

## NRES 285 Student iCAP Ambassadors, Spring 2022

**Lecture Time:** Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:50 am.

**Lecture Room:** 337 National Soybean Research Center (NSRC)

**Instructors:** Meredith Moore & Eric Green

**Offices:** 382 & 386 NSRC

**Office Hours:** by appointment (**request appointment by e-mail,**  
[mkm0078@illinois.edu](mailto:mkm0078@illinois.edu) & [ewgreen@illinois.edu](mailto:ewgreen@illinois.edu) )

**E-mail and Website:** Please email both of us for all questions and concerns. The website for the course is at <https://compass2g.illinois.edu/> Announcements will be posted on Compass throughout the semester. *Everyone is responsible for checking announcements on Illinois Compass before each class session.*

Instructors will only be responding to emails between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; emailing outside of those hours may result in a delayed response.

**Course Goal:** The goal of this course is to have students understand how to implement climate action policy through examination of University building stock and personnel behavior and developing recommendations to alter both stock and behavior to achieve iCAP 2020 goals. This is a building-level, “bottom-up” approach to campus sustainability, where students will be connected with facility managers to gain an applicable understanding of sustainability opportunities.

### Course Objectives:

- Become familiar with climate action policy, specifically the iCAP 2020
- Identify key areas of the intersection of iCAP objectives and campus buildings
- Survey buildings and record existing stock and personnel behavior
- Develop a strategic plan to implement actionable changes to building infrastructure and personnel behavior
- Present recommendations to building staff and other stakeholders

### Requirements

**Exam:** One exam will be administered early in the course to gauge a student’s comprehension of environmental problems and institutional responses to those problems. Students will need to have a thorough understanding of the Illinois Climate Action Plans (especially iCAP 2020).

**Building Assessment:** Students will spend several weeks visiting a campus building in small

groups and documenting physical and behavioral details about the building and its occupants. Small groups will be connected with a facility-level contact to discuss building logistics, sustainability observations, and feasibility of proposed ideas. Students will utilize their knowledge of the iCAP 2020 and stakeholder/expert feedback to develop a check-list, which will be used by each group to perform the building assessment. These details will be used as the foundation for providing recommendations for sustainability upgrades and improvements in the final report.

**Building Visits:** Students are required to do a thorough analysis of their assigned campus building. This will include coordinating meetings with facility managers, documenting existing infrastructure, and interviewing building occupants. Students will need to record their findings and present them during weekly check-ins.

**Presentation:** Students will be expected to present their recommendations to the building manager and other relevant staff. There will be practice presentations during class time to get feedback and suggestions from course instructors and peers. During these presentations, students are expected to be professional and open to critical feedback to strengthen their presentation skills and recommendations.

**Participation:** Participation includes attending class and engagement in classroom discussions. Compass posting will be used for extending class discussions and capturing ideas. Please see the COVID-19 section below, for more information on what class attendance constitutes.

**Final Report:** Students will provide recommendations for sustainability improvements. The audience will be University staff and administrators. Students will use their knowledge of iCAP objectives and their building assessments to provide a realistic timeline for the recommendations. Students should consider costs to implement recommendations and provide resources to address those costs.

**Group Feedback:** Group feedback will be administered throughout the semester. This is an excellent opportunity for the instructors to get insight as to how the groups are functioning and address issues early on. Group feedback will be submitted in a semi-anonymous format (instructors will receive the feedback). Feedback will be compiled and analyzed by the instructors, and will not be shared directly with the rest of the class. If positive or negative feedback is consistently given about a particular student, this may adjust her/his grade concerning group presentations and reports.

**Other Opportunities:** Because of the unique learning space, additional work may arise. In those cases, extra credit may be assigned as an incentive to complete these tasks. The valuation of these additional assignments may be done through negotiating, bidding, or group conscience.

## **Grading**

Grades will be assigned on an absolute and not on a relative scale. No one is in direct competition with anyone else. Some graded assignments are collaborative efforts between students, and your grade will depend on the performance of the other students in your

group. Grades for group assignments will be assigned individually, but will be amended by group feedback. Course grades will be assigned on the basis of total points earned during the semester. If there are concerns at any time throughout the semester, students are welcome to reach out to the instructors. The maximum possible number of points for each assignment is:

200	Exam
150	Building Visits
50	Building liaison feedback
100	Building Assessment
100	Presentation
250	Final Report
<u>150</u>	<u>Participation</u>
<b>1000</b>	<b>Total</b>

**The final course grade scale is:**

A+	97%+	C+	77 – 79%
A	93 – 96%	C	73 – 76%
A-	90 – 92%	C-	70 – 72%
B+	87 – 89%	D+	67 – 69%
B	83 – 86%	D	63 – 66%
B-	80 – 82%	D-	60 – 62%

## **Administrative Course Policies**

### Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policy: [http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1\\_part4\\_1-401.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-401.html). Ignorance is not an excuse for any academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity.

### Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the as soon as possible. To ensure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this class should contact Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and see the instructor as soon as possible. If you need accommodations for any sort of disability, please speak to me after class, or make an appointment to see me, or see me

during my office hours. DRES provides students with academic accommodations, access, and support services. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TDD), or e-mail [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu). <http://www.disability.illinois.edu/>.

### Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <http://registrar.illinois.edu/ferpa> for more information on FERPA. Religious Observances

### The Religious Observance Accommodation

Request form is available at <http://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/docs/Religious-ObservanceAccommodation-Request-Form.pdf>. Submit the form to the instructor and to the Office of the Dean of Students ([helpdean@illinois.edu](mailto:helpdean@illinois.edu)) by the end of the second week of the course; in the case of exams or assignments scheduled after this period, students should submit the form to the instructor and to the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible.

### Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligation

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX and Disability Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX and Disability Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options. A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: [wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential](http://wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential). Other information about resources and reporting is available here: [wecare.illinois.edu](http://wecare.illinois.edu)

### Deadlines

A course schedule is given at the end of the syllabus. Due to the dynamic nature of the course, dates for events and deadlines may shift. Students will be notified of deadlines through Compass and during class. If you are unsure of a deadline, feel free to email the instructors at [mkm0078@illinois.edu](mailto:mkm0078@illinois.edu) & [ewgreen@illinois.edu](mailto:ewgreen@illinois.edu)

*This syllabus can be updated at the instructors' discretion. The grading criteria will NOT change. Date, topics and assignments listed in the course schedule may be changed as needed.*

### COVID-19

Following University policy, all students are required to engage in appropriate behavior to protect the health and safety of the community, including wearing a facial covering properly,

maintaining social distance (at least 6 feet from others at all times), disinfecting the immediate seating area, and using hand sanitizer. Students are also required to follow the campus COVID-19 testing protocol.

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work.

Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

Each class will be hosted on Zoom and a link will be provided and hosted on the compass site. If a student's illness is such that they must not come to class and they are unable to join via Zoom, each class will be recorded. Those recordings will also be hosted on compass or box. Students should notify the instructor, prior to class, if their illness would prevent them from joining in-person or through Zoom.

If in-person classes are cancelled University-wide, this course will transition to being entirely online, utilizing Zoom. Some adjustments to the course schedule may occur, but students should expect that all course requirements will remain intact (unless otherwise notified by the instructor). Please notify the instructor if internet access is an issue.

The classroom will be cleaned after each class according to the Division of Research Safety's COVID-19 safety training: <https://www.dr.illinois.edu/Page/COVID19CampusSafety> For more information, see <https://covid19.illinois.edu/>

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
Jan 18	Introductions/Environmental Problems	
Jan 20	Human Behavior/Relation to Sustainability	Read iCAP 2020
Jan 25	Building Components/Relation to Sustainability	Read iCAP 2020
Jan 27	iCAP 2020	Read iCAP 2020
Feb 1	Exam	
Feb 3	Greener Campus Program Certifications – Introduce checklist	
Feb 8	Energy	NSRC Check-list development
Feb 10	Water	NSRC Check-list development
Feb 15	Land/Transportation	NSRC Check-list development
Feb 17	Food & Waste	NSRC Check-list development
Feb 22	Education/Engagement/Communication	Finalize Check-list
Feb 24	Meet with Facility Manager (No Class)	
March 1	Check-In and debrief	
March 3	Building Visit (No Class)	
March 8	Check-In and debrief	Building Assessment
March 10	Building Visit (No Class)	
March 22	Check-In and debrief	Building Assessment
March 24	Building Visit (No Class)	
March 29	Check-In and debrief	Building Assessment/Team Evaluation
March 31	Building Visit (No Class)	
April 5	Check-In and debrief	Building Assessment
April 7	Building Visit (No Class)	

April 12	Check-In and Debrief	Building Assessment
April 14	Building Visit (No Class)	
April 19	Building Manager Meeting (No Class)	
April 21	Building Manager Meeting (No Class)	Building Manager Feedback
April 26	Feedback Incorporation	
April 28	Final Presentation Practice	
May 3	Final Presentation Practice	Organize Presentations
May 13	Last Day of Finals	Final Report Due

\*Dates subject to change