

Engaging Sustainability Issues in Curriculum: Eight Ways to Change a Course

Eight Ways to Change a Course: Reminders

- Make sure you are going through proper procedures for course changes in your area, especially if your changes involve the master course syllabus
- Remember that all changes need to align with course-level and program-level learning outcomes

1. Hidden Curriculum

- Not about course content
- Includes the following:
 - What we do in class
 - The examples we use
 - The framing of our course materials



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OR



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2. Paradigm Shift

- Shift may include course strategy or goals
- For example, a Nursing class may shift from ego-centric (focus on the patient) to eco-centric (focus on the patient in the environment)



How most traffic engineers see your city



How cities should be designed

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3. New Content

- It may be appropriate to add new sustainability-focused content to your course
- Remember to remove content to balance newly added content
- Make sure new content aligns with course learning outcomes, or be prepared to add new ones (and make sure they align with the program-level outcomes)

5. New Unit or Module

- You may opt to add more than simply a new assignment or a bit of content
- An entirely new module or unit could focus on sustainability issues in your field

6. Guest Speaker

- A guest speaker can help when you don't feel like an expert
- Virtual guests are also an option (Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.)
- If you want to take this even further, team teaching can bring interdisciplinarity into your course and help students (and you!) conceptualize and engage with sustainability in larger ways

7. Community Experience

- Integrating community-engaged or experiential learning is a great way to make sustainability issues relevant to students and their lives

Image credit: johnhain



8. New Course

- Creating an entirely new course is also an option
- Consider an interdisciplinary course (but be aware of budgetary and process considerations)