



## Final Project Guidelines

### Project objectives:

1. Identify an important ecological concept or concepts that you find interesting or inspiring.
  - Feel free to do research on a topic of interest and contact your instructor to discuss your ideas and plans. You should not restrict yourself to topics or concepts that we have covered in class, but your focus must relate to ecology.
  - Identify sources you can use to inform your *Final Project*. Using search resources in the library and on the web, identify at least five (5) sources that provide relevant information about your chosen subject. You are required to use at least one (1) book found in the Pratt library in your source list, and primary scientific literature will be valued over secondary or tertiary sources (especially when your source is a website). Please contact your instructor if you are unsure about the validity of sources you have uncovered, particularly if they come from the web.
  - Based on your scientific research and initial design ideas, submit a *Project Proposal* describing what you plan to do to for your *Final Project*.
2. Produce a designed object that illustrates this ecological concept or concepts for the lay public.
  - Although your work will be judged on how well it depicts ideas/concepts, it need not do so in a directly illustrative manner. Feel free to allow your creative work to be as abstract as you deem necessary, but make sure that you are prepared to explain in your *Project Summary* how you abstracted the ideas/concepts that form the basis of your project.
  - This assignment is intended to complement your major studies, so any media that you might employ for other classes is fair game: digital art, websites, flash, animation, jewelry, an advertisement, sculpture, film, short stories, poems, graphic design, critical analysis, photography, painting, fashion design, architectural blueprints, prints, 'zines, interior design, illustrations, or industrial design.
  - The best possible outcome for this project would be its incorporation into your portfolio.
  - While you will need to submit your work to your instructor, it will be returned to you within two weeks of submission.
3. Describe in a *Project Summary* your goals and motivations in producing your work.
  - This summary should express to your audience the ecological concept(s) you were inspired by, your creative motivations, and your goals in producing this object.
  - The summary must include an informative discussion of the science underlying your project.
  - It should be clear from reading your *Project Summary* how each source listed in your *Annotated Bibliography* (see below) contributed to your work.
4. Compose an *Annotated Bibliography* listing and explaining all of the sources you used to inform your work:
  - As described below, provide a full citation for each source.
  - For each citation, compose a single paragraph that explains what important information is provided by the source and how this information relates to the creative work you produced.

## Proposals:

You are required to submit a short project proposal by **Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 11:59 pm EST**. All proposals will be through the *LMS* system. Your instructor will post comments on *LMS* letting you know whether the project proposal is approved; if the proposal is not approved, you should contact your instructor during office hours, by phone, or via email. To get some ideas for your project proposal, you can take a look at exemplary past projects here: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/student-work/ecology-student-work/#final> (please note that your project proposal must be sufficiently different from the projects on this page).

## Format of the *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography*:

1. Please present your *Project Summary* in type-written, **single-spaced** format. The font should be 12 point, margins should be 1" on all sides.
2. Produce no more than two (2) pages of **single-spaced** text.
3. Along with the main *Project Summary*, also provide a numbered *Annotated Bibliography* (does not count towards page maximum) that: a) lists each of the sources you used to inform your project in a standard citation format (see below); and b) provides a short paragraph summarizing what information/ideas/concepts this source contributed to your project.
4. Reference all ideas that are not your own using your numbered *Annotated Bibliography*. Both superscripts<sup>1</sup> and bracketed [2] citations are acceptable, but use a consistent format.

## Citations:

1. All citations must be referenced in the text. In referencing your citations, use the correct number from your numbered bibliography. For example: "Methane released by livestock represents a major contribution to greenhouse gas emissions [6]."
2. Please use a standard bibliographical format and use it consistently.
3. Please be careful about web citations. Much of what is published on the web is unreliable. It is up to you to assess the validity of all your sources.
4. Internet references should be cited with a page title, a full URL address, and the date accessed. For example: Jensen, Christopher X J., "The Quest for the Perfect Hive", <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/2010/06/07/the-quest-for-the-perfect-hive/>, Accessed 9-Sept-2012.

## Submission of the project:

The project, including the required *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography*, is due on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 @ 11:59 pm EST**. Works that are electronic can be directly uploaded to the *LMS*. Works that are not electronic can be delivered during office hours; in order to avoid a late penalty, upload at least three digital images of your work to the *LMS* as single *PDF* file. *Project Summary & Annotated Bibliography* submission will be strictly electronic via the *LMS*. All written work must be typed and can be submitted in *Adobe PDF* format. There is a 10% penalty per day of lateness.

## How you will be graded:

Your grade will be primarily based on how well you meet the objectives stated above. In addition, your instructor will assess how well you expressed an understanding of ecological concepts. Your project should clearly demonstrate what you have learned in this class. All written work is expected to use proper spelling and grammar, except where obvious and necessary creative liberties are being taken with the language. Please see the *LMS* for sample grading sheets that provide you with a precise idea of how you will be graded.

## On academic honesty:

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. All cases of suspected plagiarism will be turned over to the Registrar's office for potential referral to the academic judiciary. Please be careful to indicate the source of all ideas other than your own; this includes both direct quotes ("evolution is the science of...") and paraphrasing of books, scientific papers, and websites. Careful citation makes you seem more authoritative in whatever you write. For more information on the course plagiarism policy see the syllabus and this site: <http://www.christopherxjensen.com/teaching/for-students/#no-plagiarism>.