The Environmental Stewards class allows students to become campus greening practitioners and to advocate for a more environmentally sustainable Occidental College. The six primary objectives of this semester’s class will be to:

1. Advocate for sustainability policies and commitments by the College.
2. Be a ‘design lab’ to develop a conceptual vision for a sustainable Occidental
3. Encourage students to use less energy and conserve resources.
4. Support the Renewable Energy & Sustainability Fund by identifying projects for funding and helping publicize the program.
5. Understand campus environmental concerns in the context of the underlying social and ecological issues. Students will discuss international, national, and local policy debates on climate change, energy policy and green building and relate them to campus greening.
6. Understand the challenges and opportunities for institutional change on a campus setting and expand alliances with student groups at and beyond Occidental.

The focus of this semester’s course will be water; how Los Angeles can assure a reliable clean water supply and how parks and open spaces are part of the equation and how Oxy can contribute to the water equation.

Course Readings:
Suzanne Dallman and Thomas Piechota, *Stormwater: Asset Not Liability*
Owen E. Dell, *Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies*
Brad Lancaster, *Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Volume 1*
Paul Murray, *The Sustainable Self*
Blogs on water and campus issues such as:
- [http://aquafornia.org](http://aquafornia.org)
- [http://grist.org/](http://grist.org/)
- [http://www.wiserearth.org/issues](http://www.wiserearth.org/issues)
- [http://www.whollyh2o.org/rain-res-blogs.html](http://www.whollyh2o.org/rain-res-blogs.html)
- [http://sustainableoxy.blogspot.com/](http://sustainableoxy.blogspot.com/) (your blog site)

Class Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>+Readings/*Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Introduction to course theme, goals, methods</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion of potential projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 7</td>
<td>Water and the Los Angeles Dream</td>
<td>+Stormwater: Asset not Liability</td>
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<td>+Sustainable Self, Chap 1,2</td>
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<td>+Water related blog</td>
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<td>Other readings posted on Moodle</td>
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Sept 14  | Water Conservation: Sustainable Landscaping, Greywater, Rainwater Harvesting, Oxy CMP sand filter system | +Rainwater Harvesting +Sustainable Landscaping, Chap 1, 7, 8, 9 +Sustainable Self, Chap 3-4 * Survey campus for potential storm water runoff detention/retention sites.

Sept 21  | Tour of green streets (off campus; wear comfortable clothes, shoes for walking) | +Readings posted on Moodle (Green Infrastructure manual, City of LA; Elmer Avenue brochure) +Sustainable Self, Chap 3-4

Sept 28  | Review observations and discuss possible projects | + Walk Oxy and identify green street, rainwater harvesting, sustainable landscaping, etc. possibilities +Sustainable Self 7-8 *Propose projects *Post a blog

Oct 5    | Finalizing your class project | +Sustainable Self 9-10 *Present class project for feedback & approval

Oct 12   | Compost building; work on project | +Readings posted on Moodle

Oct 19   | Work on project | Turn compost

Oct 26   | Class project progress presentation and discussion | Present project (progress) to class; Turn compost

Nov 2    | Work on project | Turn compost

Nov 9    | Work on project | Turn compost

Nov 16   | Work on project | Turn compost

Nov 23   | No class | Turn compost (extra credit)

Nov 30   | Presentations | Present final project to class

Dec 7    | Presentations (Last Class) | Final written report due

**Grading:**

The class is a 2 credit, graded course.

Class participation: 20%
Compost creation/care: 15% Students must participate in turning the compost pile(s) weekly
Class presentations: 30%
Final project: 35%

**Attendance Policy:**

Because participation is central to this class, students are expected to attend all required classes, including compost building.

- 2 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a B
- 3 unexcused absences will result in a grade no higher than a C
- 4 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
Please inform the professor of any upcoming absences (or past absences if an emergency arises). Ask the professor to check what absences count as excused.

Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor no later than the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.

Water and landscaping: This class will emphasize water issues including storm water runoff, water retention/detention systems, pollution prevention, water use – landscape and domestic, recent water metering improvements and their potential to aid in conservation, landscape changes for future water conservation. Drinking fountain/bottle filling station progress.

Food: Class will support the campus garden(s). Composting from start to finish of at least one large pile over 6 weeks will help bolster the supply of mulch for the raised bed garden.

Waste: Discuss progress on solid waste management changes @ Oxy. Class will support implementation.

Energy: New gas and power metering allow tracking of use. Class will support efforts to conserve. Understanding the central plants (boiler & chiller) and the distribution systems.

Solar array: Follow the construction progress.

Transportation: Bike program, Zipcars and other transportation issues.