





Environmental Studies (ENVS) 435

Transformative Change in Building Sustainable Communities

(Revision 4)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

ENVS 435 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

Environmental Studies 435: Transformative Change in Building Sustainable Communities explores community-based approaches to environmental change. *ENVS 435* is structured to facilitate student learning through participatory methods. This means that students learn about community-based environmental issues through readings, videos, and case studies, while simultaneously using tools from community development to engage with others on environmental issues at a community level. The assignments are designed to help put community development theory into practice and make connections between the course materials and the “real life” experience of working with community members and learning together. There is no expectation that every student will have background in participating in or leading community workshops, and so materials have been developed and supplementary materials provided to help students in undertaking these activities.

Outline

- Unit 1: Establishing the Conceptual Framework
- Unit 2: Adult Education and Community Development
- Unit 3: Community Development in Action—A Tool Kit
- Unit 4: Ecological Knowledge and Traditional Ways of Knowing
- Unit 5: Power and Popular Education
- Unit 6: Globalization, North-South Relations, and Cross-Cultural Sharing
- Unit 7: Food Systems and Gender Relations
- Unit 8: Consumerism and the Ecological Footprint
- Unit 9: Environmental Justice and Transformative Change



Objectives

When students have completed *Environmental Studies 435: Transformative Change in Building Sustainable Communities*, they should be able to

- use analytic tools for understanding environmental issues at the community, local, and global levels.
- discuss critiques and various explanations of development, community development, and globalization.
- discuss community-based adult education and critical community development, and their connection to environmental issues.


- recognize how different ways of knowing, different values, and different worldviews influence your and other people's perceptions of their relationship to the natural environment and their geographic community.
- describe the roles of community-based knowledges, social institutions, and social movements in solving environmental problems.
- demonstrate workshop facilitation skills and facilitate community-based learning by collaborating with people in a community to identify environmental and community issues, and what can be done to address them.
- outline alternative strategies for the creation of sustainable communities.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for this course, you must complete seven assignments and achieve a minimum of 60% on Assignment 7, a final project. In addition, students must receive a composite course grade of **D (50 percent)**  for Assignments 1 through 6. There is no final exam for the course. The following chart summarizes the evaluation activities for *Environmental Studies 435* and the credit weight associated with each.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Tree of Life (drawing and letter to your tutor)	pass/fail
Assignment 2: Reflection Journal (2 entries)	10% (5% each)
Assignment 3: Workshop—Community Asset Mapping or Community Visioning	15%
Assignment 4: Workshop—Competing Perspectives on Development	15%
Assignment 5: Workshop—Exploring Food and Justice	15%
Assignment 6: Workshop—Ecological Footprint or 100-Mile Diet Dinner	15%

Activity	Weight
Assignment 7: Final Project	30%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials





Ledwith, M. (2011). *Community development: A critical approach* (2nd ed.).

Bristol, UK: The Policy Press.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other materials are online, including study guides, and electronic readings and videos.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Updated March 14, 2024

View **previous revision** 
