

PDP 150 Critical Inquiry in the Liberal Arts (3 Credits)

Getting Dirty: The science and practice of covering the environment

FALL 2014

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COURSE INFORMATION:

PDP-150-23 Getting Dirty	MWF	12:00PM	12:50PM	LINK	303	08/26/14	12/12/14
PDP-150-28 Getting Dirty	MWF	02:00PM	02:50PM	MEM	13	08/26/14	12/12/14

Textbook and supplemental readings:

[Wyss, R. \(2008\). Covering the environment: How journalist work the green beat. New York: Routledge.](#)

Other readings will be provided through Moodle (see course schedule for a complete list).

PDP 150 Course Description:

This course is taught in the style of a seminar: a small group of students learn critical thinking skills through discussion, debate, peer review and brainstorming. Course content varies from section to section, and incoming students rank topic preferences and then are assigned to a section. PDP 150 focuses specifically on two key areas of personal development: (1) intellectual growth is stimulated through systematic critical questioning, and (2) a sense of community involvement and responsibility is developed through classroom group work, collaborative learning, and a class community engagement project. The course also contains success skill exercises and college orientation information including an introduction to the portfolio program.

SLOOs:

CI1: The student understands the expectations of college (BC specific) and sets personal and academic goals with strategies for achieving success.

CI2: The student can critically analyze texts in a variety of genres by asking and answering relevant questions and by applying the vocabulary of critical thinking.

CI3: The student can participate constructively in academic discussion, lead discussion, and can summarize the conclusions of a group.

CI4: The student can offer useful analysis and feedback on another student's written work.

Section Description:

"Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes," Henry Thoreau wrote in Walden.

Students in this course will heed his advice and "get dirty" in the field while they work with scientists and practitioners to learn how they collect and interpret data on environmental issues. Students will also interview experts, advocates, and politicians to understand how they acquire information, make decisions, plan, and take action on environment-related issues. Finally, students will talk with top environmental reporters to learn how journalists gather information and report on different topics using a variety of skills, techniques, and equipment. Topics discussed in this course include, but are not limited to: food, pollution, air and fresh water quality, world oceans, biodiversity, population, natural resources management, weather, natural disasters, energy, industrial production, commerce, tourism, consumption, environmental justice (legal, political, social and economic issues), outdoor activities and adventure sports, wild life, conservation, and animal domestication.

Assignments, grading system, and course schedule TBA.