

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (ENV)

## ENV 101. Introduction to Environmental Studies. 3 Credits.

Environmental challenges are perhaps the greatest challenges that society faces today. Decisions made today will have ramifications far into the future. Now is the time to act. This course is inherently interdisciplinary because many disciplines are necessary to address these challenges. In this course we will explore "technology traps"- that is, new technology that solves one problem but creates another unforeseen problem. This course examines environmental justice, freshwater resources, plastics, energy, air pollution, climate change, food systems, and a topic of each student's choice. The course integrates fundamental scientific principles, legal concepts, economic theory, ethical implications of human interactions with the environment, and cultural-historic perspectives. We will also evaluate technical and policy solutions.

**Offered:** Every year, Fall

**UC:** Breadth Elective

## ENV 120. Foundations of Biology and Chemistry. 3 Credits.

A one-semester introductory course designed to give the student a background of basic concepts in biology and chemistry with emphasis on characteristics of life, structure and function of cells, tissues, organs and organisms, genetics, evolution and ecology, and bonding (ions and molecules), stoichiometry, states of matter, and solutions (solubility, acids, bases, and buffers). These concepts will be applied to upper-level environmental science courses. Minimum grade for majors in Sustainability and Environmental Policy and in the Environmental Studies co-major C-

**Corequisites:** Take ENV 120L.

**Offered:** As needed

**UC:** Natural Sciences

## ENV 120L. Foundations of Biology and Chemistry Lab. 1 Credit.

This course is designed to accompany the ENV 120 lecture. The purpose of the lab is to acquaint students with biology and chemistry laboratory equipment, procedures, and practices. The course is designed to provide an opportunity for the student to learn sampling and analysis techniques. Must be taken in conjunction with ENV 120. This course is designed for non-science majors. Minimum grade for majors in Sustainability and Environmental Policy and in the Environmental Studies co-major C-

**Corequisites:** Take ENV 120.

**Offered:** As needed

**UC:** Natural Sciences

## ENV 150. Introduction to Geography (GP 101). 3 Credits.

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts and fundamental issues in geography, focused on global interconnections and the variation in how humans use the Earth's surface. Major topics include the growth and distribution of human population; the localization and spatial characteristics of land use; geopolitics and colonialism; environmental geography; the geography of economic development; the geographic analysis of issues such as gender, racism, poverty, language, and religion.

**Offered:** Every year, All

## ENV 200. Special Topics. 3 Credits.

**Prerequisites:** Specific prerequisites vary depending on the focus of the course.

**Offered:** As needed

## ENV 201. Lessons in Local and Global Sustainability. 3 Credits.

In this course students will experience and learn what sustainability means on both local and global levels. Such experiential learning is accomplished through a Study Abroad trip to Costa Rica, where students will engage in a series of mini-courses associated with Earth University, a four-year institution whose faculty and students are committed to changing the world through sustainable methodologies. Through these mini-courses and interactions with Earth University students, ENV 201 students will understand the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability (including cultural, historical, sociological, economical and biological), requiring multiple approaches on both local and global levels. Or other suitable and equivalent locations, as opportunity permits.

**Prerequisites:** Take FYS 101 EN 101 and EN 102 or take FYS 101 and EN 103H

**Offered:** Every year, Fall

**UC:** Breadth Elective, Intercultural Understand

## ENV 203. Environmental Spanish (SP 203). 3 Credits.

This course is taught in Spanish and introduces students to vocabulary related to nature, the environment, protecting the planet, and also to the lexicon necessary to discuss topics in environmental science and policy. Students acquire important historical and cultural environmental perspectives from various Hispanic countries to understand more precisely present-day perceptions and efforts related to conservation and sustainability. Environmental issues and concerns in Spanish-speaking nations are explored. No previous science or environmental studies background is required. It is open to any student who can speak Spanish either as a heritage language speaker or who has had at least three years of Spanish in high school or at least three semesters in college. Students with less than the Spanish minimum prerequisite should contact the professor for permission to join.

