic theories with applications to relevant issues such as employment, growth, international trade and finance, monetary and fiscal policy, and environmental issues.		1
ECON 203	Economics of Globalization	This course examines three main aspects of economic globalization: international trade, international migration, and international capital flows. We will use economic models to study why each aspect of globalization happens, who are the winners and losers from each, and the impacts of globalization on matters of interests such as economic growth, poverty and inequality, the environment, labor standards, etc. The theoretical analyses are then confronted with data and country case studies. This will enable us to understand why some people protest against globalization while others embrace it, whether we should have more or less globalization, or how we should reform or change globalization.		1

ECON 204	Economic Development	This course examines the social institutions, i.e., "rules of the social order," that are necessary for economic growth. In particular, this course focuses on the evolution of private property rights and legal and financial institutions that are important to the development process both historically and in the contemporary developing world. We examine what role international aid and development policy might play in this process and the challenges associated with implementing economic reform in the contemporary developing world.		1
ECON 271	Economics of Culture & Identity	Economists recognize that people have multiple and diverse goals, shaped by their cultures, identities, and even personalities. But to maintain its scientific stature, economics supposedly does not question where our goals ultimately come from. "Goods" are whatever people prefer more of, period. And market economies tend to produce more goods overall. But what makes people want to exchange certain goods in the first place? And why exactly do some groups of people end up having more goods and others have fewer? What does one's religion, gender, race, age, ethnicity, or nationality have to do with one's choices regarding work, school, health, politics, or reproduction? The aim of this course is to see whether economists might provide better answers to those questions with a greater appreciation of what the world means to different people. In this course, we will explore the various, competing theoretical models and empirical strategies that economists have started to use to talk about culture and identity. We will find that there are complex relationships between how people view themselves and others, and the material standard of living in a society.		1
EDYS 272	Investigating the Natural World	This course takes a constructivist approach to teaching, learning, and doing science. Students study theories of science education and examine past and current science curricula and instruction associated with those theories. Students design and perform science investigations, and then guide a group of elementary school children in designing and performing their own investigations. They design curricula and practice instruction and assessment in the areas of life science, physical science, earth and space science, and		1

		environmental science. Includes a weekly placement in an elementary school.		
EDYS 276	Activism, Engagement, and Social Change: Working With and Learning From Immigrants in Beloit	There has been a rapid influx of immigrants into the Midwest over the past 20 years, with a 110% increase of foreign-born residents in Wisconsin. As the self-styled "Gateway to Wisconsin," Beloit is home to immigrants from a multitude of countries. In this course, working with a variety of local organizations, we will explore the intersections between non-traditional learning spaces and social change. Students will design inquiry projects based on individual interests (i.e. religion, public health, language acquisition, etc.), complete 60 hour placements with local community activism and service organizations, and present their work to the community at the end of the course. Weekly on-campus workshops will provide a reflective space to examine connections between theory and practice.		1
ENGL 310	How to Talk Midwestern	You are Midwesterners. Even if you don't hail from this part of the country, you've now spent a good portion of your young adult lives here. After three or four years at Beloit College, you have a distinct notion of what it means to be a Beloiter. This capstone course, offered to junior and senior English and Environmental Studies students, is designed to help you think creatively and critically about what it means to be a Midwesterner. Unlike other regions of the country, the Midwest is often described as an "anti-region." What, in fact, is the Midwest? What are the defining features of its landscape? Are its citizens and its art somehow recognizable as Midwestern? This course will interrogate the concept of a Midwest aesthetic or sensibility by examining works of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction (and to a lesser extent drama, film, music and visual art) by writers and artists creating art from and about the Midwest. Many of these works will have an eco-focus that directly addresses the Midwestern landscape. Besides reading, discussing and interpreting the Midwestern-themed works on the syllabus, students in the class will create (and revise through peer workshops) their own creative works of Midwest-inspired prose and poetry to reveal what the Midwest has come to mean to them personally.		1

