DRAFT Course Syllabus

Instructor
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Dept. of Natural Resources Science
Room # 118 Coastal Institute – Kingston
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Office: (401)-874-2912

Office hours: by appointment

Basic Course Information
Credits: 3 (Field Practicum)
Prereq: by permission of instructor
Schedule: Summer Session II, June 24th – July 24th
Wednesdays 10:00am – 5:00pm, and online
Room: CIK 117a

Course Description
Coastal Resiliency is emerging as a complex strategy to manage, adapt, and mitigate the impacts of climate change affecting coastal communities. The State of Rhode Island is at the forefront of this challenge, with over 400 miles of coastline that will be impacted by a changing climate. Coastal Resilience strategies address a wide-range of issues including conservation and restoration of habitats and ecosystem services, infrastructure and public services within coastal communities, emergency response and transportation, fisheries, tourism, and water dependent uses that drive our economy.

The Field Practicum in Coastal Resiliency course is designed to expose students to the science, management, and policy challenges of achieving resilient coastal environments and communities in the face of a changing climate. Students will learn directly from coastal scientists, managers and regulators from the local, state and federal level about the complexity of resiliency planning and the best available science and tools that are used to guide management and policy decisions in the face of uncertainty.

Each week, we will travel around the state and visit projects that have been implemented as part of comprehensive coastal resiliency planning designed to manage, adapt and or mitigate impacts associated with a changing climate. At each project site, we will be interacting with experts that are facing and developing strategies to address these challenges.
Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The goals and learning objectives of this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the regional climate change processes that are, and will continue to impact our coastal communities and habitats in the future.

- Identify and evaluate the complexity of natural resources conservation and environmental management issues associated with coastal resiliency planning and policy development.

- Integrate and apply science-based policy solutions designed to manage, adapt, or mitigate potential impacts to both natural coastal habitats as well as built environments resulting from a changing climate.

Specific Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe coastal resiliency principles and practices used by scientists and coastal managers to address challenges facing coastal communities.

- Examine and assess coastal resiliency initiatives developed by Rhode Island communities designed to manage, adapt, or mitigate impacts from a changing climate.

- Evaluate and apply science-based principles needed to inform management and policy outcomes designed to manage, adapt, or mitigate impacts from a changing climate.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for class.

Readings

Throughout the semester, I will provide readings that we will be reviewing and reflecting upon prior to our weekly scheduled fieldtrips. These materials will be available on Sakai. See below for some example readings and web resources.

EVS 510X on the Web

Sakai. The course website can be accessed at: https://sakai.uri.edu. The Sakai site will be the main repository of information and a handy form of communication outside of class. Announcements, fieldtrip and reading materials, assignments, grades, etc. will be posted on the site. Check it frequently.
Course Activities and Grading

Fieldtrip reflective writings – Each week you will have writing exercise that is designed to identify the challenges, complexities, and strategies adopted to develop resiliency within coastal communities.

Fieldtrip Presentation and Discussion – During the semester you will be responsible for leading a portion of one of the weekly fieldtrip presentations and facilitating discussions with the project managers that will be joining us throughout the semester.

Comprehensive Plan Evaluation – As a final project you will be evaluating a municipal comprehensive plan for one of the coastal communities within RI that is faced with significant coastal resiliency challenges. You will be evaluating how well municipalities within RI are planning for and developing coastal resiliency strategies to address climate changes facing their communities.

General Grading Scheme (subject to change):

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<tr>
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<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fieldtrip Reflective Writings</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fieldtrip Presentations</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Plan Evaluation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Schedule – Summer 2019 (subject to change)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week – 1 (06/24)</td>
<td>Course Introduction, Shoreline Change &amp; Watershed Resilience</td>
<td>Nicholls and Branson, 1998; PREP-RI, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Fieldtrip (6/26) : Napatree Pt &amp; Pawcatuck River</strong></td>
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<td>Week – 2 (07/01)</td>
<td>Municipal Planning, Adaptation</td>
<td>CRC/RI Sea Grant, 2015; RICPS#12, 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Fieldtrip (7/3): N. Kingstown, Narragansett, Warren</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fieldtrip (7/10): Charlestown, &amp; Narragansett SM Restoration</strong></td>
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<td>Week – 4 (07/15)</td>
<td>Policy Development, Implementation</td>
<td>Larkin et al., 2015; CRC/RI Sea Grant, 2017; Stults, &amp; Woodruff, 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Fieldtrip (7/17): CRC &amp; Newport</strong></td>
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<td>Week – 5 (07/22)</td>
<td>Energy Production, Municipal Planning</td>
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<td><strong>Fieldtrip (7/24): Block Island</strong></td>
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URI and Course Policies

Academic Honesty and Integrity
All submitted work must be your own. If you consult other sources (class readings, articles or books from the library, articles available through internet databases, or websites) these MUST be properly documented, or you will be charged with plagiarism and will receive an F for the paper. In some cases, this may result in a failure of the course as well. In addition, the charge of academic dishonesty will go on your record in the Office of Student Life. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, visit the following websites: the URI Student Handbook, and Sections 8.27.10 – 8.27.21 of the University Manual (web.uri.edu/manual/).

Accommodations for Special Needs
“Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 require the University of Rhode Island to provide academic adjustments or the accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The student with a disability shall be responsible for self-identification to the Disability Services for Students in the Office of Student Life, providing appropriate documentation of disability, requesting accommodation in a timely manner, and follow-through regarding accommodations requested.” It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements for any special needs and the instructor’s responsibility to accommodate them with the assistance of the Office of Disability Services for Students.

Any student with a documented disability is welcome to contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we may arrange reasonable accommodations. As part of this process, please be in touch with Disability Services for Students Office at 302 Memorial Union; Phone 401-874-2098.

Sanctioned Athletic Events and Official Performances
If you must miss a class meeting to fulfill a university-sponsored commitment (varsity athletics or an official performance), please provide me with official documentation verifying this by the start of week two of the semester.

Class Attendance
Students are expected to attend class and classroom activities. Occasionally, students may miss class activities due to illness, severe weather, or sanctioned University events. If ill, students should not attend class and should seek medical attention especially if they have a communicable disease such as influence (flu). Students should not attend class when the University announces classes are cancelled due to severe weather. Also, it is the policy of the University of Rhode Island to accord students, on an individual basis, the opportunity to observe their traditional religious holidays. Students desiring to observe a holiday of special importance must inform each instructor and discuss options for missed classes or examinations. See Sections 8.51.11 – 8.51.14 of the University Manual for policy regarding make-up of missed class or examinations.
Readings


Coastal Resources Center & Rhode Island Sea Grant. “Adaptation to natural Hazards and Climate Change, North Kingstown, RI” (2015) 113pp.


Web Resources:
http://prep-ri.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/

http://www.beachsamp.org/

http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/topics/community-resilience/