Feb 22, 2011

NOTES for creating a new version of UNST224: Sustainability

Goals:

* to create a beginning bookend for the SINQ-Cluster-Capstone experience that has a engages the students in some sustainability project while helping to prepare them for their capstone
* help the student learn intellectual skills and personal values development that will allow them to become engaged in sustainability project throughout their academic career (and beyond)

Objectives/tasks:

* Restructure current outlines, syllabi to include a major group project during the middle of the term
* Find a suitable project
* Develop assessment design and rubrics that will get at the potential increase in student involvement, maybe using something like the CLA (Alum & Roska 2011)
* Get this course section scheduled for Fall 2011
* Tie this section to a new ESM399 and potential capstones

Current obstacles:

* Our own teaching schedules are packed for fall, but that’s when we need it
* How can we present this as science and management?
  + Is it adaptive management (sensu Bryan Norton 2005)?
  + Are we trying to shape the course or study to the needs of the real world or are we shaping it to fit what we are comfortable in our science discipline (Daly and Cobb 1989)?
* Can we really create authentic tasks for students over just a month, or will it be glorified field trip fare?
* Can we modify this course without making a whole lot more work? This course (UNST224 Sustainability) is an efficient and fun course to teach now.

Comments on previous syllabi (i.e. what I think we should keep and what we should chuck):

Larson 2010 –

* Course objectives need to be tightened to be measurable
* The schedule would have to be revised to get ecosystem service concept earlier and replace a water audit (of personal use) with stream or watershed assessment (or maybe invasives identification)
* Change grading to have a section on the group project process

Dewey 2009 –

* Less reliance on powerpoint
* Probably ship the movies and clips to on-line assignments, i.e. not in class