

## Reflection Essay on Course and University Studies Learning Goals

**DUE:** Monday of finals week, **March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**, 25 points.

Preferable Delivery: Upload your essay file under the reflection essay assignment on Blackboard (\*.pdf, \*.doc, \*.docx, \*.rft, or \*.txt files—sorry no other file formats allowed).

Alternative Delivery: If you have upload problems you can turn in a printed copy at my office (Harder House 201) between 3pm and 5pm on the due date. The last choice (only for extraordinary circumstances) is you can email it to me. No late assignments can be accepted.

**NOTE:** We are not having a final exam, but I will be available from 3pm to 5pm at my office (Harder House Room 201 at SW 10<sup>th</sup> and Market St.) on Monday of Finals week (March 16<sup>th</sup>) to discuss grades or any other aspect of the course.

**Overview:** For this assignment you will write a 2 page (+/- ½ page) reflective essay on how your participation in this course this term addresses the four University Studies learning goals. In spring term you will be creating an electronic portfolio highlighting your Sustainability course work over the whole academic year. This portfolio will be organized by the four University Studies learning goals and you will be asked to identify which of your assignments best exemplifies your learning and competence with respect to each goal. A minimum of two assignments will be used under each goal area in the portfolio. To get you thinking about this, in your essay be sure and discuss each of the writing assignments this term with respect to which learning goals it addresses; or alternatively, consider each goal and which assignments would fit. Be as specific as you can. Also note that in your portfolio you will post two or more versions of at least one assignment, showing your revision process. The written assignments this term include: Essay on Bad/Good Apples and Group Success (HW1), *Collapse* research paper on assigned chapter, Group presentation on *Collapse* chapter, Julian Morris critique of *Collapse* (HW3), Water footprint report, and Take-home essay exam on *Omnivore's Dilemma*. Also consider in-class (or in mentor session) discussions, activities, and short written works in your essay (e.g. creative writing activity on writing from a food item's perspective).

The four goals are outlined below or can be found here <http://www.pdx.edu/unst/goals.html>.

### **Four University Studies Learning Goals**

**Inquiry and Critical Thinking:** Students will learn various modes of inquiry through interdisciplinary curricula—problem-posing, investigating, conceptualizing—in order to become active, self-motivated, and empowered learners.

**Communication:** Students will enhance their capacity to communicate in various ways—writing, graphics, numeracy, and other visual and oral means—to collaborate effectively with others in group work, and to be competent in appropriate communication technologies.

**The Diversity of Human Experience:** Students will enhance their appreciation for and understanding of the rich complexity of the human experience through the study of differences in ethnic and cultural perspectives, class, race, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

**Ethics and Social Responsibility:** Students will expand their understanding of the impact and value of individuals and their choices on society, both intellectually and socially, through group projects and collaboration in learning communities.