COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The College of the Environment at Wesleyan University was created with a belief in the resilience of the human spirit and a desire to develop a long-term vision of human and ecosystem health. There are four parts to the College of the Environment: the environmental studies (ENVS) linked major or a minor, an annual think tank, research opportunities, and community outreach. Our mission, simply stated: to change the world.

The I (catalog.wesleyan.edu/departments/envs/ugrd-envs/linked-major program in environmental studies (ENVS) is the secondary major to a primary major (see Undergraduate tab, at top right, for details). Students cannot obtain the BA degree with ENVS as their only major. Students must complete all the requirements for graduation from their primary major in addition to those of ENVS as their linked major. Each student will work closely with an ENVS advisor to develop an individual course of study. ENVS requires an introductory course, the sophomore seminar, six elective courses, the senior colloquium, and a senior capstone project (thesis, essay, performance, etc.) on an environmental topic that is researched, mentored, and credited in the primary major program, although other options are possible. In addition, students must take one course in any subject that fulfills the writing essential capability.

A minor in environmental studies is also offered (see Undergraduate tab, at top right, for details).

More information about the College of Environment can be found here. (https://www.wesleyan.edu/coe/)

AFFILIATED FACULTY

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William R. Pinch

ENVS135 American Food
This course investigates topics in the history of food production from the colonial period to the present day, with emphasis on the American contribution to the development of world food systems and cultures of consumption. Topics to be addressed include the production of agricultural commodities, development of national markets, mass production of food, industrialization of agriculture, and the recent emergence of organics, slow food, and local movements.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST135
Prereq: None

ENVS186 Justifying Space: The History and Future of Space Exploration Visions
This will be a seminar class about the changing visions and motivations for space exploration, historically and to the present day. Readings will include historical perspectives such as those of K. Tsiolkovsky, H.G. Wells, Arthur C. Clarke, Gerard O’Neil, and Carl Sagan, the poetry of Diane Ackerman, the newsletters of space enthusiast organizations such as the National Space Society, the LS society, and the Planetary Society, as well as more current readings from the popular and space policy literature. Perspectives will also include other cultural reference frames through readings from the literatures of Afrofuturism and Chinese science fiction. Through selected readings from both the fiction and nonfiction literature, students will become familiar with the history of space advocacy, and the various idealistic and utopian predictions and visions that have been associated over time with ideas of human crewed and uncrewed space exploration. We will look critically at how past visions and promises have measured up against the reality of space exploration and also, through this lens, critically examine the visions and motivations being espoused by today’s range of government and corporate space organizations and enthusiasts.
ENVS188 Neotropical Acuatic Ecosystems: Their Importance, Sustainable Use and Conservation

This course will examine why the Orinoco and Amazon basins in South America harbor a biological richness much larger than other river basins around the world. About 50% of all higher plant species of the world are included in these basins. Data on vertebrates showed that about 3,000 freshwater fish species, thousands of birds (migratory and local), and hundreds of amphibians, reptiles, and mammals have been found so far in those basins geographically included in six countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. We will examine the key factors that have affected their historical-geological development, the actual richness, and the threats to sustainable development and conservation. We will ask questions about the nature and interactions of the key factors and agents that harbor and transformed the high ichthyological and other aquatic biota diversity, reflected by the wide range of landscapes and aquatic ecosystems included in those basins. We will try to identify fragile aquatic ecosystems depending upon the biological richness, endemicity, importance for local communities, and potential threats. We will examine the current trends in the fisheries, forest exploitation, and agriculture for human consumption, noting that stocks of many species of fish are in steep decline, and that current fishing practices are not sustainable. Finally, the major impacts and threats faced by the fishes and aquatic ecosystems of the Orinoco River Basin are discussed with the purpose of studying potential plans for sustainable development. The course is presented in a reading/discussion format in which all readings, writings, and discussions will be in Spanish.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS197 Introduction to Environmental Studies

This interdisciplinary study of human interactions with the environment and the implications for the quality of life examines the technical and social causes of environmental degradation at local and global scales, along with the potential for developing policies and philosophies that are the basis of a sustainable society. This will include an introduction to ecosystems, climatic and geochemical cycles, and the use of biotic and abiotic resources over time. It includes the relationship of societies and the environment from prehistoric times to the present. Interrelationships, feedback loops, cycles, and linkages within and among social, economic, governmental, cultural, and scientific components of environmental issues will be emphasized.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: LAST188
Prereq: SPAN221

ENVS203 The Secrets of Ancient Bones: Discovering Ancient DNA and Archaeology

New analyses of ancient DNA preserved for millennia in bones and soils have revolutionized the field of archaeology. Suddenly, archaeologists have gained new insight into human origins, past population migrations, ancient diseases, plant and animal domestication, and even the factors that contributed to the extinctions of megafauna such as woolly mammoths. Recent genetic case studies will provide a lens for learning about the archaeology of diverse world regions and time periods, from Oceania to Mesoamerica and from the Paleolithic through recent history. Topics will include: human evolution and genetic relationships between humans, Neanderthals, and Denisovans; the peopling of the globe; extinction and de-extinction; domestication and the origins of agriculture; paleodiseases and paleodiets; and ethics in genetic research.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ARCP
Identical With: ARCP203, ANTH212
Prereq: None

ENVS204 Extreme Landscapes of the Anthropocene

The ‘Anthropocene,’ a term coined to categorize the current geological epoch, has become a way in which social scientists can critically and creatively engage with the impact of humanity on the ecological well-being of Earth. The interdisciplinary and uncertain nature of this subject matter provides space for experimental writing styles, innovative approaches to storytelling, and critical discussion and debate. This course is designed to explore and challenge the term ‘Anthropocene,’ questioning how narrative and drama are entangled in the dissemination of complex truths, for better or worse.

