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Fall 9-1-2021

### ENST 595.02S: Special Topics - Environmental Studies Foundations of Change

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## ENST 595.02: FOUNDATIONS (OF CHANGE)

Mondays, 8:30 – 9: 50 am, through Nov. 1

Liberal Arts (LA) 234

To be truly radical is to make hope possible, not despair convincing. - Raymond Williams

*Optimism* is the recognition that the odds are in your favor; *hope* is the faith that things will work out whatever the odds. *Hope* is a verb with its sleeves rolled up. Hopeful people are actively engaged in defying or changing the odds. *Optimism* leans back, puts its feet up, and wears a confident look knowing that the deck is stacked. - David Orr

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make. - Jane Goodall

**Instructor:** Robin Saha, Associate Professor, Jeannette Rankin Hall, Room 018,  
[robin.saha@umontana.edu](mailto:robin.saha@umontana.edu); Phone: 243-6285 (o); 406-370-0017 (c).

**Leading With Purpose Retreat Facilitator:** Neva Hassanein, Professor, Environmental Studies,  
Jeannette Rankin Hall 101A, [neva.hassanein@umontana.edu](mailto:neva.hassanein@umontana.edu)

**Robin's Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:00 pm; Wednesdays 10 am to Noon; and by appointment

### Learning Goals and Outcomes

This foundational course aims to strengthen participants' capacities to effectively meet today's environmental and social justice challenges. You will:

- Discover a sense of community and shared experience among graduate students, alumni, and faculty.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the historical development of the environmental movement(s), its current constitution, and several major debates.
- Explore models of leadership and the theory and practice of environmental and social change.
- Clarify your sense of personal purpose, leadership style, and vision; and use that to inform directions and plans you will take as you proceed with your studies.

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit. I will comment on completed assignments but not assign grades to them, and will trust that you will, nevertheless, put your best foot forward.

### Readings

One book is required for this course: *Leadership for Sustainability: Strategies for Tackling Wicked Problems* by R. Bruce Hull, David P. Robertson, and Michael Mortimer (Island Press 2020). All other required and supplemental materials will be posted on the [Moodle site](#) for this course, where you can

access reading hyperlinks if you want. I recommend that you bring readings to class sessions. Many of the materials are designed to be useful to you in the future, so you may want to download and save them to a computer.

### **Expectations**

*Participation:* One of your main tasks is to participate consistently, thoughtfully, and openly in class and at the Leading With Purpose Retreat, Sept. 10-12. The vibrancy and depth of our discussions and interactive exercises depends a great deal on how well prepared and engaged you are.

*Reflection Papers:* To encourage your personal and analytical reflection, as well as professional development, you will be asked complete five (~2-3 pages) reflection papers (see attached schedule). Specific information on these assignments will be distributed at least one week before they are due. These include:

1. Environmental autobiography
2. Post-retreat reflection
3. Leadership for sustainability
4. Purpose, Outcomes, Process (POP)
5. Take-aways and “going-forwards”

### **Course Schedule**

The attached schedule lists topics, readings, and due dates. There is also room for flexibility. To support effective learning, I will try to respond to your needs and make changes as necessary. I believe that knowledge is produced in community and adults learn best when learning is self-directed, active and engaging, connects with individuals’ interests and aspirations, and is enhanced through feedback and a collective process. Please help make it so in this class!

Modifications: Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the UM Office of Disability Equity. “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

### **COVID-19**

We will follow UM requirements and guidelines (which are subject to change as conditions warrant), which include wearing masks indoors, socially-distancing as much as practical, following a seating plan, and not eating or drinking in the classroom. If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don’t come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330. If you are required to isolate or quarantine, I will provide individualized support to help you keep on track in the class. If you need a COVID-related accommodation to safely participate in class, please contact the UM Office of Disability Equity (ODE) for assistance.

### **Academic integrity**

All students are expected to practice academic integrity. See the [Student Code of Conduct](#) for more information.

**SCHEDULE FOR ENST 595.02: FOUNDATIONS OF CHANGE – FALL 2021**

~ Like everything, subject to change ~

| Dates                         | Topics  | Reading/Assignment Due  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Mon.<br>8/30/21               | Welcome   | In class: Getting to know each other<br>Syllabus and expectations. Ground rules, Covid-19 planning, Retreat Prep, reflection assignment #1 Questions.   |
| Tues.<br>9/7/21               | No class  | <b>Reflection #1 due – Environmental Autobiography</b>  |
| Fri- Sun.<br>9/10-<br>9/12/21 | Leading With Purpose<br>Retreat, Camp Paxson, Seeley<br>Lake, MT <sup>1</sup><br><br>All Covid-19 protections<br>taken. | <b>Environmental Autobiography Commentaries Due</b><br><br>Lemann, Nicholas. 2013. " <a href="#">When the Earth Moved: What Happened to the Environmental Movement?</a> " <i>New Yorker</i> . April 15.<br><br>Ring, Ray. 2001. " <a href="#">Bad Moon Rising: How Montana' Once-Mighty Progressive Coalition Has Waned.</a> " <i>High Country News</i> .<br><br>Britton-Purdy, Jedediah. 2016. " <a href="#">Environmentalism Was Once a Social-Justice Movement.</a> " <i>Atlantic</i> .<br><br>Chawla, A. (2020, July 27). " <a href="#">A Look at Why Environmentalism Is So Homogenous – and How Organizations Might Cultivate Genuine Diversity.</a> " <i>Ensia.com</i> .<br><br>Ganz, Marshall, and Liz McKenna. 2017. " <a href="#">The Practice of Social Movement Leadership.</a> " <i>Mobilizing Ideas</i> .<br><br>Wheatley, Margaret, with Debbie Frieze. 2010. " <a href="#">Leadership in the Age of Complexity: From Hero to Host.</a> " <i>Resurgence Magazine</i> . Winter. |
| Mon. 9/13/21                  | No class  | No readings   |
| Mon. 9/20/21                  | Leadership for Sustainability   | <b>Reflection #2 due – Retreat Take-Aways</b><br><i>Leadership for Sustainability</i> , Ch. 1-3   |
| Mon. 9/27/21                  | Leadership for Sustainability   | <i>Leadership for Sustainability</i> , Ch. 4 and as assigned  |
| Mon.<br>10/4/21               | Leadership for Sustainability   | <i>Leadership for Sustainability</i> , chapters as assigned   |
| Mon.<br>10/11/21              | Review of EVST program<br>requirements and EVST<br>fellowship opportunities.<br>With Len Broberg                        | <b>Reflection #3 due</b><br>Please review the EVST Graduate Student Guidelines and come prepared with questions. Also look at UM Graduate School website to familiarize yourselves with the steps involved.<br><br>Hassanein, Neva. 2017. " <a href="#">Strategies for Educating in Perilous Times: Preparing Tomorrow's Change Agents.</a> " <i>Medium</i> .   |
| Mon.<br>10/18/21              | Topic TBA   | Readings TBA  |
| Mon.<br>10/25/21              | POP discussion  | <b>Reflection # 4 due.</b>  |
| Mon.<br>11/1/21               | Parting thoughts and<br>appreciations   | <b>Reflection # 5 due.</b>  |

<sup>1</sup> Lodging and transportation costs are covered. Depart Missoula at 1 PM from campus, north side of the University Center. Potluck on Friday night; all other food provided. See handout for other logistics.