ENGL 223a	Writing Wilderness	This course examines specific modes of creative writing that cross traditional literary genres. John Muir—Sierra Club Founder and former Wisconsinite— describes his sojourn in the wilderness this way: "Going out, I found, was really going in." This course includes two weeks at Beloit College, reading and writing about wilderness—as a place, a concept, and a state of mind—and a one-week "field work" experience, canoeing, camping, reading and writing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, on the US and Canadian border in northern Minnesota.		1
ENVS 390	Sustainability Fellows Seminar	The Beloit College Sustainability Fellows Program gives students the opportunity to contribute their expertise to a campus- or community-based sustainability project and earn one unit of academic credit. This eight-week summer program offers internships and applied research experiences for Beloit College students to engage in sustainability-related activities on campus and in the local community. Each student will work at one site under the mentorship of a faculty member. In addition to working full-time at their placement sites, students will participate in a weekly Sustainability Seminar and a weekly community-based learning workshop.	1	
ENVS 390	Sustainability Leader Team: Contemporary Art in an Age of Global Climate Change	Jo Ortel's Sustainability Leaders Team will work together to enhance "Contemporary Art in an Age of Global Climate Change," a course that explores the potential and efficacy of art to engage meaningfully with substantive, real-world problems. The Leaders Team will develop lab and fieldwork units to complement and augment understanding of the scientific dimensions of specific environmental art interventions made in the last thirty or so years. Our goal will be to expand and enrich the course in ways that challenge students and the community to think about how the creative arts might work in tandem with creative scientific thought to increase environmental sustainability. Sustainability Leaders further the outcomes of Pathways to Sustainability by evaluating and/or implementing recommendations made by Sustainability Citizens, Sustainability Fellows, or previous teams of Sustainability Leaders. Each team is expected to propose effective alternatives, provide a sophisticated understanding of their costs and	1	

		benefits, communicate effectively across multiple audiences, and reflect on the overall experience. Students consult regularly with their Faculty and Staff Mentors to discuss their projects, including their ethical, creative, economic, and political dimensions, as well as how others may be persuaded to pursue their recommended solution(s).		
ENVS 390	Sustainability Leader Team: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Teaching and Learning about Extinction	The centennial of the extinction of the passenger pigeon is September 1, 2014. To commemorate this event, an interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff and students from the fields of history, writing, science, and museum studies will develop and implement interpretive programs and resources for exploring the history of the passenger pigeon locally and examining how the bird's extinction informs contemporary sustainability issues. The team will research the history of the bird's extinction locally, prepare on-line and in-person programming to educate audiences about human impact on the environment (past, present, and future), and encourage attendance and participation in public programming scheduled for September and October, especially a keynote public event, tentatively called "The Flyover," an interactive media event in downtown Beloit that is designed to raise awareness about the impact of extinction for Beloit students and the broader Beloit community. The team will create programming for, and assist with, the logistical planning of the Flyover. Sustainability Leaders further the outcomes of Pathways to Sustainability by evaluating and/or implementing recommendations made by Sustainability Citizens, Sustainability Fellows, or previous teams of Sustainability Leaders. Each team is expected to propose effective alternatives, provide a sophisticated understanding of their costs and benefits, communicate effectively across multiple audiences, and reflect on the overall experience. Students consult regularly with their Faculty and Staff Mentors to discuss their projects, including their ethical, creative, economic, and political dimensions, as well as how others may be persuaded to pursue their recommended solution(s).	1	