In this course, we will consider texts, short films, and other mixed media that investigate the everydayness of extreme landscapes, from ‘capitalist ruins’ to the depleting seas. We will dive into the social, political, economic, and scientific power-scapes that influence narratives about the environment, from late liberal ideology to corporate influence on science and the news. Through the course materials and activities, we will question how to communicate complex information with a broad range of people, particularly surrounding issues of climate change, sustainability, and environmental justice. Each student will build their own writing portfolio of short essays for specific audiences. The class will collectively build and design a storytelling website where they can share their work. Students are encouraged to apply an ethics of care and the art of ‘non-judgmental attention’ to their critical engagement with the Anthropocene.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP204, WRCT204, ANTH204
Prereq: None

ENVS201 Sophomore Seminar in Environmental Studies

This course is designed to introduce students to critical methods for conducting research on environmental issues. Students will gain in-depth experience with methods and paradigms of inquiry from multiple lenses including arts, humanities, and the social and natural sciences as a primer for performing research in the ENVS major. We will explore environmental theory and management at various levels of organization from ecosystems to human communities and countries. This course will challenge the students to rethink the human-environment relationship by recasting policy and science in the context of social-ecological systems. Students will be responsible for weekly writing assignments and discussions on the critical environmental issues of our time. Through the process of reflection, writing, and discussion, students will engage in deep inquiry, exploration, and research of environmental issues and their potential solutions. In the process, students will learn and apply the four stages of scholarly research: (1) critique contemporary theory, (2) identify critical questions and research needs; (3) analysis; and (4) synthesis.
ENVS205 Sciences as Social and Cultural Practices
Philosophers long construed scientific knowledge as achieved and assessed by individual knowers, but recent work has recognized a greater epistemic role for scientific communities, disciplines, or practices and has taken seriously the social and cultural context of scientific research. This course surveys some of the social, cultural, and political aspects of the sciences that have been most important for scholars in science studies, including differences between experimental, field, and theoretical science; the role of disciplines and other institutions in the sciences; interactions between science and its various publics; the politics of scientific expertise and science policy; the globalization of science; the social dimensions of scientific normativity, from metrology to conceptions of objectivity; race and gender in science; and conceptual exchanges between sciences and other discursive practices. The concept of the social will also receive critical attention in its purported contrasts to what is individual, natural, rational, or cultural.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP205, PHIL288
Prereq: None

ENVS206 Public Policy
This course will provide a survey of several key public policies. It will begin with an exploration of the policy-making process and policy design. The remainder of the course will be devoted to the examination of several key public policy areas including criminal justice, education, social welfare, economic policy, and environmental protection regulation. By integrating theoretical literature with case studies of different policies written from a variety of perspectives, the course aims to develop analytical skills as well as an appreciation for the technical and political complexities of policy-making.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOV
Identical With: GOVT206
Prereq: None

ENVS208 System Mapping for Social and Environmental Impact
In recent years, growing interest in social entrepreneurship has pushed students to 'solve' complex social and environmental problems with new ventures of their own design. Unfortunately, this approach often overlooks a critical foundation of social change: understanding the root causes of problems and the contexts that surround them before seeking solutions.

In this six-week, half-credit class, students will study a problem and the systems that surround it. By the end of the course, students will create a 'systems map' that documents the economic, political, and cultural factors behind their problem, as well as the current 'solutions landscape.'
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ALLB
Identical With: CSP/L257, AFAM257
Prereq: None

ENVS211 History of Ecology
The word 'ecology' has come to have many meanings and connotations: a scientific field dealing with the relation of organisms and the environment, a way of thinking about the world emphasizing holism and interconnection, a handmaiden of the environmental movement, to name a few. This course covers the history of ecology as a scientific discipline from the 18th-century natural history tradition to the development of population, ecosystem, and evolutionary ecology in the 20th century, situating the science in its cultural, political, and social contexts. Along the way, it traces the connections between ecology and economic development, political theory, ideas about society, the management of natural resources, the preservation of wilderness, and environmental politics. How have scientists, citizens, and activists made use of ecological ideas, and to what ends? How have they understood and envisioned the human place in nature? How have the landscapes and places in which ecologists have done their work shaped their ideas? Other major themes include the relationship between theories of nature and theories of society, ecology and empire, the relationship between place and knowledge about nature, the development of ecology as a professional discipline, the role of ecologists as environmental experts, the relationship between the state and the development of ecological knowledge, and the relationships among ecology, conservation, agriculture, and environmentalism.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST221, SISP221
Prereq: None

ENVS212 Introduction to Ethics
This course will begin with some ancient questions about values. We find that two ancient approaches to right living (Platonic-Stoic and Aristotelian) differ radically over how much experience or society can teach us about what is good. Yet both insist that moral life is essentially connected to individual happiness.

