CINÉINNOVATE STUDIOS: EARTHSEED SOUTH VIP

Professor Thornton & Professor Morris
Tuesdays @11am
Skiles 333

About the VIP Program

The Vertically-Integrated Projects (VIP) Program operates in a research and development context. Undergraduate students that join VIP teams earn academic credit for their participation in design/discovery efforts that assist faculty and graduate students with research and development issues in their areas of expertise.

The teams are:

Multidisciplinary-drawing students from all disciplines on campus; Vertically-integrated maintaining a mix of sophomores through PhD students each semester; Long-term, each undergraduate student may participate in a project for up to three years and each graduate student may participate for the duration of their graduate career.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through VIPs students will:

- Learn and practice professional skills
- Make substantial contributions to the team project
- Experience different roles on a large, multidisciplinary team

Team Focus

CineInnovate Studios: EarthSeed South is a Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) that integrates documentary media production, environmental humanities, and community-based research to examine sustainability and food justice through an Afrofuturist perspective inspired by Octavia E. Butler. In collaboration with organizations such as Patchwork City Farms and A Sip of Paradise Garden, the project engages students, local growers, educators, and activists to document and elevate Black-led sustainability initiatives. The team functions as a creative studio, producing a peer-reviewed journal, micro-documentaries, and podcasts that showcase community knowledge, environmental practices, and visions for climate resilience. Through interdisciplinary collaboration, the project positions storytelling as a means of cultural preservation, environmental advocacy, and social transformation.

Grading

The premise of VIP is teams working on projects. Much like a real-world team, individual members work on different aspects of the project. Team members range from sophomores through graduate students, from first-time participants to students who have been involved for four or more semesters. The number of credits for which a student is enrolled is considered in grading. Zero-credit students (reserved for paid participation only) participate in the same grading process.

Your grade is based on three areas, along with three requirements. Although each student contributes in different ways, you must demonstrate achievements in all three areas below: 1) Documentation and records; 2) Personal accomplishments and contributions to team goals; and 3) Teamwork and interaction.

Documentation and records (33%)

a. VIP Notebook (required)

Personal accomplishments and contributions to your team's goals (33%)

b. Engagement in the project
c. Pursuit of knowledge necessary for project
d. Contributions to the technical progress of the team

Teamwork and interaction (33%)

a. Peer Evaluations
b. On-time attendance in meetings
c. Actively contributes to overall team goals
d. Coordinates activities with other team members
e. Assists other team members
f. Team presentation(s)

As part of the assessment of the above, each student is required to:

1. Maintain a VIP notebook. Scans of well-maintained VIP notebooks are available on the VIP website. Each student must understand that if work is not documented in their VIP notebook, "Then you didn't do it," (i.e. work that is not documented in the notebook will not count toward your grade).

2. Complete the mid-term peer evaluation. This is a web-based form, and links are available on the VIP website. Failure to complete the peer evaluation will result in a full letter grade deduction. Late submissions are not accepted
3. Complete the final peer evaluation, which will be available for one week during the week preceding finals. Failure to complete the peer evaluation will result in a full letter grade deduction. Late submissions are not accepted.