

Seminar: Exploring the Anthropocene

EVPP 692 (1.0 Credit) / EVPP 991 (2.0 credits) FALL 2020

100% online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Groover

Meeting time will occur Wednesday from 7:20-9:10 pm

This seminar course is structured to help students understand what the Anthropocene is, with respect to our world today. The Anthropocene is a term describing the Epoch in which we now live and its characteristic impacts on the Earth and the environment, resulting from human activity. This course will attempt to challenge students to make changes in their selected community.

Exploring the Anthropocene course will be divided into six parts or units. This is a synchronous 100% online course. Each week the students will have pre-meeting homework that will prepare them for better conversation and understanding about the topic, especially when the class has its online meetings and discussions. Lectures from the instructor plus other materials were be provided.

Class discussions each week will follow the Harkness Model. All students will be graded on their discussion involvement and relevant inclusion of related topics.

The ultimate goal of the course is for each student to decide, what they will do in their selected community, in connection with the impacts of the Anthropocene. At the sixth and final session, the EVPP 692 students will present a research outline focusing on the local issue they chose, connected to the Anthropocene. Each 692 student will also be required to present a 10 -15 minute ZOOM presentation that covers their plan of influence. The EVPP 991 students will be required to submit a summary paper explaining what they **will (not would) do** to try to influence a community, to be aware of what is occurring in the Anthropocene, and how communities could make things change. Each 991 student will also be required to present a 10 -15 minute ZOOM presentation that covers their plan of influence.

No textbook is required. Students must have reliable and quiet access to the course, which will run via ZOOM links.

Grading procedure: Participation in the weekly meetings and discussion will be observed and graded, see table below.

The assignment “who are you” will be an oral presentations to the class, should be short, no longer than 10 minutes.

All oral presentation of “what will you do” will be presented as a short (15-20 minute) power point presentation. Issues regarding local problems and solutions should be included.

Written outline (for EVPP 692 students): This summary outline of the issue chosen and related research will be submitted for a grade.

Written Paper (for EVPP 991 only): The summary paper (maximum of 3,000 words) should be properly written, referenced, and formatted to explain your “what will I do.”

Students should not be concerned about the magnitude of their problem or strategy for action, but be more focused on understanding the local impact of what is occurring in the Anthropocene and how to affect change in the selected community.

Honor Code: Adherence to the *GMU Honor Code* is expected of all students, and especially for their materials submitted for grading. Review the Code if you don’t know it.

Instructor Contact Information: **Dr. Richard Groover**

Email: rgroover@reynolds.edu Phone: 804-381-1968. Students are expected to communicate with the Instructor regarding any issues that might not allow the student to be an active and engaged student.

Dates	Content
Sept 2	Course Introduction – What is the Harkness approach to learning Who are you? What in environmental Science interests you
Sept 9	Part 1– Introduction to the Anthropocene - Lecture
Sept 16	Discussions and related topics
Sept 23	Part 2 – Systems in the Anthropocene - Lecture
Sept 30	Discussions about systems and related topics
Oct 7	Part 3 – Climate Change in the Anthropocene - Lecture
Oct 14	Discussions about Climate Change connection with the Anthropocene and related topics
Oct 21	Part 4 – Oceans and the Anthropocene - Lecture
Oct 28	Discussions about Oceans in connection with the Anthropocene
Nov 4	Part 5 – Biodiversity - Lecture
Nov 11	Discussions about Biodiversity and the Anthropocene
Nov 18	Part 6 - Summary Papers Are Due the day of your presentation
Nov 25	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Dec 2	Part 6 - Summary Papers Are Due the day of your presentation
Dec 9	Wrap-up Session

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

EVPP 692 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussion	400
Analysis outline of the problem locally and possible solutions	400
Oral Presentation of "What will I do"	200
Course Evaluation	Extra Credit
Total	1000

A = 900 – 1000
B = 800 – 899
C = 700 - 799

EVPP 991 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussion	400
Final written Summary/Paper of "what will I do"	400
Oral Presentation of submitted summary of "What will I do"	200
Course Evaluation	Extra Credit
Total	1000

Any student absence from the course meetings should be communicated asap with the instructor, in writing.