Turning next to modern ideas of moral action (Kantian and utilitarian), we find that they both emphasize a potential gulf between individual happiness and moral rightness. Yet, like the ancients, they disagree over whether morality's basic insights derive from experience.

The last third of the course explores more recent preoccupations with ideas about moral difference, moral change, and the relation between morality and power. Especially since Marx and Nietzsche, moral theory faces a sustained challenge from social theorists who allege moral norms and judgments serve hidden ideological purposes. Some have sought to repair universal ethics by giving an account of progress or the overcoming of bias, while others have argued for plural or relative ethics. Ecological critics have challenged moral theorists to overcome their preoccupation with exclusively human interests and ideals. What kinds of moral reflection might be adequate to problems of global interdependence?

Students will come to understand the distinctive insights and arguments behind all of the positions considered, to recognize more and less cogent lines of response to them, and to shape their own patterns of moral reasoning through careful reflection.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL212
Prereq: None

ENVS215 Humans, Animals, and Nature
A variety of important issues are central to understanding the complexity of relationships between humans, nonhumans, and the rest of nature. The goals of the course are to help students to think critically, to read carefully, to argue well, and to defend their own reasoned views about the moral relations between humans, animals, and nature.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL215
technoscience enables us to investigate the technological and scientific practices through which bodies (both human and not human) and societies (again, human Metabolism encompasses all of the biological and technosocial processes at the meso-level of social collectivities, and at the macro-level of global ecologies. This course emphasizes several learning goals in biology, including skill in formulating original ideas and experiments, using quantitative and graphical tools and interpreting quantitative information, and scientific writing.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL216
Prereq: [BIOL182 or MB&B182]

ENVS220 Conservation Biology
This course will focus on the biology of conservation rather than cultural aspects of conservation. However, conservation issues will be placed in the context of ethics, economics, and politics. We will cover the fundamental processes that threaten wild populations, structure ecological communities, and determine the functioning of ecosystems. From this basis, we will explore important conservation issues such as habitat loss and alteration, overharvesting, food web alteration, invasive species, and climate change. We will use readings from the primary literature and field projects to learn about current research methods used in conservation biology.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL220
Prereq: [BIOL182 or MB&B182]

ENVS221 Ecology
Ecology is the scientific study of interactions between organisms and their environment, both biotic and abiotic. We will look at how these interactions shape fundamental characteristics of populations, communities, and ecosystems. Topics will include predation, competition, symbioses, and effects of stress and resource limitation in diverse environments. We will cover important consequences of interactions such as coevolution, population outbreaks, ecological coexistence, patterns of biodiversity, ecological succession, species invasions, food web dynamics, nutrient and energy cycling, variation in ecosystem goods and services, and global change.

ENVS222 Metabolism and Technoscience
This course will investigate the scientific idea of metabolism through the lens of technoscience. Metabolism is a flexible and mobile scientific idea, one that has been applied at the micro-level of analysis within biological organisms, at the meso-level of social collectivities, and at the macro-level of global ecologies. Metabolism encompasses all of the biological and technosocial processes through which bodies (both human and not human) and societies (again, human and not) create and use nutrients, medicines, toxins, and fuels. The lens of technoscience enables us to investigate the technological and scientific practices that define and drive metabolic processes within sciences, cultures, and political economies. These processes implicate forces of production, consumption, labor, absorption, medicalization, appropriation, expansion, growth, surveillance, regulation, and enumeration. Accordingly, as we will learn, metabolism is also a profoundly political process that is inextricably linked to systems that create structural and symbolic violence as well as modes of resistance and struggle.

In these contexts, we will interpret some of the most pressing metabolic crises facing human societies, including ecological disaster, industrial food regimes, metabolic health problems, and industrial-scale pollution.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SISP
Identical With: SISP215
Prereq: None

ENVS223 Traditional China: Eco-civilization and Its Discontents
This course introduces students to the history of China from ancient times to the middle of the Ming Dynasty circa 1450. This is a period when China invented and reshaped its cultural identity by moving into new frontiers and creatively incorporating foreign ideas with indigenous practices. It is also a period when the natural environment was drastically transformed by agrarian civilizations and nomadic neighbors.

The course places concepts of sustainability in the center of the history of traditional China. We will draw on translations of Chinese literary texts including poetry, classical prose, and novels to explore the relationship between power and social inequities as we explore the everyday politics of agrarian civilizations through China’s transformation from feudal ages to the imperial period. Did competing regimes/dynasties create a sustainable political and economic system? Did bureaucrats improve the well-being of the population and maintain the balance of the ecosystem? Or did they deplete natural resources to meet their short-term needs? How did Confucian, Legalist, Buddhist, and Daoist teachings alter the dynamics of production and consumption? To what extent did traditional Chinese philosophies promote the ethos of ecojustice?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST223, CEAS223, WLIT224
Prereq: None

