

WS M 696A
PERSONAL VISION, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

FALL 2006
11:00 -11:50 Tuesdays, Biosciences East 311
1 credit

Course Text:
The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, by Steven R. Covey

Instructor:
Dave Breshears
(daveb@email.arizona.edu / 621-7259)
Professor, School of Natural Resources, Institute for the Study of Planet Earth,
and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

As a graduate student in some area of environmental science, much of your graduate education will focus on developing expertise in your particular area of interest, as well as developing enough knowledge to bridge to other related areas of environmental science. But your ability to be effective and make major contributions over the course of your career will also depend greatly on your personal vision of where you are headed and the leaderships and communication skills needed to get there. These skills are as important as any technical expertise you may be acquiring but few classes specifically focus on developing them. In this course, we will discuss concepts presented in *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, skills associated with effective professional communication, and highlight examples of environmental scientists that seem to be very effective.

Course Objectives

- Develop a working knowledge and personal application of leadership skills covered in “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”.
- Develop improved speaking skills.
- Develop a specific personal plan for growth through development of a future curriculum vitae.
- Develop an improved understanding of what effective environmental scientists are doing that enables them to be effective.

DRAFT SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	PRE-CLASS READING	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
August 22, 2006	Introduction – Course format		
August 29, 2006	Overview of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People	Covey: Inside out; The 7 Habits-An Overview	Professional goals
September 5, 2006	Speaking skills	Toastmasters readings	
September 12, 2006	Habit 1	Covey: Habit 1	
September 19, 2006	Habit 2	Covey: Habit 2	
September 26, 2006	A Body of Work	Rivers & Tides	Leader example
October 3, 2006	Habit 3	Covey: Habit 3	Mission statement
October 10, 2006	Publication strategies		
October 17, 2006	Habit 4	Covey: Habit 4	Paper outline
October 24, 2006	Habit 5	Covey: Habit 5	
October 31, 2006	Habit 6	Covey: Habit 6	
November 7, 2006	Habit 7	Covey: Habit 7	Future CV
November 14, 2006	Leadership examples in Natural Resources	Lauenroth & Burke; and others	Leadership interview results
November 21, 2006	7 Habits Synthesis	Covey: Inside out again; Afterword	Outreach summary
November 28, 2006	Student Challenge		
December 5, 2006	Final		

Grading:

- 5 Points: Professional goals: A list of 3 to 7 professional goals
- 5 Points: Leader example: A one paragraph summary of the body of work by a leader in natural resources science and management
- 10 Points: Mission statement: Your statement of what you want to accomplish professionally (and personally, if you wish) in words that are highly motivating to you. The mission statement should be accompanied by the following signed statement: “I have reflected deeply on the development of this mission statement and it reflects my best, current vision of where I plan to head toward and what I plan to contribute toward.”
- 5 Points: Paper outline: A summary for a paper on a topic you have been or will be involved with including title, journal, list of figures and tables, one sentence main message, and draft abstract
- 20 Points: Future CV: A resume or curriculum vitae that contains at least 3 major new entries that you hope to accomplish during your graduate education
- 10 Points: Leadership interview: A description of the body of work of a leader in natural resources science and management that inspires you, a summary of points learned about their strategies for success during a 10-20 phone call, and evaluation of application of their strategies to your mission and goals
- 10 Points: Outreach summary: One paragraph summary of who, where, and when you discussed the 7 habits with and reflections on any new insights gained
- 10 Points: Speaking responses (average of best 3 from the course)
- 15 Points: Participation in class discussions
- 10 Points: Final – Revised package of mission, professional goals, future CV, and publication.