

CURRICULUM VITAE
SEATON TARRANT
AUGUST 2016

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (August 2016)
Department of Political Science
University of Florida

Master of Arts (May 2013)
Department of Political Science
University of Florida

Master of Arts (May 2010)
Appalachian Studies, Sustainable Development Concentration
Appalachian State University

Bachelor of Arts, highest honors (December 2000)
Department of English
University of Florida

RESEARCH

My research integrates educational, community development, and ecological goals for sustainable democratic societies. I situate this project within higher education's increasing investment in education for sustainability. Through deep engagement with the political and pedagogical theory of John Dewey, I argue that formal and non-formal sustainability education is a key site, perhaps the principle site, for democratic education in the 21st century. I investigate the extent to which sustainability education within U.S. colleges and universities is based on curricula that stress the development of learning skills and civic skills. I explore the degree to which such pedagogical initiatives are, can and should be understood as methods for student empowerment. To this end, I have collected and analyzed three years' worth of opinions and pre and post test results from sustainability studies students, I have collected and analyzed via content analysis some 82 sustainability programs, and over 400 sustainability syllabi. And I have conducted and analyzed open-ended interviews with 22 of the top educators in sustainability from around the country.

PUBLICATIONS

"Enhancing and Promoting Interdisciplinarity in Higher Education" *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* (2016).

"Dig in and Discuss: Using the Insights Questions and Challenges Framework to Improve Students' Environmental Communication Skills" in *Learner-centered Teaching Activities for Environmental and Sustainability Studies*, Springer (2016).

"Practice Makes Pedagogy – John Dewey and Skills-based Sustainability Education" *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 17:1 (54-67).

“The Contribution of Environmental Political Thought to Sustainability Studies Curricula,”
Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Thought, Oxford University Press (2016).

“The Web We Weave: The Challenge of Online Learning in Higher Education and the Future
of American Democracy” *New Political Science*, 36:4 538-555 (2014). *Now reprinted as a
book by Springer Publishers.

TEACHING AWARDS, NOMINATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

Graduate Student Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida
2015

Champions of Change Award, nomination, Office of Sustainability, University of Florida 2015

Graduate Student Teaching Award, nomination, Department of Political Science, 2015

Teaching Evaluations, University of Florida

Mean, questions 1-9, 2012-2015:

My average: 4.8

College average: 4.22

Mean overall instructor rating 2012-15:

My average: 4.78

College average: 4.2

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Florida

IDS 2154 Facets of Sustainability, 2014, 2015, 2016

POS 4931 Creative Teamwork, 2016

POS 2032 Politics of Sustainability, 2014, 2015, 2016

POT 3503 Environmental Ethics and Politics, 2013, 2015

IDH 3931 Sustainable Local Food Systems, 2013

Teaching Assistant, University of Florida

IDS 2154 Facets of Sustainability 2012, 2014

POT 2002 Introduction to Political Theory 2012, 2013

Instructor, Appalachian State University

2411 Appalachian Studies and the Social Sciences 2010

2410 Appalachian Studies and the Humanities 2009

SERVICE IN TEACHING

Invited Talk, National Council for Science and the Environment, Incorporating Energy Issues
in Higher Education, 2016

Mentor for undergraduate capstone project on local food systems for Sustainability and the
Built Environment, 2016

Coordinator for capstone students in Sustainability in Action (6 students, 2 different projects: Revibe Youth Justice Drum project and Sustainability Education Resources project), 2016

Workshop for Florida Alternative Spring Break leadership, 2016

Workshop for Florida Alternative Spring Break new membership, 2016

Content Analysis and total course survey at University of Florida, identifying sustainability content in all courses at UF, for the Office of Sustainability, 2015

Mentor for undergraduate Independent Study, Content Analysis in Education Research, 2015

Mentor for undergraduate Independent Study, New Conceptions of Democratic Governance and Empowerment, 2015

Invited Panel Judge for Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, best paper awards, 2015

Coordinator and mentor to undergraduates, Sustainability Research Assistants Program 2014

Undergraduate Project Coordination, both student interns and work-study students 2014-2015

