

COURSE INFORMATION:

Raritan Scholars

11:374:481, 4 Credits

Fall 2014, Wednesday 2:30-3:30 PM, Blake Hall 131

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor: Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, PP/AICP, Associate Research Professor, Dept of Human Ecology

Office Location: Cook Office Building, 55 Dudley Road, Room 224

Office Hours: Fall 2014 Semester: Wednesday 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment

Phone: 848-932-9243 (email contact preferred)

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COURSE MATERIALS:

There is no textbook for this course. All materials are provided through the Sakai course site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Internships: **Minimum** of 125 hours contact time with the internship project (some projects may require somewhat more than 125 hours). The Raritan Scholars internships portion of this course may be used toward fulfilling the Experience-Based Education requirement for SEBS students. Internship opportunities will be provided to students by the course instructor.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The course incorporates two distinct but integrated components.

- First, all students will undertake internships in the water resources field with organizations and agencies that have programs and activities focused on the Raritan River Basin. Students must expect to work a minimum of 125 hours in the internship, plus maintain a journal and present project conclusions to the class. Internship opportunities will be identified for student consideration and applications, but each student is responsible for receiving approval from both the internship sponsor and Dr. Van Abs prior to or during the first week of class, resulting in a signed internship contract. Internships will provide opportunities for real-world engagement with water resources issues, using field work, research, communications or other substantive activities. Internships are professional development experiences, and are not intended as opportunities for sponsoring organizations to acquire inexpensive office help.
- Second, students will participate in one 60-minute class per week. The class will incorporate a combination of guest presentations and class discussions regarding the internships and water resource management concepts. The class will provide a structured understanding of water resources management issues that are being addressed through the internships and more generally by the sponsoring organizations. The class will focus on Raritan River Basin issues, but will relate those issues to broader water resources issues in New Jersey and beyond. At the instructor's discretion, the class may not meet during some weeks.

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES & ASSESSMENT:

The internship is a critical focus of the class. Each student will keep a log of work performed and results achieved, and develop a short presentation to be given at the end of the semester. In addition, class participation is critical to the learning process. As part of the class, there will be class discussions

and some readings. The internship journal and presentation take the place of mid-term and final exams or term papers. Students and internship sponsors will assess the results of the internship.

EXAMPLES OF RECENT INTERNSHIPS:

Internship opportunities will be provided to students accepted for the course. Recent students have been involved with a wide range of internships, including the following:

- Conservation easement assessment
- Municipal sustainability planning and outreach
- Lower Raritan Greenway/Blue way Program
- Developing a community-based water quality monitoring program
- Stream assessments for physical and biological impairments
- Oyster bed restoration
- Watershed assessment and evaluation for web sites
- Brownfield restoration public education
- Water quality monitoring to identify sources of bacterial pollution
- Educational materials on kayaking in the Raritan estuary
- Dam removal project planning
- Flood reduction through watershed management
- Stormwater management education and outreach
- County Natural Resource Inventory, preparing text and GIS mapping
- Planning and promotion of public access to the Raritan estuary
- GIS mapping and evaluation of exempt development in the Highlands

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There is no textbook for this course. All materials are provided through the Sakai course site.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Students will be responsible for adhering to the academic integrity policies found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

It is important that students have the tools to succeed in this course. Please see the instructor as soon as possible with any difficulties or questions regarding the course materials. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs is available at <http://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu> for any other needs or concerns.
