

## CRSN 55: Sustainability Service-Learning Practicum

Mondays, 5:20-6:55 pm, Rachel Carson College

**Instructor:** Susan Watrous ([swatrous@ucsc.edu](mailto:swatrous@ucsc.edu))

**Office hours:** TBD

**NOTE: THIS IS A SAMPLE SYLLABUS TO GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS.  
THE WEEK-BY-WEEK CLASS CONTENT WILL VARY TO COVER CURRENT ISSUES AND GUEST SPEAKERS.**

The goal of this 2-unit course is to introduce some of the concepts of service learning and participatory action research (PAR), and to familiarize you with internship opportunities related to sustainability and regenerative practices on campus and in the community. According to the National Commission on Service Learning, this “teaching and learning approach . . . integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.”

We will explore some of these ideas in the weekly classes, and you will develop your own understanding of both service learning and sustainability in your internship, through writing, reflection and group work. While the course incorporates some lectures, nearly every class meeting will also include group dialogues. My expectation is that students participate in these dialogic communities; my hope is that we will evolve an engaged learning community based on critical pedagogy.

Students collaborate with the instructor and project supervisors to determine the work at their internship site. The instructor may also supervise student internships, as necessary. The class meets once weekly during the quarter to discuss assigned readings and work experience.

The course consists of the following activities, for a total of about 60 hours:

**10 class meetings, about 15 hours.** Typically, class lasts about 1.5 hours.

**Reading and reading reflections, about 5 hours.** These are one-page reflections on the assigned readings, which are designed to support your participation in discussion. They will be collected in the weeks they are assigned. Reading should be done *before* the class for which it has been assigned.

**Work at the assigned internship site, about 30 hours.** The expectation is about 3-4 hours each week, for 8 or 9 weeks. The internship supervisor completes a brief evaluation of your work (the form is provided by the instructor) to the instructor at the end of the term. This, along with the associated site journals, constitutes 50 percent of the grade.

**Site journals, about 2 hours (about 20 minutes per week, for about 6 entries).** Each week, you’ll write a brief (1 page, 1.5-spaced) response about your internship. What happened this week? What *questions* do you have? What do you notice about the *power dynamics*, *educational aspect* of the site, or its *role in sustainability*? How does your experience *connect to what we’re reading* and discussing? I will collect these on the dates listed, and then all entries are **due with your final portfolio**.

**Final paper, about 7 hours.** A four-page reflection and analysis paper on your service-learning experience, due with your final portfolio. You’ll receive the prompt several weeks prior to the due date.

**Preparation for final presentation, about 1 hour.** You’ll receive direction a few weeks before the due date.

We have arranged internship placements with campus and community organizations. You are expected to get to your internship under your own power (foot, bike, bus or car), and to check in and out when there.

### **Minimum learning outcomes:**

- Students will understand application of the principles and practices of service learning in their internship;
- Students will learn to write reflective, analytical site journals;
- Students will acquire facility in the skills required for their specific placement.

### **About grading:**

This course is graded *comprehensively* or *holistically*, meaning your performance is evaluated based on *all aspects* of the class: site reports, evaluations from your internship supervisor, attendance and participation at the site and in class, reading reflections, your final project and presentation and overall improvement. If you participate in class, but do not complete the minimum number of internship hours, it will affect your grade. Similarly, if your internship supervisor reports that your work is stellar, you communicate proactively and are dependable, yet your written work and class contributions are not at that level, it will also affect your grade.