

Reflection Essay on Course and University Studies Learning Goals

DUE: Friday Dec. 4 by 5pm at UNST office (there will be a turn-in box) or at my office, 25 points.

Preferable Delivery: At UNST office in hardcopy.

Alternative Delivery (only for extraordinary circumstances that you clear with me ahead of time): 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 by appointment this week 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: HW1&2: Sustainability Artifact (including peer review and revisions), HW3: typical meal essay, HW4: Impact of your habits, HW5: Healthcare reform and the Media, Midterm essay exam, Water Footprint Report (including peer review and revisions), Group Project Outline, and Group Project Presentation.

Other activities included: Visit to Tryon Farms, Sustainability Tour, watching *King Corn*, *Flow*, and *Sick Around the World*.

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.