

UEP 246: Sustainable Oxy

Course Topic: Advancing FEAST Sustainability Initiatives

Fall 2022

M 3:00-4:55pm

INSTRUCTORS

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MOODLE

All readings and supplemental media will be available on the course Moodle site:

<https://moodle.oxy.edu/course/view.php?id=35901>

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Course Summary & Goals:

The goals of *UEP 246: Sustainable Oxy* are to give students the experience of planning and implementing projects that advance sustainability initiatives on the Occidental campus and surrounding community. This year's class will focus on Zero Waste at Oxy, covering a range of topics from recycling and plastic alternatives to food waste and trash. As a community based learning course, we will be hearing from community partners and go on several field trips to learn about local systems and initiatives. For our main project, students will conduct a series of waste audits here at Oxy, analyze the findings, and develop recommendations.

Class Structure & Format:

UEP 246 will focus on learning key concepts through lectures, discussions, and occasional guest speakers in the classroom. It will also feature a series of field trips to see waste systems in action and learn from community organizations and other professionals in the field. Our class project will be an analysis of waste here at Oxy. Over the course of the semester, students will conduct two waste audits (working with Universal Waste Services,

Inc), analyze the data, and share key findings with the Oxy community in a final presentation.

COURSE/CAMPUS POLICIES & SUPPORT SERVICES

Learning Environment & Responsibilities

Professors and students share the responsibility of creating the space and stimulating enthusiasm for learning. Students are responsible for attending and participating in class, completing assignments in a timely manner, and being prepared to discuss readings and material in class. Students are also responsible for engaging in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion with each other, the professors and community partners. In order to ensure open, honest, thoughtful, and respectful learning, teaching, class and community discussions please:

- Inform the professors when you may have to arrive late or leave early with advanced notice when possible. As this class is community based, all guest lectures are mandatory. If you are absent for these classes, an alternative assignment must be discussed ahead of time.
- Engage in active and courteous listening to other students and community partners and contribute respectfully to class and community discussions.

Academic Integrity

As stated in the Occidental College Student Handbook, intellectual honesty is “essential to the educational purposes and fairness of the academic enterprise. Occidental College assumes that students and faculty will embrace a high ethical standard for academic work. In all work, students shall behave conscientiously, taking and giving credit where credit is due, and when in doubt, consulting the instructor or other knowledgeable persons as to whether particular conduct, collaboration, and/or acknowledgement of sources as appropriate. Academic misconduct occurs when a student misrepresents others’ work as her/his own or otherwise behaves so as to unfairly advantage her/himself or another student academically. Examples of misconduct include cheating and plagiarism. If this or other misconduct occurs to any extent in connection with any academic work, it will be subject to disciplinary action.” For further information, please see the [Occidental Student Handbook](#).

As many of you are learning from home this semester, you may have family around who are willing and able to provide you with support. While general support is necessary and welcomed by many, in order to protect your academic growth and ensure the integrity of

this course, this statement serves as a reminder that your work must be your own. While office hours are always available for students, they will not be available for parents/guardians/family members. As always, if your parent/guardian has concerns, they are welcome to [contact the Dean of Students office](#).

Academic Support Resources

The College has a wide range of [Student Academic Support Resources](#) to support students in learning.

- The **Writing Center** offers opportunities to work on all forms of writing for any class or other writing tasks such as personal statements, senior comprehensives, etc. We offer peer-to-peer consultations with knowledgeable Writing Advisers and sessions with Faculty Writing Specialists. For fall 2020, all of our appointments will be remote: either synchronous virtual meetings or asynchronous writing feedback. See the [Writing Center website](#) for more information about our fall hours and how students can sign up for appointments. We will update our information again for spring 2021. Please contact the Writing Programs-Center Director, Julie Prebel (jprebel@oxy.edu; x1307) for more information on how the Center can work with you.
- If you'd like to take advantage of the College's **Academic Coaching** resource, which offers one-on-one sessions focused on supporting your time management skills, online learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to academiccoaching@oxy.edu. Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.
- The **Center for Digital Liberal Arts (CDLA)** offers [library research consultations](#) and [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#) and [language learning](#). We also offer peer-to-peer [support for learning technologies](#) from Moodle and Zoom to Adobe, app making, and ProTools.

Intercultural Community Center (ICC)

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) seeks to uplift and support the experiences of students who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, low income or first generation college students. The ICC also aims to reduce institutional barriers for minoritized groups through intersectional programming, identity-specific services and structural resources. To learn more, contact icc@oxy.edu, or reach out directly to Chris Arguedas, at carguedas@oxy.edu.

