Syllabus example:
ESPM: Integrated Problem-Solving

NOTE: This is NOT taken from the actual class. It was designed to be an example of how we might talk with our students in the syllabus about the outcomes associated with a class.

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Student Outcomes associated with this course:

1. **As the name of the course implies, a major outcome of this class is to solve problems related to the environment.** Being a good problem solver means being able to structure ill defined problems, formulate possible solutions, and create criteria with which to evaluate the possible solutions. In addition to this, acquiring expertise in problem solving also requires a number of other skills.

   - **Comfort with ambiguity.** You will be working with complex, real problems and, therefore, ambiguity is a given. In this course you will be practicing for strategies for being able to proceed constructively in situations where there are many unknowns.

   - **Interdependence.** Effective problem solving on complex issues is never a solo activity. All of the work for this course will be done in groups. Therefore, a great deal of time and attention will be given to developing the skills to be an effective team member.

   - **Locating and evaluating resources.** Problem-solving requires access to good data. You will need to develop the skill of locating convincing evidence to support your solutions.

   - **Resilience.** All problem-solvers hit dead ends and make ill-advised judgments. Being an expert problem-solver means being able to learn from failure and move forward.

   - **Appreciation of Diversity.** Good problem-solving is done in teams because of the value of diverse opinions. When doing the assigned reflections on the effectiveness of your team, you will come to appreciate the importance of having diversity on your problem solving team. You will also come to appreciate the importance of addressing multiple perspectives when evaluating solutions to environmental issues.

   - **Effective communication skills.** Communicating solutions effectively is as important as reaching effective solutions! Most of each class period will be communicating with one another either in your problem solving teams or reporting your group’s work to the others in the class.

2. In this course (and most courses you will take) the other major outcome we are working toward is that you will become **life-long learners.** Key to being a life-long learner is **self awareness.** You will regularly be asked to reflect on your learning, your personality style, and the effectiveness of your group work. It is our hope that this will develop a habit that will ensure you are always learning from your experiences.