

# Raritan Scholars 11:374:481 (4 credits)

Spring 2013, Blake 131 (Wednesday, 10:55-11:55 AM)

**Special Permission ONLY (Contact Instructor)**

**Course Instructor:** Daniel J. Van Abs, PhD, PP/AICP, Associate Research Professor, Department of Human Ecology, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Dr. Van Abs has worked in the water resources fields for over 30 years, retiring from State government in 2012. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from SUNY-College of Environmental Science and Forestry and is a licensed Professional Planner. See <http://www.humanecology.rutgers.edu/faculty.asp>. Email: [vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu](mailto:vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu)

**Internships:** Minimum expectation of 125 hours contact time with the internship project. The Raritan Scholars internships portion of this course may be used toward fulfilling the Experience-Based Education requirement for EPIB students. Internship opportunities will be provided to students by Dr. Van Abs.

**Course objectives:** The course incorporates two distinct but integrated components.

First, all students will undertake internships in the water resources field with organizations and agencies that have programs and activities focused on the Raritan River Basin. Students must expect to work a minimum of 125 hours in the internship, plus maintain a journal and present project conclusions to the class. Internship opportunities will be identified for student consideration and applications, but each student is responsible for receiving approval from both the internship sponsor and Dr. Van Abs prior to the first week of class, resulting in a signed internship contract. Internships will provide opportunities for real-world engagement with water resources issues, using field work, research, communications or other substantive activities. Internships are professional development experiences, and are not intended as opportunities for sponsoring organizations to acquire inexpensive office help.

Second, students will participate in one 60-minute class per week. The class will incorporate a combination of guest presentations and class discussions regarding the internships and water resource management concepts. The class will provide a structured understanding of water resources management issues that are being addressed through the internships and more generally by the sponsoring organizations. The class will focus on Raritan River Basin issues, but will relate those issues to broader water resources issues in New Jersey and beyond.

**Course activities:** The internship is a critical focus of the class. Each student will keep a log of work performed and results achieved, and develop a short presentation to be given at the end of the semester. In addition, class participation is critical to the learning process. As part of the class, there will be class discussions and some readings. The internship journal and presentation take the place of mid-term and final exams or term papers.

**Student Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

70%	Internship, journal (reflecting internship results) and evaluation of internship sponsor
10%	Internship presentation
20%	Class involvement in discussion