Syllabus for LS Interdis 400, Cross-listed with Environmental Studies 400 and 719 and CALS 375 (3 credits)

Course Title: “UW-NOLA Sustainable Restoration Workshop”

Session: June 1 – June 27, 2010 (BDD)
Vans will leave Madison Sunday, May 30, to arrive in New Orleans in time for an opening group meeting on the morning of June 1. Departure from New Orleans will be Saturday, June 26 to arrive in Madison on June 27.

Instructors:
Herb Wang, Professor, Department of Geoscience (L&S) and Nelson Institute
wang@geology.wisc.edu (course coordinator)
Lydia Zepeda, Professor, Department of Consumer Science (SOHE) and Nelson Institute
lzepeda@wisc.edu
Quentin Carpenter, Senior Lecturer, Nelson Institute, qcarpent@wisc.edu
Ashleigh Ross, Lecturer (SOHE) and Nelson Institute, jaross2@wisc.edu

Course Description:
This 3-credit, field-based, workshop will introduce students to the multidisciplinary skills needed to work effectively with the complex and interconnected issues in a community-based project in New Orleans to restore the Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle (BBWT), which is adjacent to the Lower 9th Ward. The four-week course will consist of one-week each of focused study of wetland science, social science, and land tenure followed by a capstone week of hands-on service learning doing reconstruction. Students will work with the Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED), Lower 9th Ward residents, non-profits (e.g., Sierra Club, Environmental Defense, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation), government agencies (e.g., New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, Army Corps of Engineers), neighborhood groups (e.g., Holy Cross Neighborhood Association, The Village), and universities (Tulane, U. of New Orleans, LSU, U. Colorado-Denver, Southeastern Louisiana).

General Requirements: Graduate students are expected to complete an individual research project and mentor and one or more undergraduates who are expected to write a report summarizing their contribution to the research. All students will work together to create a blog of their experience as a group project. In addition, all students are expected to:
1. Keep a journal.
2. Contribute labor to more than one of the 3 primary topics, i.e., science students should participate in a social science or planning activity, and vice versa.
3. Participate in weekly group meetings.
4. Provide a short summary of the weekly required readings.
5. Provide a weekly summary of field work activities.
6. Complete a 6-8 pg report of field work (data collection, analysis, conclusions and recommendations) for the 2010 report.
7. Present research findings in a mini-symposium open to UW-NOLA partners.
Weekly Assignments: These assignments complement field work, field trips and attendance at meetings with partnering organizations. Readings will be available on learn@UW.

Week 0 (For the car ride) Readings – Project Overview
a) 2007 WRM-NOLA Report, Ch. 1-2
b) 2008 WRM-NOLA Report, Ch. 1
c) Grunwald and Glasser (2005)

Week 1 Readings - Social Science (Centered around the following three research questions dealing with wetland restoration and use)
1. What is the environmental knowledge and orientation of L9 residents?
2. How have the residents used the BBWT, particularly for food?
3. What is their knowledge and interest in restoration of the BBWT?

The purpose of 1 is to be able to compare environmental attitudes of the L9 to the general population. This will be done by administering the New Environmental Paradigm (NEP) questionnaire, a set of standard questions used to construct a scale measuring environmental attitudes. The NEP scale has been validated in a large number of populations and will give students experience working with one of many scales used in psychology to measure personality traits or attitudes. Items 2 and 3 will be addressed using a questionnaire designed for the project, the UW-NOLA survey, and semi-structured interviews. The former will give students experience administering and analyzing survey data that can be compared to previous years (longitudinal). The latter will provide students with an opportunity to practice interviewing, transcribing, and analyzing qualitative information.

a) WRM-NOLA 2007, Ch. 5
b) WRM-NOLA 2008, Ch. 6 and look over surveys and database
g) Stern, P. C., et al. (1999)
h) Strauss, A. (1987)
i) White Jr., L. (1967)

Week 2 (Service Learning Week) Readings - Environmental Justice and Community Participation
a) WRM-NOLA 2008, Ch. 4, 9
b) Pastor et al. (2006)
c) Minkler (2005)
d) Nance (2007)
e) Wiltse (2007)
f) Solnit (2007)

Week 3 Readings – Planning and Land Tenure Planning
a) Sandercock, L. (1998)
b) Bayou Bienvenue Strategic plan
c) Holy Cross Neighborhood Revitalization Plan

Legal Issues regarding restoration
   a) WRM-NOLA 2008, Ch. 8
   b) Davis (2008)

Government Role in Wetlands
   a) Coast 2050 Ch 1-2, 8
   b) Houck (2006)
   c) WRM-NOLA 2008, Ch. 7

Week 4 Readings - Wetland Science (Includes field trips to intact wetlands and restorations in progress)
Setting
   a) 2007 WRM-NOLA Report, Ch. 3-4
   b) 2008 WRM-NOLA Report, Ch. 2-3
   c) Coast 2050, Ch. 3-5
   d) National Geographic, New Orleans: A Perilous Future

Ecology and Restoration
   b) Day et al. (2007)
   c) Hesse et al. (1998)
   d) Hartman Engineering (2001)

Reading List – Required and Supplemental


Hartman Engineering (2001). Bayou Bienvenue Pump Station and Diversion and Terracing Feasibility study, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, No. PO-25, XPO-74A.


Pastor, M., Bullard, R., Boyce, J., Fothergill, A., Morello-Frosch, R., & Wright, B. (2006). In the Wake of the storm: environment, disaster and race after Katrina. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 52 pp.


UW-NOLA Media Coverage


Amy Wold, Baton Rouge Advocate, “Group seeks to revitalize N.O. swamp” (June 24, 2009)
(URL expires July 23, 2009)

Molly Reid, Times-Picayune, “'ISLAND' OASIS
Scientists hope floating platforms will rejuvenate wetlands” (June 23, 2009)

Rob Zaleski, Cap Times, "UW team aims to aid New Orleans bayou" (Feb. 1, 2008)
http://www.madison.com/tct/opinion/column/zaleski/270473

Rebecca Solnit, The Nation, The Lower Ninth Battles Back (Sept. 10, 2007)
http://www.thenation.com/doc/20070910/solnit

Amy Wold, Baton Rouge Advocate, Restoring N.O. Forest Eyed (July 24, 2007)

Andrea Hsu, NPR All Things Considered (Aug. 5, 2008)

Maitri Venkat-Ramani, UW geology alum, New Orleans blog provides excellent public explanation of UW-NOLA:
Day 687 - July 17, 2007  http://vatul.net/blog/index.php/1394/