Invited Talk, Growing Solutions for S.T.E.A.M. Academy, 2015

Invited Talk, Students for Natural Resources Conservation and Environment, 2014

Invited Talk, Students for IDEAS, 2014

Invited International Plenary Presentation, Beirut Lebanon, The Global Thought Leaders Conference. Developing the Masters Program in Global Health and Sustainable Development 2014

Service in Teaching Summary: I have helped in the development of the sustainability studies program at UF since 2012. I developed teacher-training tools for teachers in the program, and facilitated a follow up syllabi development workshop with teachers in the program. In partnership with the office of sustainability, I conducted the first ever computerized analysis of all courses at the University of Florida to surmise the extent and quality of sustainability course offerings. I was invited by the National Council for Science and Environment to present findings from my research on sustainability education and renewable energy to national leadership in energy policy in a special webinar. In 2014 I was invited to deliver an international plenary in Beirut, Lebanon, and to assist in the development of a Global Masters Degree in Public Health and Sustainable Development. I developed curricular resources for the University of British Columbia's sustainability program and I developed sustainability teaching tools for community outreach programs in West Virginia. I am in the process of developing and hosting online resource sites for sustainability teaching and research.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Alumni Fellowship, University of Florida Political Science, 2010-2014

Grinter Fellowship, University of Florida Political Science, 2010-2014

Travel Grants, UF Office of Research, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UF CAIRES, and UF Graduate School 2014 -2016

In-house Research grant for travel in post BP oil-spill Florida, 2011

Prairie Project Sustainability Fellow 2011

Office of Student Research grant for travel and research in Post-Katrina/Rita New Orleans, 2009

Carl A. Ross Academic Scholarship for Appalachian Studies ASU 2009

Edward J. Cabell Research Scholarship ASU 2009

In-house research fellowship, Center for Appalachian Studies, to cover travel to visit and work with Helen Lewis, 2008

Do Unto Others Scholarship for Community Service ASU 2008

Environmental education grant writing; focus on organic agriculture, small scale, primary education; approximately \$10,000 2002

Academic Merit Scholarship University of Florida full tuition 1998-2000

Academic Merit Scholarship Appalachian State University partial tuition 1996-1997

HONORS AND AWARDS

Anderson Scholar Faculty Honoree, University of Florida 2015

Graduate Student Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida 2015

Best Graduate Student Presentation Finalist, Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, 2015

Champions of Change Award, nomination, Office of Sustainability, University of Florida 2015

Graduate Student Teaching Award, nomination, Department of Political Science, 2015

Cratis Williams Graduate School Honors Society 2010

Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Students 2010

Who's Who in Graduate Students 2010

Highest Honors graduate, University of Florida 2000

Golden Key 2000

Phi Kappa Phi 2000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mixed-Methods Content Analysis, 2013-2015

Coordinating and Improving Interdisciplinary Research Funding in Higher Education 2014

Undergraduate Research development 2014

Designing and implementing sustainable local food systems 2013

Skills-based strategies for sustainability education 2013

Operationalization of empowerment in development and education discourses 2012,2013

Community-based Curriculum for Sustainability in American Community Colleges 2012

Blended learning models for sustainability studies curriculum development 2012

Development of Alachua Conservation Trust's Tusawilla Preserve, Environmental Education Center 2011

Development of the Bachelor of Arts degree program in Sustainability Studies at the University of Florida 2010, 2011

Assistant to Leslie Thiele's *Indra's Net and the Midas Touch* and *Sustainability*, forthcoming.

Ethnographic and transcription services for Linda Jencson's Red River Flood disaster work, 2010

Participatory Research in Community-centered recovery programs, Louisiana 2009

Survey Design and Interview of Local Stakeholders in Ghana regarding the European Unions first Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Voluntary Partnership Agreements for sustainable logging 2009.