ENVS225 Liminal Animals: Animals in Urban Spaces
This course examines the major ways in which nonhuman animals influence and are influenced by human-built environments, with specific attention to the ethical, political, and social dimensions of human-animal interactions in these spaces. Discussions, films, readings, and an independent research project will introduce students to key concepts related to urban/suburban animal life. Specifically, it will focus on topics including the use of animals for food, the use of animals as spectacle or entertainment, animals as human companions, urban wildlife, ‘invasive’ species, ‘vermin’ and ‘problem’ animals, animals and the law, ecological webs, and human encroachment in animal spaces.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

ENVS226 Invasive Species: Biology, Policy, and Management
Invasive species account for 39 percent of the known species extinctions on Earth, and they are responsible for environmental damages totaling greater than $138 billion per year. However, the general population has little knowledge of what invasive species are or what threats they pose to society. In this course, we will explore the biological, economic, political, and social impacts of invasive...
species. We will begin by exploring a definition of an invasive species and looking at the life history characteristics that make them likely to become pests. Then we will consider the effects of invasive species expansion on the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem function, as well as their global environmental and political impacts. Finally, we will explore the potential future changes in invasive species distributions under a changing climate.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL226, E&ES240
Prereq: [E&ES197 or BIOL197 or ENVS197] OR [BIOL182 or MB&B182] OR E&ES199

ENVS228 Going Green, German-Style: The Relationship to Nature, 1800–Today

Few countries display as active a commitment to protect natural resources and the environment as Germany. Its focus on renewable energies, recycling, and conservation in general is unique even by European standards, and in the U.S., Germany’s policies on sustainability and environmental preservation are often held up as models. It is important to recognize, however, that Germans did not achieve this degree of environmental awareness overnight. Rather, it represents the result of centuries of contemplating, controlling, and conserving nature and cannot simply be transferred to other cultures. In this course, we will examine the German (and European) cultural tradition by analyzing artworks and texts from the past two centuries that have both expressed and shaped salient attitudes and emotional responses. The goals of the course are to provide insight into Germany’s long and complicated history of defining and relating to nature and to allow you to reflect critically on your own attitudes toward nature and the environment.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST228, GELT228
Prereq: None

ENVS230F The Simple Life (FYS)

As the human population grows toward nine billion and our planet’s carrying capacity comes under increasing pressure, many observers believe the human project itself is at risk. What human beings have accomplished is probably unique in the history of the universe; once lost to war, famine, and ecological collapse, the understandings and physical creations of our cultures will be irrecoverable. We must ask ourselves, with considerable urgency, the following questions: How do our values, our economic systems, and our behaviors—as individuals, groups, societies, and cultures—affect the conditions under which we, future generations, and the plants and animals with which we share the earth might live in the future? To what extent and at what cost can technology enable us to adapt to changes already under way? Should we take an ‘après moi, le déluge’ attitude or try to prolong the life of our species, and if so, in what form? Does the so-called simple life, as conceptualized in different times and places, offer any useful models? Does living ‘green’ make sense? What about environmental (in)justice?

This course will draw on texts from a variety of periods and disciplines, written in a range of styles and from many perspectives, to examine how these questions and others can be approached. Creative thinking will be strongly encouraged. We will pay particular attention to contemporary sustainability initiatives and threats to the environment in the present moment.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-GRST
Identical With: GRST230F, GELT230F
Prereq: None

ENVS233 Geobiology

Fossils provide a glimpse into the form and structure of ancient ecosystems. Geobiology is the study of the two-way interactions between life (biology) and rocks (geology); typically, this involves studying fossils within the context of their sedimentary setting. In this course we will explore the geologic record of these interactions, including the fundamentals of evolutionary patterns, the origins and evolution of early life, mass extinctions, and the history of the impact of life on climate.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-EES
Identical With: E&ES234, BIOL233
Prereq: E&ES101 OR E&ES115 OR E&ES199 OR [E&ES197 or BIOL197 or ENVS197]

ENVS235 Radical Sustainability

The year 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. Writings and legislation from that time sought to discuss and address the many growing environmental challenges the world faced. The idea of sustainability became current: to create conditions for the human presence to endure, along with the ecosystems in which it is embedded.

Despite some successes, the challenges remain and have grown since that time. The many problems we face are hard to deal with in isolation, and no amount of effort seems enough to keep up as the problems worsen. The climate crisis is a case in point. Maybe we haven’t worked hard enough, or maybe we’ve been going about sustainability the wrong way.

Radical Sustainability explores the intersection of these now critical challenges—extinction, climate change, and many others—as well as the physical and social constraints on action to address them. Our aim is to identify the pressure points for an effective response, within the geo-ecosystem and the human systems embedded within it. Radical Sustainability is radical both by being fundamental and by being activist, recognizing that sustained large-scale change is urgently necessary if we are to persist and thrive on an Earth that itself is changing.

In addition to studying physical science, which establishes the conditions for the life of all beings, a justice-aware sustainability requires us to think scientifically about society as well. The course will consist of lecture, discussion, visits from experts, field trips, and class actions to promote competent and effective engagement with the issues.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-PHYS
Identical With: PHYS105
Prereq: None

ENVS236 Nuclear Power Plant Design and the Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima Accidents

This course provides an introduction to radiation, nuclear physics, and nuclear power plant design. It will trace the steps that led to the three most well-known nuclear power plant accidents: Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima. It provides information useful for evaluating the impact of nuclear power on environmental decision-making.

