

**ENST 499: Zero Waste Events**  
**Short SYLLABUS for FALL 2023 Wednesdays 4- 4:50 pm\***  
**Instructor:** Dr. Monalisa Chatterjee  
**Office Hours:** *By Appointment*  
**Email:** monalisc@usc.edu

**Course Description:** This 2-unit course will provide an overview of the importance and meaning of zero waste in an era of global change as well as hands-on experience in the operation of zero waste events using the LA Coliseum and USC Football Games as a living laboratory. Zero waste is the: "*Conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.*" Zero Waste International Alliance

**\*To get full event experiential credit, Students must attend the initial field trip in August and actively participate in compliance checking and data collection efforts in two weekend events selected for the class. For each weekend event, students will have tasks in the pre-game day set-up activities (typically on Friday) and the game day (normally Saturdays). Students will sign up for event dates in the first week of class.**

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

- Understand the importance and meaning of zero waste and the processes involved
- Demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems in the realm of waste issues and processes
- Contextualize how waste issues affect the environment, society, and the economy
- Learn about and apply solutions that reduce waste through law, policy, science and technology, and human behavior
- Utilize a life cycle analysis to evaluate the impacts of a given product
- Collect data on waste diversion, human awareness, and behavior related to recyclable material and waste disposal during Coliseum events

**Course Text & Readings:**

1. **Collegiate Zero Waste (CZW) Playbook** by L. Anast and E. Mullen (*on BB*)
2. **Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things**  
by Michael Braungart and William McDonough
3. **Los Angeles and USC Zero waste policies and news articles** (*on BB*)

**Course Contact Hours:** Students will attend lectures from, scheduled field trips and experiential learning activities (~28 h/semester).

**Online Course Portal, Blackboard:** This course will use Blackboard for communication, information, and submitting assignments. You are responsible for all notifications and assignments posted online via BlackBoard (*Let me know by the first lecture if you have trouble accessing BlackBoard*). Students are encouraged to email the instructor with questions or to set up an office hour appointment. **Please contact the instructor with any issues impacting your ability to learn, and they will try to help or refer you to someone that can.**

<b>Grade Breakdown</b>	<b>Points</b>
In-Class Activities	20
ZW Event Participation	100
Quizzes	20
Life Cycle Analysis Assign.	30
Waste Log Assignment	30
Group Final Project	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	A	93-100	A-	90-92				
	B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82		
	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72		
	D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62	F	59 and below

### **Statement on Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism-Presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words, is a serious academic offense with severe consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientificmisconduct>.

### **Policy on Graded Assignments and Activities**

Late Assignments will have 20% deducted every 24 hours, with the first 24-hour deduction starting 5 min after the deadline. Instructions for all assignments are on Blackboard (BB).

Regarding in-class activities (including quizzes): If you cannot make it to a class, please email the professor ahead of time so that you can make up any associated in-class activities or quizzes (5-15 pts each) within 48 hrs. Assignments and activities will be graded and posted on Blackboard ~ within two weeks after the due date.

### **Overview of Assignments: All due by 10:50 am (California Time) via Turnitin (BB)\***

*Each of the below assignments is described in more detail on Blackboard.*

**In-Class Activities/Discussions/Reflections (5 pts each):** Throughout the course, you will be exposed to data-based activities and in-depth discussions in class. Points are awarded via question worksheets or activity-based discussions. In-class activity worksheets/reflections will need to be turned in within ~48 h (by 10:50 am).

**Quizzes (5-10 pts each):** Instead of a midterm or final, you will be given quizzes and activities throughout the semester pertaining to the course readings. These quizzes may or may not be announced ahead of time. Quizzes will include multiple choice, T/F, and short answer questions and will be aligned with the assigned course readings.

**Life Cycle Analysis Home Assignment:** You will select a product category from a list of items used or considered at the LA Coliseum. You will use a life-cycle analysis spreadsheet to determine the most sustainable product and write a 1-page reflection on your decision (*further details are in the instructions on BB*).

**Zero-Waste Log assignment:** For one week, keep a written log of everything that you put in the trash, recycling and/or compost. During this time, implement several of the zero-waste

tips in the instructions for this activity on BB.

**Zero-Waste Event Participation & Group Final Project Activities:** A large part of this course is the hands-on experience that students will gain by participating in and collecting data during the zero-waste game day events at the Los Angeles Coliseum. **To get full event participation credit, you are expected to attend the field trip in August, and actively participate in monitoring and data collection efforts in two of the six weekend events,** with each weekend event including the pre-game day set-up activities (typically on Friday) and the game day (typically Saturdays). **You will be able to sign up for event dates and their final project categories in the first week of class.**