

<b>An Ecological Perspective</b>	<b>M/W 3:00 – 4:15</b>	<b>Hagen 404</b>
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**Instructor:** Dr. Alison Wallace wallacea@mnstate.edu (*note the 'a' in wallacea!*)

**Office:** 407-P Hagen (218) 477-2843

**Office Hours:**

Mon	10:30-11:30; 2:00-3:00	Thurs	9:00-10:30
Tues	9:00-11:00	Fri	9:30-12:00
Wed	10:30-11:30; 2:00-3:00		

*NOTE: An advance appointment is strongly recommended since committee and research meeting conflicts do come up occasionally and I may not be in my office. Additional times may also be scheduled, just e-mail or call.*

**Description: Biol 346 “An Ecological Perspective”** -- A study of sustainability from ecological and human societal perspectives. (3)

**Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes:** This course seeks to help students understand basic ecological principles, and to use these principles to understand our current environmental problems. An integration of scientific, economic, political and ethical considerations will help students to appreciate the policies and practices necessary to achieving a sustainable future.

#### **DC 10: PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Goal:** To develop students' understanding of the concept of sustainability and the challenges we face in responding to environmental variables and resolving environmental problems. Students will examine how societies and the natural environment are intimately related. A thorough understanding of ecosystems and the ways in which different groups interact with their environments is the foundation of an environmentally literate individual.

#### **Student Competencies: MSUM students will be able to:**

- Explain the concept of sustainability.
- Identify and evaluate possible pathways to a sustainable future and demonstrate an awareness of the tradeoffs necessary to achieve a sustainable future.
- Identify the structure, function, and processes of ecosystems (the physical environment and biological community of which human society is a part and on which it depends).
- Assess and analyze the environmental problems of a technological society using the framework of well-founded physical and biological principles.
- Describe the relationships between environments and socio-cultural groups, and identify how natural resource challenges are being addressed by the social, legal, economic, political, cultural, and religious systems within societies.

**Where to find course information:** D2L is where you can find assignments, news, grades, extra credit opportunities, etc.

#### **Required Text:**

- Adelson, G. J. Engell, B. Randelli, K.P. Van Anglen. 2008. *Environment: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*. Yale University Press. New Haven, CT
- Text website: <http://www.environmentanthology.org/>

<b>Evaluation:</b>	<u>Percentage of Overall Grade</u>
Group Discussions (leading and participating)	30%
Quizzes	15%
Exams	30%
Final Project (part of this will be presented at the SAC)	25%
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Total	100%

**Grading Scale (based on overall percentage):**

A	93-100	B-	80-82.9	D+	67-69.9
A-	90-92.9	C+	77-79.9	D	63-66.9
B+	87-89.9	C	73-76.9	D-	60-62.9
B	83-86.9	C-	70-72.9	F	below 60

**Special Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need an accommodation in this class are encouraged to contact Greg Toutges, Coordinator of Disability Services at 477-5859 (voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY), CMU 222 as soon as possible to ensure that accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

**Course Policies:**

*In the case of extended illnesses or other extreme situations, please arrange a meeting to make special arrangements regarding the following policies.*

Missed Classes: If you miss a class activity for any reason, I'm sorry but it usually cannot be made up. You may not be able to fully complete your assignments if you miss class...so please try not to miss unless you have an unavoidable emergency.

Late Assignments: Assignments turned in late will not be accepted unless a universal excuse form (found on D2L) has been approved and signed before the due date, unless an unexpected emergency came up.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Be attentive for announced extra credit opportunities, which will be posted via D2L. Type a brief response for each opportunity, summarizing what you did and what you thought about it, *and turn in at the end of the semester with the final exam*. They are each worth 1% and you may do a maximum of 4.

**Tips for Success:** Come to class prepared to be an active learner full of questions. Keep on top of the units and do not let them get away from you! E-mail, stop by, or call me whenever you need help...and do so before you get behind. An appointment is recommended to make sure that I can give you undivided attention and am not meeting with other students or faculty.