Starting with a history of the atomic discoveries and fundamental physics that led to the atomic bomb production at the end of WWII, the course will then trace the design steps that allowed commercial nuclear power plants to evolve from those weapon-making discoveries. Finally it will trace the accidents and the aftermath from the Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima nuclear power accidents.

Offering: Crosslisting
data and methods for continuous variables. In addition to basic statistics, we will cover regression, ANOVA, and contingency tables.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL242, BIOL542, E&ES270, E&ES570
Prereq: None

ENVS245 Climate, Change, and the Ancient World
Climate change has recently become shorthand for Global Warming, the clearcutting of rainforests, and the burning of fossil fuels. Yet while anthropogenic climate change on the global scale is indeed a modern phenomenon, climate change itself is nothing new, and human societies have been negotiating their natural world for millennia: adapting to changing conditions by inventing new technologies, adopting new social structures, and even modifying the landscapes around them.

Examples from around the world, including Africa, the Mediterranean, Australia, the Americas, Asia, and the British Isles, will be used to examine how past societies perceived and interacted with their environments. Aspects of collecting, analyzing and interpreting various climate proxies, and the theoretical foundations for interpreting their relevance to archaeological questions, will constitute major components of this course.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ARCP
Identical With: ARCP245
Prereq: None

ENVS248 Environmental Investigation and Remediation
This course will cover environmental investigation and remediation methods in varying geologic settings and how they have changed over time due to regulatory changes and advances in technology. An introduction to various aspects of environmental consulting will be incorporated throughout the term using case studies, guest lecturers, and emerging trends and research from online sources.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-EE5
Identical With: E&ES248
Prereq: E&ES101 OR E&ES115 OR E&ES199 OR E&ES197

ENVS252 Industrializations: Commodities in World History
This course defines 'industrialization' broadly to encompass the development and application of systematic knowledge to agriculture and manufacturing in 18th- to 21st-century societies. Although special attention will be devoted to the British and American examples, the course will be organized by commodity rather than nationality, focusing on traffic in materials used in production of food, clothing, and medicines, for example, cotton, rubber, guano, wheat, bananas, and quinine.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST252
Prereq: None

ENVS254 Architecture of the 20th Century
The course considers influential works in architecture, its theory and criticism, and ideas for urbanism, mostly in Europe and the United States, from about 1900 to the present. Early parts of the semester focus on the origin and development of the modern movement in Europe to 1940, with attention given to selected American developments before World War II. Later parts of the course deal
The course has no formal prerequisites and will introduce material from ecology and microbiology, as needed, to allow students to read and interpret the recent literature on global change and infectious disease.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL173
Prereq: None

ENVS261 Science Materials For a Malagasy Classroom

Students will design and produce a variety of educational science materials to be used in a fifth grade classroom in Madagascar. These items include a science logo, bookmarks, educational science games, posters, and a comic book with conservation themes for children. Students who are interested in design and natural history as a means through which to communicate science themes on wildlife endemism, evolution, and climate change would be appropriate for this course. All students will need to conduct independent research into science topics, distill down the salient features, and use that information to design elementary school materials. Working both individually and in teams, students will conceive, design, critique, and move into product production (MakerSpace). In addition, prototypes of the materials will be reviewed and rated by fifth graders in a Middletown elementary school for feedback.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL161, IDEA261
Prereq: None

ENVS263B Curatorial Workshop: Art and the Ecological Imagination, 1840-1870

This course examines the emergence of an ‘ecological consciousness’ in art during the mid-19th century through readings, discussion, and firsthand study of works in the Davison Art Center print collection. Although the term ‘ecology’ was first coined in 1866, 19th-century thinkers had long been concerned with the interrelationship of organisms, including humans’ place and impact on nature. This class examines how visual artists before Impressionism contributed to the 19th century’s ‘ecological imagination’ through their representations of landscapes. Known as the ‘Barbizon School,’ this group of artists left the metropolis of Paris to immerse themselves in the wild and rugged terrain of the Fontainebleau Forest while also embarking on journeys to remote regions of France. These members of the first artists’ colony seduced from the French Academy of Fine Arts and pursued strategies of independence that were allied at the time with radical politics. In their works they experimented with new materials and approaches to composition that included but no longer prioritized humans, in order to foreground processes of transformation internal to nature itself. The consciousness that artists forged through painting and printmaking led them to become among the world’s first conservationists; they successfully petitioned the French government to protect parts of the Forest of Fontainebleau some 20 years before the creation of the first National Park in the United States.

The first half of the course will be devoted to reading and discussion; the second half will center on the study of works in the Davison Art Collection, which includes a superb collection of original and experimental prints by Barbizon School artists. The final project will be the curation of a temporary exhibition of works from the collection, including a selection and arrangement of works, explanatory texts, and a public gallery talk.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART
Identical With: ARHA263B, RL&L235B
ENVS264 Waterways: Maritime World History
Human history has been shaped by the sea. Whether as a source of food, a frontier, a boundary, or a bridge, the sea has represented a site of both opportunity and danger. This course will examine the way humans have responded to their marine and maritime environments, both in terms of the technologies they have developed to navigate and exploit them but also insofar as the sea has shaped the way humans think about themselves. While our inquiry will extend into the deep past and the early development of human culture and civilization, we will focus on maritime history over the past millennium, the development of oceanic worlds, the rise of the ‘age of sail’ between the 16th and 19th centuries, and the transformation of global navigation and politics with the rise of steam, diesel, and nuclear power.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST264
Prereq: None