**Offered:** As needed

**UC:** Breadth Elective

## ENV 209. Environmental Politics and Policy (PO 209). 3 Credits.

Perhaps no other issue area is as potentially disruptive to stability as that which is defined by the crises in our environment. From the local, to the national and global levels, the exhaustion of natural resources, population growth and threats presented by climate change and the accumulation of toxins and trash in the atmosphere, on land and in the world's oceans, demand the attention of government at every level. In this course, students engage with policy debate around these and other issues, such as the ways environmental issues overlap with issues of local and global justice. They explore the political factors that have influenced environmental policy debates historically and currently, in the U.S. and on comparative and international bases.

**Prerequisites:** Take PO 101 or FYS 101.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**UC:** Social Sciences

## ENV 213. The Nature Essay (EN 213). 3 Credits.

This advanced writing course focuses on the history and evolution of human thinking about nature and our relationship to it. Looking first at Biblical, Greek, Roman and Medieval sources, students concentrate on American writers, beginning with Lewis and Clark and ending with a longer reading by a contemporary naturalist writer (e.g., Annie Dillard, Norman Maclean, Terry Tempest Williams, Barry Lopez). In-class journals and formal writing assignments are used to advance discussion and emphasize persuasion and argumentation.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**UC:** Humanities

**ENV 215. Research Methods in Environmental Studies. 3 Credits.**

Students will learn in this course how to approach and conduct research in the field of Environmental Studies, an interdisciplinary field that is exceptionally broad in terms of the types of questions posed, the cultural, social, and scientific systems involved, and the myriad methodologies that can be applied to analyzing them. Students will learn about the various types of research methodologies, data collection and analysis, and the literature review process, culminating in a proposal for a viable research project.

**Prerequisites:** Take ENV 222 GP 222 ENV 230 or AN 230.

**Corequisites:** Take ENV 220L.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 220. Environmental Science. 3 Credits.**

This course explores the natural environment through the lens of biological, chemical, and physical processes to understand pressing environmental challenges including ecology and conservation, biodiversity decline, eutrophication, water resources, energy use and alternative fuels, air quality, and climate change. Must be taken in conjunction with ENV 220L. Majors in Environmental Science, Sustainability and Environmental Policy, and in the Environmental Studies co-major must have a minimum grade of C- in the pre-requisite course(s).

**Prerequisites:** Take ENV 120 ENV 120L or BIO 102 BIO 102L; and BIO 102 BIO 102L or BIO 151 BIO 151L.

**Corequisites:** Take ENV 220L.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 220L. Environmental Science Lab. 1 Credit.**

This one-credit laboratory course is designed to accompany the ENV 220 lecture. The purpose of the lab is to acquaint students with chemistry and biological laboratory equipment, procedures, and practices used in environmental science. The course is designed to provide an opportunity for the student to develop skills in experimental design, data analysis, and communication of scientific data. Must be taken in conjunction with ENV 220. Majors in Environmental Science, Sustainability and Environmental Policy, and in the Environmental Studies co-major must have a minimum grade of C- in the pre-requisite course(s).

**Prerequisites:** Take ENV 120 ENV 120L or CHE 210 CHE 210L; and Take BIO 102 BIO 102L or BIO 151 BIO 151L;

**Corequisites:** Take ENV 220.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 221. American Environmental History (HS 220). 3 Credits.**

This course examines American society's interaction with nature since the arrival of Europeans in the 15th century. Students consider the intentions and values that guided the use of America's natural resources and the transformation of its landscape. While this historical legacy is most apparent in America's agricultural, industrial and conservation activities, it has been equally profound in the rise of America's environmental movement, tourism, recreation, ecological research and global environmental awareness. Since we are located in the New England/Mid-Atlantic region, this course occasionally departs from the broad survey of American environmental history and treats issues that are particularly germane to the region.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**UC:** Humanities

**ENV 222. Environmental Geography and Culture (GP 222). 3 Credits.**

This course provides students with an understanding of the fundamental concepts of environmental geography. It introduces students to ways in which humans affect the environment, the effect our environment has had upon humans, as well as the conceptualization and implementation of sustainability. Students are exposed to the cultures, environments, and peoples of the world.

