Instructor: Lisa Grubisha

Term: Spring 2015

Course: Environmental Sustainability, online

Plan to integrate a sustainability-related concept into curriculum

This was a group assignment for an online section of Environmental Sustainability (ENV SCI 303) during spring 2015. The students were assigned to groups of 6-7 members. The course had a wiki home page. Within the group they were to develop a wiki page for the group assignment. The assignment was to describe how the group would develop an **environmentally sustainable community**. As a group they needed to decide on the location by country, state, and city. They needed to research what, if anything, is currently done in their chosen community regarding living as an environmentally sustainable community. They also needed to research what green technologies and economic incentives were available at the local, state, and national levels to support development of their environmentally sustainable community.

Implementation of sustainability-related assignment

The students were provided a short description of the project in the syllabus at the start of the course. Before the start date of the assignment, they were provided with a more comprehensive description of the assignment and the rubric. They needed to provide information on a list of topics I provided but were also encouraged to add additional information on other topics. My list included five topic areas: (1) an introduction, (2) description of the community based on transportation, food, and energy, (3) an economic incentive section with a description of local, state and national economic incentives, (4) a future prospects section where they describe what they would like to see developed for the future in transportation, food and energy, and (5) a references section where the citations needed to be in APA format. The students needed to provide an outline and assignment of tasks to me within two weeks. As part of developing the wiki, they needed to insert images and URL links correctly. They were to each list at least three references for their sections and cite them correctly on the wiki. The assignment was due four weeks from the date it was assigned.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan and implementation

The cities included Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin, Portland and Cottage Grove Oregon, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Los Angeles, California. I was impressed with the effort the students put into this project. They found some really interesting topics, like solar 3D trees and solar pavement. I could tell that some students had done an impressive amount of research on their topics.

There are several ways I would change this assignment for the future classes. I would have a draft wiki due date and a final revised wiki due date. On the draft I would provide extensive feedback to the students on content, grammar/spelling, presentation and educational value, and citation of references within the text and at the end. Some students did not post their work in the way I had intended, so I hope that by providing feedback on a draft version, I would provide more specific guidance so that the final wiki page is profession in appearance and content. I would add a minimum word count for each section so that students have a better idea of how much research and effort I expect for this project. I would also have the student's submit their sections individually on dropbox.