ENVS267 Development in Question: Conservation in Africa
‘Why not plant trees?’ In 1977 Wangari Maathai started the Green Belt Movement, a popular environmental revolution, in Kenya. Then in the 1990s Nigeria Ken Saro-Wiwa fought for the rights of local communities against the multi-national oil industry. Like many African activists, scientists, and farmers, they placed African experiences at the center of environmental policy and conservation. Yet, popular images of the continent’s environment in perpetual crisis blame African practices or disregard African efforts. Such depictions of ‘desertification’ or ‘over grazing’ have impacted international and governmental policy. Recent scholarship suggests that such common perceptions of the environment in Africa and conservation policy are misleading. This course will allow students to critically study the history of environmental management on the continent and the development of the idea of conservation. We will examine game park politics, the history of resource extraction, climate change, and other pressing environmental concerns. We will also study diverse African environmental perspectives from the guardians of sacred forests to activists such as Wangari Maathai and Ken Saro-Wiwa.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: HIST267
Prereq: None

ENVS268 North America Before Columbus
Sometime before the end of the Pleistocene, people living in Siberia or along the Pacific Coast of Asia traveled east and found an hemisphere of arctic, temperate, and tropical climates uninhabited by other humans. Over the next 12,000 years or more, populations diversified into, and thrived in, a range of environments--the last great experiment in human adaptation. This course will follow that process as it unfolded across the continent of North America, from the earliest Paleontologists through 1491. Particular emphasis will be on the nature and timing of the colonization(s) of North America from Asia, the impact of environmental diversity across the continent, and the rise of complex societies.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ANTH268, ARCP268
Prereq: None

ENVS270 Environmental Philosophy
This course offers philosophical resources for understanding and addressing environmental concerns. At the same time, we will recognize how ecological insights challenge some of the most influential ideas in the European philosophical tradition--human-centered and individualist accounts of existence, agency, knowledge, and value.
Shared questions may include:
Is there a coherent way of distinguishing ‘nature’ from the non-natural?
What can we understand about non-human experience and value?
How do people become motivated to recognize and respond to problems whose effects play out in far-away or unfamiliar bodies?
How do concepts of moral responsibility apply to climate change?
How does environmentally directed action relate to social justice?
When there are ecological impacts attached to choices that are conventionally seen as matters of personal liberty (such as food choices, living arrangements, reproductive choices), how do we constructively engage with one another?
Despite near consensus about our times being rife with environmental crises, concepts like ‘environment’ and ‘nature’ defy any straightforward account. Similarly, it seems even when people come together around problems of injustice and unsustainability, they may not share any clear positive account of justice or of sustainability.
Rather than be defeated by the lack of shared foundational concepts, students will become familiar with at least three patterns of critique--each of these being not a theory or kind of information but a set of skills with perceptual, conceptual, and dialogical aspects. These three patterns of critique are ecological critique, standpoint critique, and sustainability critiques, and they correspond roughly to three traditional domains of philosophy: inquiry into being (metaphysics), inquiry into knowledge and understanding (epistemology), and inquiry into norms and ideals for action (ethics).
Understanding these three patterns of critique allows students to address emerging environmental problems more effectively, recognizing the intertwined relations among empirical inquiry, moral accountability, and social justice.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL270
Prereq: None

ENVS273 Environmental Politics in East Asia
This is an upper-division course on the environmental politics of East Asia. It will focus on the major environmental issues of our time (pollution, conservation, energy, waste, environmental justice, etc.), and how East Asian countries are coping with them from both policy and politics perspectives. It will cover both transnational and international efforts, as well as national and local initiatives. The course will require that students ‘do’ environmental politics as well as study environmental politics through a civic engagement component.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-GOVT
Identical With: GOVT273, CEAS273
Prereq: None
ENVS275 The American Landscaping in Painting, Literature, Science and the Popular Imagination
In a time of global warming, the issue of mankind's relationship with the natural landscape has never been more pressing. The course will focus on how the field of 19th-century American landscape painting helped stimulate new ideas about our place in the environment—for example spurring the creation of America's National Parks as well as of city parks and greenspaces designed to look natural, such as Central Park in New York. This course will also explore the notion of landscape more largely. What is our personal landscape, and how does it help define our personal identity? How can you detect traces of history in the landscape? In what ways is the American landscape unique, and how did scientists, writers and painters discover and respond to these qualities? How should we respond to the crisis of global warming, which is rapidly transforming and upending our familiar landscape and even placing human existence at risk?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS279 Eating Others: Histories and Cultures of Animal Edibility
For many people, animals form a significant and cherished part of their diet. Indeed, humans have used other animals as sources of nutrients for hundreds of thousands of years. What can these animal-based dietary practices tell us about humans and their relationships with other animals? Of course, these inter-species relationships have varied as radically across time and cultures as the dietary practices that have shaped them. To better understand some of these practices and the relationships they generate, this course will explore the following questions: How did animal-based food practices develop from pre-domestication to the contemporary era of industrialized animal agriculture? How have cultural categories of 'edibility' developed in different cultural contexts? What is meat, and how does it differ from inedible flesh? How has gender, class, race, sexuality, and other categories of difference intersected with and shaped animal consumption practices in different times and contexts? How has animal consumption shaped and been shaped by animal ethics, philosophy, and scientific knowledge production? How has large-scale animal consumption contributed to the ecological crises of the Anthropocene, and how have these in turn affected animal consumption practices? What is the future of animal-based food?