Participatory Research in Ashe County NC at Experimental Agriculture Station, gleaning initiative 2009

Participatory Research during Kentucky Ice Storms, disaster relief 2009

Participatory Research at the Come to the Table event for Faith-Based and Local Food Systems 2009

Graduate researcher for the Research Institute for Environment, Energy, and Economics; researching indicators for community resilience and community engagement methodology under the guidance of Dr. John Pine, funded by NOAA 2009

The Peace Consortium; worked under Johan Galtung, founder of Peace Studies and Transcend University for Peace. Sole graduate student representative on the consortium planning committee

Worked with Dr. Jay Wentworth on a history of living learning interdisciplinary education university programs, of which Watauga College, of Appalachian State, is one of the founding and remaining programs 2009

The Helen Lewis Papers; Researching the unpublished work and personal photos of sociologist and community activist Helen Matthews Lewis, under the direction of Helen Lewis, former director of The Highlander Center, and Patricia Beaver, former director for the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University 2008

Environmental Education Curriculum development; Learning Gate Environmental Charter School, Tampa Florida 2001-2003

REFERENCES

Dr. Leslie Paul Thiele. Director and Founder of Sustainability Studies at the University of Florida; Director and Founder of CAIRES Center for Adaptive Innovation, Resilience, Ethics, and Science. thiele@ufl.edu

Dr. Shirley Vincent. Director, Center for Environmental Education Research, National Council for Science and the Environment. svincent@ncseonline.org

Dr. Jay Wentworth. Emeritus Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Appalachian State University. Wentworthja@appstate.edu

TEACHING EVALUATION QUALITATIVE (STUDENT COMMENTS)

Excerpts from POS 4931, Creative Teamwork:

He is an amazing professor who actually cares about his students and what they learn. He goes above and beyond to make sure that we are where we need to be in the class, and lets us know that we are not alone outside of the classroom either.

Out of all of the classes I've taken at UF, this course has been amongst the most beneficial in prepping me in my future endeavors. The lessons taught will be the ones that I will remember and apply to my life for years to come. Loved it!

The instructor fostered a safe creative learning environment for all. His innovative way of teaching this course in which we were all encouraged to collaborate enabled us to grow and emulated the working environments we will be in beyond education at the university.

The instructor's passion for the subject inspired me to delve into the course material.

He has passion for creativity and teamwork in a way that was not cheesy but really deep and profound and unique

Excerpts from POS 2032, Politics of Sustainability:

I wish Seaton was an advisor and taught more classes, because I truly learned so much from him and I know that he truly has student's best interests at heart, and has a passion for teaching and educating students. I wish this class was longer!

VERY ENGAGING. KNOWLEDGABLE. BEST TEACHER I'VE HAD AT UF. Already signed up to take another course.

Best teacher that I have had at UF. Not only does he know what he is talking about, he really cares about his students. He was calling everyone by their first names by the middle of the semester. He also really practices what he preaches which is really cool.

This is the best course I have taken so far at UF. It challenged what I thought I knew, pushed me further to explore both things I did not have an interest in before enrolling and pre-existing interests. This class expanded how I view the world and how I can take part in my interests.

Seaton is just superb! He lives what he teaches and his background and lifestyle add so much to the course. It allows us to believe and see that living a different lifestyle that leaves a lighter footprint behind is really possible. His interest and study in teaching styles and pedagogy create an atmosphere that is what I expect from the University of Florida. This is no powerpoint and useless handout type of class. It was engaging, active, and innovative.

Excerpts from the online version of IDS 2154 that I designed and began teaching in 2014:

Seaton was really easy to talk to. He was the first professor I've had here that I didn't feel intimidated to talk to. Most professors make it seem like you're wasting their time by talking to them, Seaton actually liked talking to us. I was really grateful for that, and it made the course a lot more interactive that way.

The Professor was awesome, he really made an online course fun and enjoyable. Seaton was always available for chat and responded very quickly to email. He wanted to make sure that the student had every available opportunity to succeed in the course.

Professor Tarrant utilized social media very well to get students involved in a class that would otherwise prevent students from communicating with each other effectively (because of the online environment). He made you care about the material not by force, but by having the student relate directly to the material.

Excerpts from POT 3503, Environmental Ethics and Politics:

Favorite course taken here at UF in the past 3.5 years.

He had a way to stimulate interest and conversation in the classroom. His enthusiasm for the subject material was contagious, and it made everyone think more deeply about the material. He also did a good job of facilitating respectful disagreement to keep the class discussion moving forward.

Awesome interactive course. I felt like I could really express my opinions and develop my own beliefs.