ENVS 390	Sustainability Leader Team: Getting Over Posters	As a campus, we seem to be growing increasingly addicted—to paper. In researching the various ways that departments, groups, clubs, and offices get the word out about their events, staff in the college's Communications & Marketing Office have reached the conclusion that there's a huge reliance on paper posters. A lot of posters means a lot of wasted paper, incurring a lot of expense. Students on this team will tackle the issue this summer, employing research, implementation, and plans for educating campus about any potential reforms and policy recommendations regarding the use of paper/posters in marketing campus events. Sustainability Leaders further the outcomes of Pathways to Sustainability by evaluating and/or implementing recommendations made by Sustainability Citizens, Sustainability Fellows, or previous teams of Sustainability Leaders. Each team is expected to propose effective alternatives, provide a sophisticated understanding of their costs and benefits, communicate effectively across multiple audiences, and reflect on the overall experience. Students consult regularly with their Faculty and Staff Mentors to discuss their projects, including their ethical, creative, economic, and political dimensions, as well as how others may be persuaded to pursue their recommended solution(s).	1	
ENVS 390	Sustainability Leader Team: Rivers in Transition	Over the course of the 2014-15 academic year, this leadership team will create a learning community of students, faculty, and staff who will meet biweekly to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the study of water security with a dual focus on the Yellow River basin in China and the Mississippi River basin in the United States. The participants in this learning community will explore questions raised and methodologies employed by scholars in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences to study various societies' interactions with their natural environments. Sustainability Leaders further the outcomes of Pathways to Sustainability by evaluating and/or implementing recommendations made by Sustainability Citizens, Sustainability Fellows, or previous teams of Sustainability Leaders. Each team is expected to propose effective alternatives, provide a sophisticated understanding of their costs and benefits, communicate effectively across multiple	1	

		audiences, and reflect on the overall experience. Students consult regularly with their Faculty and Staff Mentors to discuss their projects, including their ethical, creative, economic, and political dimensions, as well as how others may be persuaded to pursue their recommended solution(s).		
ENVS 390	Sustainability Leader Team: Planning for Earth Week	Every year, Earth Day is a time of reflection on our interaction with our environment and community. Without planning and programming, this day is often an afterthought. This team will plan an integrated week (or more) of events that generate intentional awareness about our relationship to our environment and our community. With the rich creative resources that the College and city have to offer, including student clubs, interested faculty, partners within the City of Beloit, and non-profits in the area, events will originate from a wide spectrum of academic fields and can provide a mix of auditory, visual, and tactile experiences, promoting the idea that sustainability can be experienced in a number of different ways. Sustainability Leaders further the outcomes of Pathways to Sustainability by evaluating and/or implementing recommendations made by Sustainability Citizens, Sustainability Fellows, or previous teams of Sustainability Leaders. Each team is expected to propose effective alternatives, provide a sophisticated understanding of their costs and benefits, communicate effectively across multiple audiences, and reflect on the overall experience. Students consult regularly with their Faculty and Staff Mentors to discuss their projects, including their ethical, creative, economic, and political dimensions, as well as how others may be persuaded to pursue their recommended solution(s).	1	
GEOL 100	Earth: Exploring a Dynamic Planet	Exploration of geologic processes that shape our dynamic planet and how they interact as a system. Topics include plate tectonics, deep time, climate, volcanoes, earthquakes, streams and groundwater, glaciers, natural resources, and the interactions between geologic processes and human populations. The class emphasizes both global systems and the geology of southern Wisconsin. We focus on using scientific methods to decipher complex interactive processes and developing		1

		skills for observation and analysis in the field and laboratory.		
GEOL 110	Environmental Geology and Geologic Hazards	Application of geologic principles to help in understanding the response of our environment to natural and anthropogenic forces of change, and proper constraints we should exercise in being good stewards of the Earth. Natural resources, floods, volcanic activity, earthquakes, landslides, coastal processes, and pollution are among the topics considered, with emphasis on current events. Lecture, discussion, laboratory, field study.	1	
GEOL 171	Field Excursion Seminar	The geology, geography, history, and environment of a region to be studied during an extended field excursion.		1
HEAL 212	US Health Policy & Politics	An overview of health policy and politics in the United States. Course examines the U.S. health care system, its politics, organization, and the financing of health services. It explores how federalism shapes the system and compares it with other industrialized countries. It also examines the social or non-medical determinants of health, and the limits of what health care alone can accomplish. Health disparities among ethnic and social groups feature centrally throughout.		1
HEAL 240	Sophomore Seminar in Health & Society	Prefaced on in-depth discussion and analysis of key readings, this survey course covers a broad spectrum of domestic and global issues in public health, including the non-medical (social) determinants of health, health literacy, and disparities in health outcomes. As a gateway requirement, this course is designed to encourage interaction between Health and Society majors and minors, laying the groundwork for future collaboration and introducing majors to possible career tracks as practitioners, analysts, consultants and social entrepreneurs in the realm of public health.		1
HEAL 230	Comparative Health Systems	This course provides an overview of comparative health systems. Health care systems in both rich and poor countries throughout the world are examined, including their facilities, workforces, and technology and equipment. Students in this course evaluate the performance of these systems in terms of cost, quality, access, and other issues.		1