Emmons/ Student Health

Your health and well-being has always impacted learning and academic success, and this reality is only heightened as we learn and live through a global pandemic. Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, and strained relationships can occur. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to supporting the mental health needs of all of our students, regardless of where you're located. Emmons provides virtual walk-ins, crisis support, and consultation to all students, and ongoing individual telecounseling to students residing in California. All students residing outside of California will have access to ongoing telecounseling through a national telecounseling service. Emmons also assists students with finding local therapy referrals. All students continue to have access to the 24/7 confidential hotline at (323) 341-4141. To get connected to any of the free, confidential services at Emmons call (323) 259-2657 or schedule an appointment online at <https://myhealth.oxy.edu> using your Oxy login credentials.

Special Accommodations/Learning Differences

No matter the mode of course instruction, approved academic accommodations remain in effect. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester, or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at accessibility@oxy.edu to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience

Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website: <https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

Title IX

All Occidental faculty are mandatory reporters. In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual or interpersonal violence, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual harassment, as designated Responsible Employees, professors must notify the Title IX Office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

- Marianne Frapwell, Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE (survivoradvocate@oxy.edu)
- Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)
- Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (young@oxy.edu)

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at afulcher@oxy.edu or call 323-259-1338.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Policy:

We strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on [discrimination, harassment, and retaliation](#), we seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please come to us with any concerns.

Lived Name Policy

Occidental College seeks to provide an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment by making it possible for students to use [a lived first name](#) and pronouns on college records when a legal name is not required. Students are encouraged to use Zoom to display their lived name and pronouns.

EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

UEP 246 is a 2-unit course. It is expected that students in this class on average will devote at least six (6) hours a week to class activities (including in-class time). As a CR/NC class, each student will start with 100 points. If you attend class and do your assignments you will keep those points and pass the class. We will subtract points for missing class, tardiness (without prior notice), and missing assignments. If you have not retained at least 75 points by the end of the semester you will not pass the class. Points will be deducted as follows

Missing a class meeting	-10 points
Missing an assignment	-10 points

*You can make up for a missed class or assignment (up to two times) and regain your 10 points by completing an extra credit assignment. Please let Professors Cech and Romero know ahead of time if you will be missing class, and contact us directly about extra credit assignments.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Below is the week-by-week schedule for the UEP 246 class. You can also reference [Oxy's 2020-2021 academic calendar](#) for more information on College-wide dates and deadlines.

Mon. September 12 — An Overview of Trash

Topic: Course Introduction & Landfills

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon. September 19 — Oxy Waste Audit #1

Topic: Oxy Waste Audit #1

Guest Speaker: Monica Hernandez (Universal Waste Services Inc)

We will be conducting a waste audit of Oxy's trash under guidance from Monica Hernandez from Universal Waste Services Inc. We will meet at Morrison Lounge for a short presentation before we get started.

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon. September 26 — Oil Industry & the Plastic Problem

Topic: Oil and Plastic

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon. October 3 — Recycling & Plastic Alternatives

Topic: Recycling & Plastic Alternatives

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon. October 10 — *FALL BREAK: NO CLASS*

Mon. October 17 — Class Projects

Topic: Class Project

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon. October 24 — Field Trip: Sustain LA

Topic: SustainLA Zero Waste Refill Station

Guest Speaker: Leslie Campbell (Founder and Owner)

Mon October 31 — Waste Audit #2

Topic: Waste Audit #2

Guest Speaker: Monica Hernandez (Universal Waste Services Inc)

Optional Bonus Assignment: “Trash” costume contest

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon Nov. 7 — Food Waste & Compost

Topic: Food Waste and Intro to Compost

Guest Speaker: Student(s) with FEAST Compost team

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon Nov. 14 — Field Trip: Compost Hub

Topic: Compost Hubs

Guest Speaker: Maggie Smart McCabe '20 (LA Compost)

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon Nov. 21 — Food Recovery

Topic: Food Recovery at Oxy and in Los Angeles

Guest Speakers: Lena Sullivan '23 (Oxy EFRT) and Natalie Arbogast '20 - (Food Forward)

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon Nov. 28 — Recycling in Los Angeles

Topic: Recycling in Los Angeles

Guest Speakers: Cara Morgan (CalRecycle)

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.

Mon Dec. 5 — Final Presentations

Topic: Final Presentations of key findings from both waste audits to Oxy community and stakeholders.

See Moodle for details on all readings and assignments.