

EVS 612:
Leadership and Communication
in Coastal Ecosystem Science and Management

1-3 credits¹

TIME AND LOCATION

M-F, 9am-5pm;
Sat 8:30am-1pm
South Kingstown Land Trust Barn, Matunuck

Monday, 6pm-9pm, Celestial Café, Exeter

INSTRUCTORS

Prof. Cheryl Foster
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Prof. Judith Swift
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*Please note room change; recently renumbered.

READINGS (to be completed prior to commencement of the course – see specific assignments under plan for each day)

Books – to be read by January 14 and reviewed during course week.

- Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, 3rd edition (pp. x-52 and 71-78)
- Roger Fisher, William L. Ury, and Bruce Patton, *Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*

Articles (In pdf – click here)

- <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/0,9263,7601070813,00.html>
Read all the NOLA articles that appear down the side of the web page and review the map.
- <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0708/feature1/index.html>
- Bullard, *Environmental Blackmail in Minority Communities*
- Figueroa and Mills, *Environmental Justice*

OTHER PREPARATION

- Be prepared to change into nice clothing during the afternoon break on Monday, January 14 (for evening event at Celestial Cafe). We have to change early because another group is coming into the barn at 5PM.

¹ 1st year students will take the course for 3 credits; 2nd year students will earn 1-2 credits based on level of involvement in course planning and execution

- Wear comfortable clothing and bring/wear outdoor shoes and outerwear M-F
- Saturday clothing should be professional dress
- You will be engaged with a project from Friday Jan 18 at 9:00 am until Saturday Jan 19 at 1pm, inclusive, so don't book anything for that period. Be sure to bring anything you might want if you wind up staying at work through the night. There are showers at the barn and items such as a sleeping bag, a toothbrush, etc. might be a good idea just to be prepared for any eventuality.
- Bring a laptop and your books to class each day

ABOUT THIS COURSE

EVS 612: *Leadership and Communication in Coastal Ecosystem Science and Management* is an intensive introduction to issues from the arts and humanities that enhance our understanding of coastal conflicts and values. Familiarity with these issues is augmented with mastery of skills that will refine and strengthen your leadership potential and problem-solving acumen.

From one point of view the course introduces students to concrete skill sets in critical reasoning, logical analysis, inter-cultural and non-verbal communication, writing, public speaking, social etiquette, conflict resolution and mediation. From a different point of view the course examines topics in ethics, environmental justice and culture in order to broaden the range of perspectives on coastal issues that might normally be operative in disciplines within the sciences and social sciences. And from yet a another point of view the course strives to integrate these content and skill components through a third avenue of approach, that of developing problem solving and leadership talent through the application of humanistic skills and content issues to challenges found in the coastal zone.

Each day of the course focuses on specific content topics while introducing and applying particular skills in relation to them. Content topics from one day will thread into the next, while skill sets introduced one day will be applied in new ways to a different content topic the next day. While we have not assigned an excessive number of readings, application of the reading in class and in writing will be consistent and extensive. Readings for each day should be carefully completed prior to the beginning of class that day, and it is advisable for students to review and skim the full range of assignments prior to the commencement of the course.

Skills related to critical analysis, argument, writing, speaking, intercultural communication and conflict resolution are filtered throughout the week. A quick overview of content emphases for the week looks like this:

Monday: Reasoning skills; application of reasoning to film; lens of bias
 Tuesday: Non-verbal communication; environmental justice; debate; diversity
 Wednesday: Ethics; environmental justice; conflict resolution

Thursday: reasoning skills in writing; perceptual acuity; imaginative agility
Friday: Team building; leadership; creative problem solving

More detailed descriptions of each day are provided in the sections following this one. Read on!!

MONDAY Jan 14	RETOOL YOUR REASONING
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Preparation: (1) *A Rulebook for Arguments* (xi-52) and (71-78)
(2) Familiarity with editorial pages of good newspaper and/or news magazine during week of January 7, before course begins
(3) Bring nice clothing to change into for evening

Focus: - Critical Reading Skills
- Argument Analysis and Creation
- Social Skills

Content and Activities: - Review of Informal Arguments
- Formal Argument Analysis (Formulas and Fallacies)
- Assessment of technique in parsing out written passages
- Application of analysis skills to documentary film

- Evening social event with Dr. Agnes Doody
6pm Celestial Cafe

TUESDAY Jan 15	COMMUNICATING ACROSS DIVIDES
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Preparation: (1) Review *A Rulebook for Arguments*
(2) Bullard, *Environmental Blackmail in Minority Communities*
(3) *Getting to Yes*

- Focus: - The Challenges of Non-Verbal and Intercultural Communication
 - Environmental Injustice
- Content and Activities: - How to identify context in communicating across cultures
 - How to debate, including creation of position, analysis of opposition, response to challenge and conflict resolution

WEDNESDAY Jan 16	ETHICS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE and CONFLICT RESOLUTION
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- Preparation: (1) Figueroa and Mills, *Environmental Justice*
 (2) *Getting to Yes*
 (3) Review *A Rulebook for Arguments*

- Focus: - Justice in Environment and Society
 - Local and Global Environmental Justice
 - Ethical Norms
 - Methods of Conflict Resolution

- Content and Activities: - Understanding levels of justice
 - Presentation of ethical framework
 - Practice methods of conflict resolution
 - Compose persuasive argument for public

THURSDAY Jan 17	AMBIENCE, IMAGINATION and PROBLEM SOLVING
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- Preparation: (1) Be prepared for outdoor activity no matter the weather
 (2) Review how to make challenges to informal arguments

- Focus: - Making and taking criticism
 - Aesthetic and cultural Factors in environmental value
 - Perceptual skill and imaginative agility

- Content and Activities: - Using argument techniques in articulating positions
 - Using challenges to techniques in making criticism
 - Framing environmental values individually and collectively
 - Field application of perceptual and cultural theory

FRIDAY
Jan 18

LEADERSHIP, COLLECTIVITY AND COMMUNICATION

- Preparation:
- (1) Review Everything!
 - (2) Be prepared for potential overnight work
(Consult Going to Camp List)
- Focus:
- Leadership styles, group communication and teamwork
 - Using humanistic tools in environmental contexts
 - Project Overview
- Content and Activities:
- Review skills and issues of the week
 - Exercises to develop leadership awareness
 - Brainstorming techniques
 - Prepare for Saturday project event

SATURDAY
Jan 19

CIIP TRAINEES PROJECT PRESENTATION
SK Land Trust Barn - Matunuck

- Preparation:
- (1) Have professional clothing on hand for presentation
 - (2) Communicate about equipment needed to conduct event*
- Focus:
- Identification and presentation of possible strategies for communicating potential climate change impacts on Rhode Island Salt Ponds with the general public and government
- Content:
- Trainees will identify strategies, justify their selection, describe what each would entail, present findings to CIIP community and engage in a Q&A session with guests followed by lunch.

* Pete will arrive at 8 a.m. to set up a projector and any other equipment needed but please let us know of any special needs.