

UNI – Intro to Environmental Earth Science

Final Project Options* If anything doesn't make sense, please let me know!

Option 1. A Park Near You – 100 points

This options involves driving to a site near you, make sure you are up to date about possible safety and traveling restrictions related to the ongoing pandemic and possible spring flooding, BE SMART, BE CAREFUL! Talk with your parents and/or roommates do they agree with you taking this option. It might be possible to do it from your car depending on the location. Ideally, you can practice social distancing and easily go on a hike without running into anyone.

Park of learning to love and protect a place is getting to know it better☺ this final project option has you learn more about a place close to you, perhaps near where you grew up!

The assignment –

A. Find a Geologic Society of Iowa Guidebook that is close to where you are now.

There is a series of amazing guidebooks that may be downloaded here -

<https://www.ihr.uiowa.edu/igs/publications/publications?category=Geological-Society-of-Iowa-Guidebook-Series>

B. Confirm your choice with me, I want to keep track of who is working where so we don't have to many people doing the same place.

C. Download and read it.

D. Write a paper, approx. 5 pages that serves as an environmental summary of what you found most interesting.

E. Pay this knowledge forward, Create 2 to 3 videos of a State Park or County Park near you...

You may read directly from the guidebook for narration OR you can use what you wrote from your paper, but make sure it is accurate. The videos should be geared toward getting others excited about visiting and learning from our parks and special places☺

Example = <https://www.exploreiowageology.org/HurstvilleIowa.php>

F. Upload your paper, videos and photos to your personalized class google drive folder. I will create a webpage to host your work.

Suggestions...

Be creative, have fun with this☺ If you have an original idea that doesn't exactly match up with an existing guidebook, let me know and I will help you out.

Possible 'thinking outside the box examples' might include:

A. Have a favorite local climbing spot and what to help others learn about it?

B. Have an old quarry on your family's property and want to learn more about it?

C. Want to do a geologic tour of the historic buildings in your downtown area?

D. Have a favorite rock outcrop that you have driven past all your life?

E. Want to learn more about the glacial history of an area near you?

F. Does your family farm and you are interested in learning about the relationships between geology and farming?

Option 2. UNI to Hometown - Lifestyle Challenge – 100 points

This one will be a bit more challenging since your living arrangements are different than you are used to while attending 'normal' UNI classes, but we can make it work.

The UNI Lifestyle Challenge (after Kirk and Thomas, 2003) is a way for you to learn about environmental alternatives by modifying your own lifestyle. This is a three-week exercise for you to reduce your impact on the environment. An opportunity to change the way you live from day to day. The project has rigid parameters, allowing you to achieve a gradual but definitive change in your everyday habits. Each of you will choose three different ways in which you are interested in changing your habits. The possible categories are: use of electricity and water, heat, automobile usage, food consumption, waste production and environmental education or activism.

<https://www.exploreiowageology.org/UNILifeStyleProject.php>

Option 3. Entertainment and the Environment – A documentary/film Hat Trick, 100 points

This options has you will work with me to select, view, summarize, interpret/analyze and communicate environmental concepts from three films/documents. Here is a list of options; you may also make suggestions... (at least one from each category)

Hollywood – Dark Waters, Erin Brockovitch, Expedition Happiness, Before the Flood, Thunderheart

Documentary – Chasing Ice, A Plastic Ocean, Rotten (two episodes), Water School, Terra, Mission Blue

1. Verify films list with Dr. Heinzel.

2. Watch and take notes, type them up, on all three.

3. Write 2 to 3 pages summary of what you learned from each film, then

A. Using material from our class, identify and discuss five ways our content influences the film topics.

B. Identify two arguments in the films that you thought were not correct, and then do a bit of research to learn more... Explain how you conducted your research, reference and characterize the information you found, and make a decision, was the information correct or not?

C. Write approx. two paragraphs on which format do you find most convincing Hollywood films vs documentaries.

All of these materials should be uploaded to your completed work folder for this class.