

# S O L A R I S

## Education for Sustainability 11



*Knowledge, Inspiration, Action*

- *Would you like to change the world?*
- *Would you like to learn with students and teachers who share your passion for change?*
- *Would you like to examine the topic of sustainability through field studies, discussion and debate, film analysis, case studies, and a self-directed action project?*
- *Would you like to receive course credit for independent learning (attending a film, taking part in a conference, or reading a book that relates to sustainability)?*

If you answered “yes” to these questions, the following course may be an excellent opportunity for you...

### What is this course about?

SOLARIS (Education for Sustainability 11) is an off-timetable 4-credit elective course that combines aspects of science, social studies and leadership. This course, which has been approved by the Vancouver Board of Education, will enable students to:

- understand the **issues** of sustainability, and their **impacts**;
- examine **solutions**; and
- develop a self-directed **action project**.

These issues, impacts and solutions will be examined from local, regional and global perspectives.

This course will also enable students from various Vancouver schools to learn from experts in the field of sustainability, and then put this knowledge into practice in their home school or community.

### What is sustainability?

As described by the World Commission on Environment and Development, sustainability is “meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Sustainability is a model for thinking about a future in which environmental, societal, and economic considerations are balanced.

**Who is this course for?**

- students entering grade 11 or 12 in September of 2011;
- students from throughout the Vancouver Board of Education

**When will the course be offered?**

- starting September 2011
- one Saturday per month (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).
- one Thursday night per month (6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.).

Note: students must attend all sessions, except in the case of illness.

**What will this course examine?**

Unit	Title	Date
Unit 1	Introduction to Sustainability	September
Unit 2	Human Population, Migration and Carrying Capacity	October
Unit 3	Consumption, Trade and Waste Disposal	November
Unit 4	Principles of Ecology, Climate Change, and Biodiversity	December
Unit 5	Culture, Health, Education, and Human Rights	January
Unit 6	Governance, Economic Development, and Peace	February
Unit 7	Transportation	March
Unit 8	Housing and Energy	April
Unit 9	Water and Food	May
Unit 10	Resources: Fossil Fuels, Minerals, Forestry and Fisheries	June
Unit 11	Sustainability Action Project	September – June

**Who will teach this course?**

- lead instructor: Andrew Humphries – B.Sc. in Biology, Geology and Environmental Education; M.A. in Leadership and Education (Master's Thesis: Education for Sustainability); currently a Science and Social Studies teacher at Prince of Wales Mini School (Vancouver Board of Education);
- guest instructors (experts in their field);
- students enrolled in the course.

**Course location**

Our classroom location will be determined in the spring of 2011. We will utilize a school that is open on Saturdays, close to the city centre, and accessible via public transit.

Many of our all-day Saturday lessons will include field studies at locations in the Lower Mainland.

Transportation to field study locations will be by public transit or chartered school bus.

**Cost**

There will be a fee for this course in order to pay for the field trip costs (chartered school bus, etc.). Note: no student will be denied the opportunity to participate in this course because of an inability to pay this fee.

**Application process**

Complete the attached Application Form (2 pages); attach a copy of your most recent Report Card (including teacher comments); and submit the documents (must be received by Friday, February 18, 2011) via Email (as PDF attachments), Canada Post, or the VSB "blue bag" internal mail system:

Email: [solaris@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:solaris@vsb.bc.ca)

SOLARIS

c/o Prince of Wales Secondary School  
2250 Eddington Drive, Vancouver, BC V6L 2E7

Attn: Andrew Humphries

Student selection for this course will be based on a demonstrated interest in the topic of sustainability. Students will be selected from a variety of schools. Students will be notified by Friday, March 11, 2011.