HIST 210	Industrial History of Beloit	This course examines the industrial history of the town of Beloit, Wisconsin through the following topics: migration and settlement, natural resources and industrial development, relationship of the local economy to regional and national economies, sources of capital and labor, migration and immigration, WWII economy, environmental degradation, and de-industrialization. As a Liberal Arts in Practice-designated course, students will gather and employ historical materials and methods including oral histories, company records, photographs, newspaper files, and court cases from the Beloit and Wisconsin Historical Societies, the Rock County Courthouse, the Beloit College Archives, and the Beloit Public Library.		1
HIST 210	Topics in North American Environmental History	In this course we will investigate significant topics in the Environmental History of North America, focusing on how humans have interacted with the natural world and how the natural world has shaped human endeavors. We will also analyze how humans have understood their roles within the natural world. In addition to considering classic themes and texts in American environmental history, we will focus on the history of extinction, focusing on the extermination of the Passenger Pigeon which was once abundant in Wisconsin and which became extinct when the last Pigeon died in 1914.	1	
IDST 313	Life & Financial Planning	This course is designed to help students learn how to identify the key financial decisions they will face following graduation, to help them learn the analytical tools to make wealth- and life-enhancing decisions, and to help them recognize the potential entrepreneurial opportunities in choosing their life and career paths. The class emphasizes that all planning, financial or otherwise, serves short and long-term life goals and that financial resources are means to an end, not the end itself. The course aims to help students be better prepared to make the key financial, career and life decisions they will face in the years immediately after graduation.		1

IDST 225	Experiments in Ethical and Effective Leadership	In this course students analyze the efficacy and ethical challenges of their own leadership efforts, as well as those of local community and historical leaders. A variety of approaches are employed, including interviewing local leaders, field trips, case studies, team building for problem solving, and practice in various forms of communication, written, oral, Web, and/or visual. Resources include classic and popular texts, films, guest speakers, and biographies. Prerequisite: All students in the seminar are required to be involved, either currently or within the past year, in some leadership capacity on or off campus, through employment, clubs, sports, student government, social action, or another venue.		1
IDST 288	In Search of Modern Japan	This course enables students to engage critically with the complex urban environments in which they live and study by combining classroom work with explorations of the city beyond the university. Depending on the course location, these explorations will use techniques ranging from observations, field notes, mapping exercises, and visits to various sites of cultural, historical, and social significance to informal interviews, volunteer placements in local organizations, and research projects. Possible topics to be explored include tradition vs. modernity, gender, poverty, movements of people from rural to urban spaces, the effects of globalization, the human impact on the environment, and social problems.		1
INIT 100	First-Year Initiatives Seminar - Clean Water: A Drop in the Bucket?	Many people lack water to meet daily needs. Globally, water scarcity affects almost one in five people; the percentage affected will likely rise as population, urbanization, irrigation, and standards of living increase. It also will rise if the predictability of clean water supplies decreases, whether due to natural (e.g., droughts) or human (e.g., pollution) causes. In this seminar, we will explore the physical and sometimes political constraints on adequate clean water supplies. We will discuss case studies of environmental disasters like the Aral Sea, where our thirst for water in arid environments has resulted in catastrophic degradation of regional ecosystems. We also will explore water scarcity in areas with abundant rainfall such as the Mekong River Watershed. You will have the opportunity to research water-scarcity issues in a geographic region of your	1	

