

Sustainability Portfolio #3: Second Elective

My second favorite sustainability elective was Issues of Wilderness and Nature in American Society. The course discussed the relationship between society and nature. It taught me about the history of land and nature protection in the United States. We compared different ideas and beliefs about how nature and humanity should interrelate. We studied many figures who began the quest to preserve our wild landscapes in the United States including John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt.

The most important attitude I learned from this course was the desire for preservation of what is natural and free. Preservation differs from conservation because rather than setting aside land until we need it, we are choosing to preserve it indefinitely. One of the most important attitudes I gained from this class is the idea that nature is not a place, but a home. It is home to not just animals and plants that make up or ecosystem, but humanity as well.

This course contributed to my sustainability major by teaching me the history of land preservation in the United States. It gave me new views about nature and cemented my beliefs that we must use sustainability to protect it. This course was especially important to my core sustainability learning because it showed me how some of the earliest sustainability thinkers were successful in their goals of protecting what mattered to them, before sustainability was even a concept.