This course will use ethnographies, historical and legal analyses, and philosophical inquiries to examine the histories and cultures of animal edibility. Specifically, it will focus on topics including human evolution, animal domestication, slaughter practices, industrialized animal agriculture, indigenous ecological ontologies, hunting, dairy and egg consumption, cannibalism, cultural conflicts over the edibility of specific species, and recent technological innovations that can produce animal products without animals.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS280 Environmental Geochemistry
A qualitative and quantitative treatment of chemical processes in natural systems such as lakes, rivers, groundwater, the oceans, and atmosphere. General topics include equilibrium thermodynamics, acid-base equilibria, the carbonic acid system, oxidation-reduction reactions in nature, and isotope geochemistry. If offered, the associated lab course (E&ES 251) must be taken concurrently. The lab course is usually taught as a service-learning course in which students work with a community organization to solve an environmental problem. Previous classes have evaluated the energy potential of a local landfill and investigated the cause and possible remediation of local eutrophic lakes.

There are no official prerequisites but students should be comfortable with chemical concepts or should have taken introductory college chemistry or advanced high school chemistry courses.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: E&ES250
Prereq: None

ENVS281 Environmental Geochemistry Laboratory
This course will supplement E&ES 250 by providing students with hands-on experience of the concepts taught in E&ES 250. The course will emphasize the field collection, chemical analysis, and data analysis of environmental water, air, and rock samples. This course is often taught as service-learning course where the class works with a community organization to solve an environmental problem. The course usually concludes with a public presentation of the work. Past service-learning projects have examined landfills, damned rivers, and polluted lakes.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: E&ES251
Prereq: None

ENVS282 Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
This course explores strategies to create a sustainable agriculture and food system. The course will begin with an overview of the environmental issues associated with our agriculture and food system along with current production and consumption trends. Other topics covered in the course will include: environmental certification, starting and managing a farm, organic versus conventional farming, and the impact of diet choice on the environment.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS283 Venezuela: The Effect of Oil Discovery on People, the Environment, and on Democracy
This course will examine the key factors that have affected the development of Venezuela and its environment from the pre-colonial period to the present. We will divide the history of Venezuela into two critical periods: before and after the discovery of oil. We will ask questions about the nature and interactions of the key factors and agents that transformed Venezuela from a colony to that of an economically independent country. By examining the pre- and post-oil economic periods separately, we will learn that the key factors, such as agriculture, land use, and European-colonial influence, changed dramatically, thereby transforming many sociopolitical institutions. The contrasts will include resilience to and eradication of diseases, human rights and slavery, land ownership, human health, impacts on biodiversity and human health, and protections of indigenous cultures. Ultimately we will examine the factors that have led to the collapse of democracy. We will read an interdisciplinary literature that includes anthropology, religion, sociology, environmental sciences, law, and history. The course is presented in a reading/discussion format in which all readings, writings, and discussions will be in Spanish.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
ENVS285 Environmental Law and Policy

If you listen to, watch, or read environmental news and would like some history or perspective...if you would like some sense of where environmental law and policy may be going...and if you are prepared for a class which is as much about the open issues as the answers, then Environmental Law and Policy is for you. This course is taught using the Socratic (highly interactive) method and culminates in student run hearings in which you will prepare, present, and argue about issues from what is a ‘water’ of the U.S. to recycling and reclamation to what is solid and hazardous waste.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENV5
Prereq: [E&ES197 or BIOL197 or ENVS197] OR E&ES199

ENVS287 Performing the Posthuman: Music and Auditory Culture in the Age of Animalanities

‘Animalanities’ takes seriously the aural and performance worlds of the nonhuman. ‘Posthuman,’ according to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), refers to the idea that ‘humanity can be transformed, transcended, or eliminated either by technological advances or the evolutionary process; artistic, scientific, or philosophical practice which reflects this belief.’ This seminar engages questions of musical difference by addressing posthuman performance, the musicality of animals, music that imitates nonhuman sound worlds, and cross-species and multi-species performance. Throughout the course, we will think across varied types of sounds to explore and contextualize familiar questions about how we sing, play, perform, stage, and sound musical identity, examining the intersections among the humanities, science and technology studies, and the sonic arts. Our explorations will cross through the fields of musicology, ethnomusicology, and sound studies. By listening across different kinds of sound cultures, we will interrogate how traditions of listening shape our habits of perceiving others, how we hear nonhuman animals, how we incorporate nonhuman sounding into music composed by humans, how technology has played a role in the study and development of nonhuman and human musicality, and what it means to listen to and value sonic difference more broadly. Through discussions of musical and cultural difference that enrich ongoing discussions of race, gender, and sexuality, we will come to a stronger understanding of music’s role in imagined and experienced natural worlds. Topics and case studies will include audio bird guides, new age nature recordings, multi-species ‘collaborative’ performances, sampled and electronically rendered animal and nature performance in digital video games, wildlife field recordings and documentary sound design, forms of animal and environmental mimesis used by composers, the way nonhuman animal behavior influenced experimental music communities, and descriptions of the musicking of nonhuman animals by the National Audubon Society and other wildlife guides and field recording initiatives. This seminar draws on the classroom community’s interdisciplinary backgrounds and interests as well as readings and case studies that cross and challenge disciplinary boundaries. Students can succeed in this course without previous musical knowledge.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-MUSC
Identical With: MUSC288
Prereq: None