		choice and report your findings to the class. As we investigate water availability at the global scale, we will explore water issues in the Beloit area through visits to local industries and through examining our own water use on campus.		
INIT 100	First-Year Initiatives Seminar: Global Working Class Literature and Local Labor Conditions	In the November 2013 issue of World Literature Today, guest editor Jeanetta Calhoun Mish examines work by contemporary working class writers in Australia, Ireland, Poland, China, Italy, Pakistan, and the U.S. But what about working class literature in other countries, such as Kenya or South Africa? Even Beloit College made its appearance in a working class novel, Iron City, written in 1919 by one-time English professor Marion Hedges, who saw significant social class disparities that troubled him deeply. The hope for this course is that an investigation into the literature that speaks from a working class perspective ignites a determination to examine the social, political, and economic conditions that contribute to labor inequities. Readings will include writing by Ewa Parma, Michela Murgia, Zheng Xiaoqiong, Ibtisam Barakat, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Ha Jong-O, and Alvaro Enrigue. Activities will include discussions about working class literature and projects in the Beloit community, which follow the labor issues of manufacturing firms (e.g., Regal, Fairbanks Morse, or the former Beloit Corps) and the historical migrations of people who made up the local work force.		1
INIT 101	First-Year Initiatives Seminar - At the Confluence: Rivers, the Enviroment, and Beloit	Beloit, Wisconsin, is located at the confluence of the Rock River and Turtle Creek. These streams have played a central part in the history and development of the city. They are among the most prominent "natural" features of Beloit, providing diverse habitats for plants and animals. Yet they have long histories of utilization and control by people. In this course, we will study rivers. We will trace their origins and natural history and the geologic ways in which they shape Earth's surface; evaluate the past, present, and future environmental challenges they face from human use and management (for example dams and flow regulation, recreation, industrialization, urbanization); and consider strategies for a sustainable future. We will get to know the streams of Beloit through field trips, gather and	1	

		analyze data to assess their current health, and draw parallels between them and rivers across the globe, including those in the part of the world where you come from.		
MUSI 200	Celtic Music and Its (dis)Contents	The adjective "Celtic" conjures images of dolmens and druids and knotwork hazy in the mists of time, or for the more cynical, the marketing ploys of music executives hoping to cash in on the "world music" craze and "Riverdance fever" of the 1980s and 1990s. This course focuses on performance genres in Ireland and Scotland (and in their disaporic communities in North America), with "side trips" to Wales, Brittany, and Galicia to investigate the places, practices, and politics behind the moniker "Celtic." We will integrate our historical and musical studies with attention to the effects of landscape, natural resources, and economic policies on cultural practices, and will learn some of the repertoire from each region. This course will include one or two required field trips to the Ward Irish Music Archives in Milwaukee.		1
PHIL 221	Biomedical Ethics	An examination of ethical questions related to medicine and biomedical research. Special emphasis on such issues as abortion, euthanasia, confidentiality, informed consent, research on animals and human subjects, and allocation of scarce medical resources.		1
PHIL 220	Ethical Theory	Evaluation of alternative systems for determining and justifying ethical values. Focus is upon classical theorists, like Aristotle, Kant, and Mill, and contemporary critics.		1
PHIL 224	Environmental Ethics	Critical examination of alternative approaches to a variety of topics having to do with our relation to nature or the environment. Topics may include Western philosophy of nature, the human treatment of nonhuman animals, preservation of species and natural objects, obligations to future generations, and non-Western perspectives on environmental ethics. In addition to issues of environmental ethical theory, the course may address specific problems such as population and world hunger, pesticides, global climate change, and hazardous wastes.	1	

