

## EST 495, Readings in Environmental Studies

Section 06 (#21344), 1 cr

### History of the American Environmental Movement

– Optional Supplemental Activity –

This semester, I am inviting *up to 15 students* in EST 361, History of the Environmental Movement, to sign up for 1 hr of additional credit, to engage in optional educational activities supplemental to and building on what we will be doing in that course.

Students in **EST 495, Readings in Environmental Studies, Section 6**, will meet together several times over the course of the semester to learn about Wikipedia, Wikipedia editing, and contributing to Wikipedia. We will be joined by Wikipedia's Campus Ambassador for Syracuse University, Mr. Gabriel Mugar (a PhD student at SU's iSchool), who will assist us in launching this collaborative writing and editing effort.

*Objective.* By the end of the semester, each student participating in EST 495, Section 6, is expected to make significant contributions to at least one Wikipedia article related to the History of the American Environmental Movement. That article will likely (but does not have to) be related to the topic that you take up for the course term paper. (The latter will be graded separately, as part of EST 361.)

*Tutorials.* Over the course of the semester, we will offer several group tutorials (dates to be announced) on contributing to Wikipedia, as follows:

- Wikipedia basics: What is Wikipedia? What is it not? (Five pillars of Wikipedia)
- Wikipedia articles: What makes a good article? (Criteria for excellent articles)
- Wikipedia editing: How to contribute to a Wikipedia article? (Editing techniques)
- Wikipedia community: How to contribute to Wikipedia in other ways? (Beyond editing)

*Activities.* To help you achieve the goal of making a significant contribution to Wikipedia, we will take up the following tasks:

- Identify several possible articles that you might be interested in contributing to over the course of the semester.
- Assess the current quality of those articles, and what, in your opinion, needs to be done to improve them
- Select one article to work on
- Register as a Wikipedia editor
- Outline what you would like to do to improve that article
- Post a note on that article's Talk page, letting other editors know what you are thinking of doing. Solicit their input and suggestions.
- Copy the article over to your Sandbox. Develop the article in your Sandbox.
- With another participating student, review and make suggestions on each other's articles-in-progress.
- Invite me to review your article-in-progress.

- When ready, copy your updated article back into the original article, taking care to incorporate also other edits that have been made in the meanwhile.

*Grades and Credit.* All students engaging in the above activities and successfully and substantially upgrading or developing a new Wikipedia article on a topic related to History of the American Environmental Movement will receive 1 cr for their efforts. Grades will be given as follows:

- **A** – Outstanding contribution: well-written, well-documented, interesting, highly relevant to History of the American Environmental Movement
- **B** – Very good contribution: solid contribution, but not as well developed, documented, or relevant as it might be
- **C** – Acceptable contribution: good effort, but substantial room for further development, documentation
- **D** – Minimal contribution: limited improvements to existing article; poor documentation
- **F** – Unsatisfactory contribution

All Wikipedia conventions including user registration, documentation of sources, neutral point of view, etc., must be observed.

*Procedures.* Print off copies of both the 'before' (for already-existing entries) and 'after'/ new Wikipedia entry to which you have contributed.

*Deadline.* Due not later than the end of the semester (may be completed early, or submitted with term paper).