**Offered:** As needed, All

**ENV 223. Plastics-Miracle Or Curse?. 3 Credits.**

In this course, we will attempt to answer the following question: are plastics a miracle or a curse? We will explore the differences between natural and synthetic plastics, and how plastic production (and recycling) has changed since the 19th century. We will also evaluate our individual reliance on synthetic plastics - and consider how it is possible that plastics not only help humanity and the environment but also cause significant harm. Finally, we will study how issues associated with plastic use extend well beyond the solid waste stream in landfills to the Great Garbage Patches of the world's oceans. You will have the opportunity to inventory your plastic use and recycling and share your information and thoughts on this subject through various platforms and reflective writing assignments.

**Offered:** Every year, Fall and Spring

**ENV 226. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credits.**

In this course, students critically assess environmental ethical issues arising at the intersections of philosophy and the sciences, using relevant ethical theory and evidence. Issues examined include but are not limited to: climate change; climate change denialism and public engagement with scientists and the sciences; the ethics of innovations in the discrete sciences; habitat preservation and loss; resource depletion; rights of humans, non-human animals, and ecosystems; ecocentrism; pollution; health; energy; corporate responsibility; sustainability; climate justice; environmental migration; future generations. Students explore individual, societal, and global perspectives on environmental ethics, and critically assess responses to environmental injustices and inequalities, including those of race, gender, and class.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**ENV 230. Sustainable Development (AN 230). 3 Credits.**

The principles of sustainable development currently unify the approach used to mediate the relationship between human societies and the natural environment. In this explicitly interdisciplinary course, students will approach the policy and management challenges associated with the environment from sociocultural, economic, legal, ethical, and political perspectives. They will use this interdisciplinary framework to interrogate and critique policy related to social, economic and political development at the local, regional and global levels.

**Offered:** As needed

**UC:** Social Sciences, Intercultural Understand

**ENV 235. Reading the Environment (EN 230). 3 Credits.**

We live at an unprecedented juncture in human and natural history: the burning of greenhouse gases for energy has transformed the world, initiating a period of human abundance and environmental destruction. In this class, students read texts that address the environment, seeking to understand the rhetorical and generic gestures through which we engage our carbon-based realities.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring

**UC:** Humanities

**ENV 238. Philosophy of Technology, Environment and Social Transformation (PL 238). 3 Credits.**

What is technology? How do science and technology relate to human values? What role should technology play in our everyday lives? Do technological developments result in greater freedom? How should technology shape our cities and the natural environment, now and in the future? Students in this course critically examine these and other related issues, using a range of philosophical texts, science fiction and film.

**Prerequisites:** Take one 100-level philosophy course or FYS 101.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**UC:** Humanities

**ENV 240. Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems. 3 Credits.**

In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of using geographic information systems (GIS) for environmental modeling and decision making.

**Prerequisites:** Take GP 222 ENV 222 or GP 101.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 243. Ancient Food For Thought (AN 243). 3 Credits.**

In this course, students explore the origins (and consequences) of food production and consumption from an anthropological perspective. Participants examine evidence for ancient diets in a variety of different societies (hunter-gatherer, pastoral and agricultural). They analyze the relationship between our diet and other aspects of culture and explore how these types of societies have changed over the past several thousand years. Students then review contemporary environmental and health problems related to food production and consumption and draw from the past to understand and potentially address these issues.

**Offered:** Every year, Fall

**UC:** Social Sciences, Intercultural Understand

**ENV 272. Sh t Happens: a Natural History of Human Waste (AN 272). 3 Credits.**

This course will explore the natural history of human excrement. Human waste is something that we are all intimately familiar with, yet rarely discuss (or at least, we rarely admit to discussing it). But, it tells an incredible story about our lives and our interactions with the environment. We study ancient feces to learn about diet and health in the past; we look at cross-cultural studies to understand different types of contemporary waste disposal and cultural understanding of human waste; we learn about the gut microbiome, which may influence our emotions; we study our closest living relatives and their relationship with bodily waste.

**Offered:** Every year, Spring

**UC:** Breadth Elective

**ENV 282. Global Environmental History (HS 282). 3 Credits.**

This course will provide an introduction to the major issues in global environmental history and their relevance to contemporary global environmental politics. The first half of this class will focus on how approaches to environmental management have differed across the world due to differences in culture, politics, history, and ecology. The second half of the course will focus on explaining the origins of contemporary environmentalism, as well as why global disparities in environmental regulation continue to exist.

