

## Reflection Essay on Course and University Studies Learning Goals

**DUE:** Monday March 14 by 5pm; send to [jeffPSU@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffPSU@yahoo.com), 20 points.  
No late assignments can be accepted.

**NOTE:** There is no final exam, but I will be available by appointment finals week to discuss grades, any other aspect of the course, or other issues that are on your mind.

**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 completing your 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 unique 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 goals and how the assignments this term address the goals to varying degrees. Also note that in your portfolio you will post two or more versions of at least one assignment, showing your revision process.

As a reminder, the assignments this term include: HW1 Sustainability Autobiography (draft of first paragraph, minimize “to be” verbs), HW2 Bad/Good Apples (sharing in mentor session), HW3 Changing Recycling Behavior, HW4 Sustainability Song Analysis, Carbon Footprint Report (with draft), Annotated Bibliography for your focal society (*Collapse* chapter), and final group presentation on *Collapse*. Other activities included: Participation in the PSU Recycles project for Broadway and Ondine, watching and discussing Frontline Heat, *Sick Around the World*, *The Story of Stuff*, the Hans Rosling videos, Library visit, smaller participation assignments including reading notes, Habits of a Systems Thinker, Tragedy of the Commons exercise, other mentor session activities including a look at scientific significance, the NetLogo modeling tool, a possible extra credit essay, and finally, our field trip to Mercy Corp.

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

### **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.