

# **MOLLOY UNIVERSITY**

## **School of Education and Human Services**

### **Department of Teacher Education**

**EDU 5900.xx TGI 2026: Powering Sustainability in the Middle School Classroom!  
(3 credits)**

Summer 2026

Instructor: Paul Zaratini

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Office hours: Monday - Friday 3:00 PM - 7:30 PM

#### **Course Description:**

From offshore wind turbines and electric vehicles to green infrastructure in your own community, this course invites educators to explore the dynamic world of sustainability through hands-on and virtual learning strategies. Participants will design and implement interactive, NGSS-aligned lessons that address the environmental, economic, and social aspects of sustainable development.

Participants will explore a wide range of renewable energy sources and analyze their relevance to Long Island and beyond. Through virtual field trips, online simulations, and real-world data collection, teachers will gain tools to guide students toward environmental literacy and civic engagement. The course culminates in the creation of an original, shareable sustainability-focused lesson plan adaptable for grades K–12. This course aligns with ESS3-2 Earth and Human Activity, supporting the development of evidence-based thinking about the relationships between human actions and environmental change.

#### **Shared Vision:**

The Molloy University Teacher Education faculty has derived its vision for the exemplary teacher from the University's mission statement, the four pillars of the Dominican

tradition, comments and input from the Professional Education Unit's Advisory Board and degree candidates as well as numerous faculty discussions rooted in the department's knowledge base which undergirds the initial and advanced programs' curriculum, pedagogy, and values.

The teaching professionals who complete Molloy's teacher preparation programs are distinguished by their ability to exemplify and promote core values in their own teaching. These values include:

Belief that all children can learn

Learner-centered and value-centered curriculum and pedagogy

Ethics and spirituality

Intellectual curiosity

Independence and risk taking, while promoting collective identity and responsibility

Diversity, multiculturalism and pluralism, including divergent thinking

Passion for teaching

Commitment to students and their communities

Civic responsibility through the promotion of social justice and interdependence

Commitment to democracy

### **Course Objectives:**

- Design and assess sustainable land use in local and global contexts.
- Examine the interdependence between human activity and natural ecosystems.
- Evaluate energy output and efficiency from wind, solar, and other renewables.
- Explore local opportunities for clean energy expansion, especially on Long Island.
- Critically assess transportation systems and their environmental footprints.
- Investigate the role of bio-based fuels in a decarbonized future.
- Create an engaging, standards-aligned lesson plan focused on sustainability themes.

### **Course Format:**

This course will be offered online through Canvas, Molloy's learning management system. The course will open on the start date and close on the last day of class. This section is offered during the summer semester of 2026. There will be daily activities and discussions that must be completed at the end of each day. All work will be due on the last day of class.

### **Required Readings, Videos, and Other Materials:**

All materials will be provided throughout the course.

### **Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

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|--|--------|
| Discussion #1 – Introduce Yourself & Your Interests      | 5 pts  |
| Module 1 – Power from the Sun: Solar in Schools          | 10 pts |
| Module 2 – Geothermal Potential: Could It Work Here?     | 10 pts |
| Module 3 – Winds of Change: Offshore Energy Impact       | 10 pts |
| Discussion #2 – Wind Farms: Pros, Cons & Possibilities   | 5 pts  |
| Module 4 – Phasing Out Fossil Fuels: A Local Perspective | 10 pts |
| Module 5 – Rethinking Transportation: Cleaner Commutes   | 10 pts |
| Module 6 – Green Fuels: Biomass & Biofuel Exploration    | 10 pts |
| Module 7 – Electric Vehicles: Are They Worth It?         | 10 pts |

Module 8 – Final Project: Design a Lesson Plan 20  
pts

**Molloy University and School of Education and Human Services Policies and Supports:**

**Expectations of Academic Integrity for All Students**

[Honor Pledge and Academic Honesty Policy](#)

**Course Withdrawals**

View [Withdrawal Policy](#) for potential financial implications

View [the Academic Calendar](#) and/or the course syllabus for the last day to withdraw dates

**Incompletes**

[Incompletes Policy](#)

**Health and Wellness**

[Student Health Services](#)

[Student Counseling Center \(SCC\)](#)

**Center for Access and Disability (Access)**

[Center for Access and Disability](#)

**Technical Support**

[Student Account, Technology and Canvas](#)

**Ally for Canvas**

[Supportive Tools and Resources/ Ally](#)

**Use of Proctorio for Exams/Quizzes (if applicable)**

## [Proctorio Resources for Students](#)

### **Email Accounts**

Students are to utilize their Molloy e-mail account or via Canvas when communicating throughout the semester. Those who use a non-Molloy account may miss important messages. Students are responsible for responding to all methods of communication in a timely fashion relating to this course. Instructors will respond to emails from students within 24 hours. When/ if you email the instructor(s), please indicate what course you are in with the course number and section.

### **APA Manuscript Style**

All manuscripts in the field of education are written in the style format of the American Psychological Association. Candidates in the Graduate Education Programs are required to purchase the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). (2010). American Psychological Association.

All papers written in every course must adhere to the manuscript prescriptions defined in this manual.