**Offered:** Every other year, All

**UC:** Humanities

**ENV 300. Special Topics. 3 Credits.**

**Prerequisites:** Specific prerequisites vary depending on the focus of the course.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 304. Environmental Economics (EC 304). 3 Credits.**

This course examines environmental issues and their economic impact. Topics include economic efficiency both in market and nonmarket activities; dynamic efficiency for nonrenewable and renewable resources; how environmental problems are modeled from an economic perspective; and principles of environmental policy design at the state and federal level.

**Prerequisites:** Take EC 111.

**Offered:** Every other year

**ENV 323. Human and Economic Geography (GP 323). 4 Credits.**

The course provides an introduction to human and economic geography through conceptual models and theories, practical application of geographic principles, and the study of the current state of the world. With regard to human geography, the course introduces students to the basic concepts involved in geographic study, including the study of human populations, the connections between human society and the natural world, and the idea of culture as a geographic construct. The course then turns to a consideration of economic aspects of geography, particularly the study of resource industries, manufacturing, and the service sector of the economy. NOTE: This 4-credit course is designed for the Online Completion Program and runs fully online over a 7-week period. Students should therefore expect to devote double the typical amount of time to fulfilling the requirements for this intensive course.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 349. American Maritime History (HS 349). 3 Credits.**

This course examines America's historic activities on the world's oceans, and on the bays, rivers and Great Lakes that are within its national boundaries. Students consider the economic, cultural, political and naval uses of these bodies of water from the 16th century to the present. Within this broad framework, this course considers how Americans used marine and freshwater environments to conduct trade, build communities, engage in war and diplomacy, use nature's bounty and participate in recreational activities. These themes illuminate the value Americans placed on maritime affairs, and provide insight into the American mariner's world, the American maritime community alongshore and the rippling effects of maritime activity throughout wider American society.

**Prerequisites:** Take one 200-level history course.

**Offered:** Every other year, All

**ENV 350. Environmental Studies Practicum. 1-4 Credits.**

Environmental issues pose some of the greatest concerns facing our planet. Problems like global warming, acid rain, urban sprawl, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity and deforestation affect all our communities. Students will study sustainability and environmental science/policy in the US or abroad, in an immersive experience where they will meet and learn from individuals from across the country and around the world. Students will explore humanity's complex relationship with the environment and will deepen their knowledge of distinct cultures and environmental issues while arming themselves with tools for tackling unique challenges in various environments.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 355. Environmental Law (LE 355). 3 Credits.**

This course provides an overview of federal environmental law, the way law protects the natural environment and government policies created to protect or exploit the environment. In this class, we explore issues impacting the environment, and how the law can both benefit and disadvantage the environment. (Practice)

**Prerequisites:** Take 6 credits from legal studies courses.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**ENV 356. International Environmental Law (LE 356). 3 Credits.**

This course gives students an overview of the legal and political framework that constitutes international environmental law. We examine the characteristics of international law and distinguish it from domestic law, looking at the various actors and their roles in the system. Students become familiar with the key principles of international environmental law such as the precautionary principle, sovereignty and sustainable development. Issues examined include climate change, the oceans, and the relationship between trade and the environment. (Alternative Perspective)

**Prerequisites:** Take 6 credits from legal studies courses.

**Offered:** Every other year, Fall

**ENV 390. Environmental Writing (EN 390). 3 Credits.**

This course considers the rhetoric of environmental communication. How can we write to reach audiences both professional and public? Explaining scientific knowledge is tricky at the best of times, but environmental communication is now burdened by extraordinary political, social, and cultural complexities. You will develop your rhetorical sensitivity and linguistic facility by analyzing historical examples and practicing genres (both technical genres like the proposal and public facing ones like articles and essays).

**Prerequisites:** Take EN 101 and EN 102; or EN 103H.

**Offered:** As needed

**ENV 399. Interdisciplinary Independent Study. 1-6 Credits.**

Specific prerequisites vary depending on the focus of the course.

**Prerequisites:** Specific prerequisites vary depending on the focus of the course.

**Offered:** As needed