

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [Fwd: ENVI 120 - Home Energy Basics]
Date: Thu, 21 Apr 2011 21:44:33 -0800
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To: Julie Maier <jamaier@alaska.edu>
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Hello Julie,

Thank you again for the comments. Attached are the revised syllabus and approval form.

These are the changes I made in response to your comments:

The required reading includes 2 simplistic, lay-person pamphlets.

I added parts of two more books. It is material that I have been covering in the class without literature (even though I make a copy of my powerpoint files available to students), but it will be nice for the students to actually have that literature available, so thanks for pointing that out.

In the Student Learning Outcomes you say that the student will recognize "basic science concepts" but don't specify.

I changed it into the following: "Recognize basic science concepts (such as transformations between forms of energy) as related to home energy flows."

You say its a lecture class, but it actually looks like they spend a lot of time on hands on setting up a solar/wind hybrid system, which may suggest that its a lab. You might want to look at how the Construction Trades folks set up their courses (Mario Gho is a good contact). Maybe they say theirs is all lecture too, I don't know.

Well, in my class, students spend 2 hours on hands on (out of 15.25 hours total for the course), which I wasn't sure would be enough to even call it 0.5 lab (i.e. 1+0.5 format), but based on what I see in CTT classes (thanks for pointing me to that), I probably should. So, I changed it in the approval form to the (1+0.5) format. I see that, for example, CTT 101 (Basic Construction Safety) is done the same way - it is a 1 credit class with the (1+0.5) format.

There is a lot of credit given for participation. Even though you say its 10%, its actually more like 40% since they're given credit for participating in setting up the solar/wind hybrid system during class.

I changed it to 25% for class project (from original 30%) and added 5% for the final exam. But I want to clarify that students are actually observed and graded for their performance during this project - I added this sentence into the syllabus: "Under the observation of the instructor, they will demonstrate understanding of techniques used to set up such a system." To have an example, I looked what is the latest CTT class that has a similar format, and it seems like it is CTT 130 (Intro to Facilities Maintenance), which was approved in Spring 2009 (see http://www.uaf.edu/files/uafgov/faculty/curriculum_review08-09/spr09_curriculum.html for the approved syllabus). The syllabus shows "Attendance/ Participation 15%, Student Activities/Practice 30%, Return Demonstration for Skill Mastery 35%", which means it is pretty much like 80% for participation.

The homework of measuring the electricity usage of an appliance seems very simplistic.

I extended the HW - this is what I added to it: "The student will then elaborate on the possibilities to reduce the amount of electricity consumed by the appliance and calculate potential savings." Do you think I should decrease the score (maybe from 30% to 25%)? For example, the above mentioned CTT 130 doesn't have any HW at all (i.e. 0% for HW). I should point out that a part of the HW for the students in my class is also reading the booklets (see "reading assignments" in the course calendar), but I didn't mention it in the "Homework" section because the readings themselves aren't graded.

The final is an open "book" final, which seems a little overly easy given that the students are only reading 2 pamphlets, albeit fairly lengthy pamphlets.

What I meant by it was actually also open notes (I corrected it in the syllabus), not just open book. The way it was before would be actually quite difficult for the students because the pamphlets really don't have that much info in it, so students would have to memorize a lot of things. I like to allow open book and open notes. I don't mind students looking up formulas and such, the main thing is that they understand the concepts and know how to use the formulas.

Thank you again for your help and let me know please what you think!

Tom

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