Environmental Studies

Director: Girdler
Affiliated Professors: Askew, Einspahr, Fraser, Furchak, Garriga-Lopez, Georgic, Katanski, Latiolais, C. Lewis, J. Lewis, Lindley, Luthra, Newday

The concentration in environmental studies is based upon the recognition that environmental and resource problems are not just biological, geological, economic, or political. Therefore, the concentration is structured as an interdisciplinary study by selecting appropriate courses from the natural and social sciences, as well as the humanities, in order to pool knowledge from across traditional disciplinary lines. This information is essential for an interdisciplinary assessment, analysis, and evaluation of environmental problems.

Students interested in environmental studies are urged to keep this interest in mind when selecting a site for study abroad. If approved ahead of time by the Director, up to one course from study abroad can count toward the completion of the concentration. Moreover, pursuing these interests abroad emphasizes the important international dimensions of many environmental issues while often permitting students to gain familiarity with some problems (and their possible solutions) in other countries. Courses from study abroad sites in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, and Thailand are particularly suitable.

The Concentration in Environmental Studies

Six units are required.

Take at least one course from each of the four numbered groups listed below (* indicates that a course has a pre-requisite course, usually a 100-level course in the same department), and two additional courses from any of the groups or the additional elective list. Study Abroad courses, Independent Study courses, and Senior Individualized Projects may be approved on a case by case basis; please consult with the Program Director.

Four required courses (one from each of four numbered groups below):

1. Natural Science
   ENVS 115 Environmental Science (*to be taken as early as possible*)

2. Social Science
   ECON 235 Environmental and Resource Economics* (highly recommended)
   ANSO 232 Nature and Society
   ANSO 350 Political History of Western Environmental Thought*
   ANSO 252 Political Ecology of Waste*
   POLS 267 Environmental and Political Theory
   POLS 295 Special Topics: Comparative Env Politics

3. Arts & Humanities
   ARTX 234 Structure & Space
   ARTX 295 Art and Environmental Justice
ENGL 151 Reading the World: Environments: Gardens
ENGL 156 RTW: Social Justice
ENGL 217 World Indigenous Literatures
ENGL/SEMN 435 American Indian Literature and the Law*
HIST 212 American Environmental History
HIST 217 History of Leisure and Recreation in America
MUSC 295 From Hamilton to Woodstock
PHIL 108 Ecological Philosophy
PHIL 310 Critical Social Theory
THEA 295 Special Topics: Science and Theater

4. **Senior Seminar** (must have senior standing to enroll)
   
   ENVS 490 Senior Seminar
   
   SEMN 401 Energy & Environmental Policy
   
   SEMN 408 Slow Farming

**Two additional elective courses selected from any courses listed above or below:**

Elective Courses (do not count as one of four required categories):

   BIOL 232 Plant Biology
   BIOL 224 Ecology & Conservation*
   CHEM 220 Analytical Chemistry*
   BIOL 395 Urban Ecology*
   BIOL 396 Entomology*
   BIOL 485 Topics in Biology: Trees*

* indicates that a course has a pre-requisite, usually a 100-level course in the same department

**Note:** Courses numbered 295, 395 and 495 are not permanent courses in the academic catalog and may not be offered regularly. Similarly, new courses with environmental or sustainability themes may be approved throughout the year that are not on the elective list. Students are encouraged to ask the Program Director for permission to count such courses as electives for the concentration. Additional special topics one-time course offerings may count as electives depending on content (e.g. ENGL, RELG); please discuss the suitability of these courses with the Program Director.
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