I've excerpted parts of my reworked Syllabus for Fall 2014 Honors 3900 Imagined Communities: Mapping the Ideal World (HF Designation), which I reworked during and after the Wasatch Experience Workshop.

Opening of Syllabus:

**Honors 3900-1 Imagined Communities: Mapping the Ideal World**

In this course we examine how human societies embed cultural and spiritual values in the construction of utopian spaces. We expand the concept of sustainability to encompass not only the preservation of natural resources but also the preservation of values and traditions in the face of technological progress. How does the definition of human being change as environment changes?

**Course Objectives**
- Analyze utopian spaces in multiple case studies
- Interrogate the norms and values that inform these spaces
- Identify dystopian conflict within these spaces
- Apply what you have learned to physical & virtual spaces at the University of Utah and in Salt Lake City, critically evaluating public spaces and questioning the conflict between design and use
- Design a utopia / dystopia based on what you have learned

Rewritten section of syllabus where I inserted new materials to deal with sustainability. This week was part of a multi-week examination of the Soviet attempt to transform human beings, often in relationship to their environment.

**Week 4**

**Monday September 15**  **Environment & Human Evolution**
Alessandr Bogdanov, *A Short Course of Economic Science* (1923)
*3 Songs About Lenin*, Third Song: “In a Big City of Stone” (1934)

**Wednesday September 17**  **An Electrician’s Utopia**
H.G. Wells’s Russia in the Shadows (1921)
Lenin, On Electrification (1920)
Propaganda Posters

Throughout the course I brought up sustainability whenever I could. In this week I inserted new readings that dealt with the Bolshevik idea of human beings transforming themselves into “New People” by transforming the land with technology. We read Bogdanov's *Short course*, in which he describes human beings becoming more involved by working the land. Lenin's writing about
the transformation of the Russian countryside through electrification and Wells' description of his meeting with Lenin to discuss the same thing. We also looked at a 3 Songs about Lenin, a film that depicted a transformed Moscow and the building of a hydroelectric dam. In class we discussed how Soviet values are expressed in the transformation of the land and compared them to modern attitudes. These were new materials, but I also reworked our discussions of existing course materials to emphasize the human relationship to the land.

Here is one of the electrification posters we examined:

![Electrification Poster](image-url)

We examined the poster as an example of the cult of Lenin and discussed the Soviet preoccupation with the human brain and its connection to energy, and the vision of the transformed landscape beneath Lenin's picture.
In each of the projects for this course, I encouraged students to choose sustainability as one of the values they applied to analyzing utopian spaces. In the activity document I’ve included these projects and inserted notes (in red).