PHYS 215	Environmental Physics	The study of how physics principles can be used to understand environmental issues such as climate, energy production and consumption, alternative energy sources, lighting, or water supplies; how to develop reasonable "back-of-the-envelope" estimations of physical phenomena associated with the environments; how to develop coherent, critical, physics based assessments of environmental impact of natural and made-made phenomena.	1	
POLS 262	Human Rights Seminar	The study of international human rights. Topics include the role of the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations; the position of women and gender-based cultural practices; refugees and asylum practices; labor practices; the death penalty and juvenile justice; health and human rights; indigenous peoples; civil and political liberties; and economic rights.		1
POLS 272	Political Systems in Latin America & the Caribbean	A comparative study of the political systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Reviews topics such as the consolidation of democracy, weakness of the party system, presidentialism, populism, patrimonialism, good governance, sustainable development, civil-military relations, the politics of identity (gender, race, ethnicity), religion, and the diversity of political histories, cultures, and traditions.		1
POLS 310	Public Leadership	Capstone course that requires a major original research paper or a major practicum. Based around readings on public leadership in theory and practice, it explores the ways change occurs in the public sector of U.S. politics. Covers general political science topics and invites students to focus upon public leadership as related to the environment, health care, economic development, and social justice.		1
POLS 255	Global Political Ecology	This course has a strong practical focus to help the students develop skills for careers in sustainability. Students will work in groups on a semester-long sustainability project on campus and a simulation of a climate change summit. They learn about different ecologies, as well as the actors, institutions, and key issues in environmental policy-making, from the local level to the global, with special focus on climate change, class, environmental racism, environmental justice, activism, and empowerment.	1	

PSYC 260	Principles of Social Psychology	This course examines the ways in which an individual's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or implied presence of others. Topics include social perception and attribution processes, attitude formation and change, majority and minority influence, helping behavior, interpersonal attraction, small group dynamics, and intergroup relations.		1
SOCI 100	Intro to Sociology	Study of the basic sociological elements for understanding the relationship of society and individuals: elements emphasized are social structure, institutions and roles; culture; sex and gender; social class and stratification; social change; theory; methodology; race and/or ethnicity; socialization; population and ecology. The goal is to introduce a sociological analytical perspective.		1
SOCI 215	Social Movements	This course explores collective movements for social change and specifically examines efforts to address social injustice through reform or revolution. We consider a variety of domestic and international social movements, in both historical and contemporary contexts. This class also provides a survey of the leading theories that attempt to explain and predict social movements, including theories of culture and political-economy, resource mobilization, political opportunity, and discourse framing. Among the movements to be studied are political movements of the "right" and the "left," movements of race and ethnicity, of gender and sexuality, peace, human rights, the environment, and religion. The goal of the class is to provide pragmatic tools for social engagement toward a more civil society.		1
SOCI 285	Duffy Community Partnerships Seminar	Through hands-on engagement and academic reflection, students will become acquainted with various, basic sociological tools for understanding institutions and communities such as: demographic data, ethnographic analysis, historical and political sociology. The overarching question addressed by this course is: "What makes a good society?" Students will experience, describe, and analyze the challenges of civic engagement, service, and leadership. Each student will spend approximately seven hours a week (90 hours per semester) at an assigned field site supervised by experienced community leaders. In addition, all will attend a weekly seminar with		1

		reading and writing assignments focusing on texts examining communities from various sociological and interdisciplinary angles. Sites include: business, education, government, health care, social services, and the arts. Students from all majors are welcome. May be taken twice for credit, but students must take one fall and one spring semester (in any order), rather than two fall or two spring classes. Students taking the course for the first time will produce a literature review, whereas students taking the course for the second time will produce a project or research proposal. Students must apply and provide references for acceptance to the program. Applications are available from Carol Wickersham or online at www.beloit.edu/duffy.		
SPAN 225	Readings in Spanish Civilization	A study of significant aspects of past and contemporary Spanish society and culture, with the aim of learning more about the country's cultural manifestations, as well as increasing fluency in reading and providing opportunity for listening, speaking, and writing in Spanish. The course is part of the Pathways to Sustainability Leadership Program and therefore includes a module on: The Culture of Water in Medieval Iberia. The module aims to develop awareness of the role of water in everyday life in Medieval Iberia from its material to its symbolic functions. A better appreciation of this topic will help students reflect on alternative views on how to achieve a sustainable way of life and consider solutions to present-day sustainability issues. Topics that will be examined: the innovative techniques used in irrigation, the impact of the hydraulic systems on architecture, landscaping, agriculture, and organic farming methods vis a vis the literary representation of the gardens, fountains, and pools of the palatine cities, primarily in al-Andalus. Another goal is to explore the social relations, values, and ideologies that prevailed, governed, and ultimately shaped the culture of water in Medieval Iberia.		1