ENVS290 Oceans and Climate

Earth’s climate is not static. Even without human intervention, the climate has changed. In this course we will study the major properties of the ocean and its circulation and changes in climate. We will look at the effects of variations in greenhouse gas concentrations, the locations of continents, and the circulation patterns of oceans and atmosphere. We will look at these variations on several time scales. For billions of years, the sun’s energy, the composition of the atmosphere, and the biosphere have experienced changes. During this time, Earth’s climate has varied from much hotter to much colder than today, but the variations were relatively small when compared to the climate on our neighbors Venus and Mars. Compared with them, Earth’s climate has been stable; the oceans neither evaporated nor froze solid. On shorter time scales, different processes are important. We will look at these past variations in Earth’s climate and oceans and try to understand the implications for possible climates of the future.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-EE5
Identical With: E&ES260, E&ES60
Prereq: E&ES101 OR E&ES199 OR E&ES115 OR [E&ES197 or BIOL197 or
ENVS197]
ENVS291 East Asian Archaeology
This course will introduce students to remarkable archaeological discoveries from East Asia, focusing on the archaeology of ancient China, but also including finds from Japan, Korea, and Mongolia. Beginning with 'Peking Man' and Asia's earliest hominin inhabitants, we will explore the lives of Paleolithic hunter gatherers, the origins of domestic rice and pigs, the emergence of early villages and cities, the origins of writing, ancient ritual systems, long-distance interactions through land and maritime Silk Roads, and the archaeology of Chinese diaspora populations living in the 19th Century United States. We will also consider the current state of archaeological research in East Asia, focusing on site preservation, cultural heritage management, and the political roles of archaeology.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ARC
Identical With: ARCP291, ANTH291, CEAS291
Prereq: None

ENVS292 Techniques in Ocean and Climate Investigations
Weekly and biweekly field trips, and computer and/or laboratory exercises will allow us to see how climate and oceans function today and in the past. In addition to our data, we will most likely use the Goddard Institute for Space Studies climate model to test climate questions and data from major core (ocean, lake, and ice) repositories to investigate how oceans and climate function and have changed.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: NSM-EES
Identical With: E&ES261, ARHA292, ARCP292
Prereq: E&ES101 OR E&ES115 OR [E&ES197 or BIOL197 or ENVS197] OR E&ES199

ENVS300 Sustainable Behavior Change
Very frequently, the default mode of influencing environmental behaviors is through increased information sharing and awareness raising. While these efforts are well-intentioned, psychological research indicates that in most cases, increased knowledge and awareness do little or nothing to alter behaviors because of the complexity and difficulty of changing ingrained habits.
Through this course, which is a required component of the Eco Facilitators Program, we will draw on extensive behavior change, communication, and social marketing research to introduce theory and practice that will increase your understanding of effective methods to influence behavior. You will develop theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and an opportunity to apply your learning within a residence hall setting.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
Prereq: [E&ES197 or BIOL197] OR E&ES199

ENVS301 The Art of Narrative Science
There is neither conflict nor antagonism between the realms of art and science. Indeed, the two infinitely complement and complete one another in ways so intimate, intricate, and oft-times invisible that only great storytelling, artful narrative, can fully reveal them. A poet, through metaphor, builds bridges from entangled inscapes of thought and emotion to a place of shared understanding. A good narrative science writer must do the equivalent with the often recondite minutia of modern scientific exploration, and do so with ever-increasing urgency as new discoveries and insights mount daily across a broad array of disciplines.

As we'll be highlighting in our course readings, writing assignments, and class discussion, all the key tenets of good storytelling are at play in effective narrative science writing: voice, point of view, narrative arc, dramatic tension, setting and scenes, characters, action, and dialogue. Science, in this sense, is incidental to this course's primary concern. The singular challenge that science poses to writers, however, is how not to be cowed and/or overwhelmed by the daunting complexities of the subject matter; how to, through your own powers of observation, accrued research, and fearless, persistent questioning, own the material in such a way that frees you to imaginatively represent it again to the lay reader as story.

In this course students will learn:
1) How to read effective creative nonfiction about scientific subjects and understand what techniques different writers use to achieve both clear and compelling narratives.
2) How to choose the subjects they'd like to write a story about and how to compose a proposal describing that story to prospective editors at a variety of different publications.
3) How to compile research and conduct interviews for their stories.
4) How to construct the story itself using all the techniques of effective storytelling in feature-length narratives.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS303 Ukraine and Its Environment
International perspectives on environmental issues are critical in order to address the challenges facing the world. Developing an international perspective requires more than learning from printed literature—it requires in-country experience and the desire to be able to view issues through different cultural lenses. This course will provide such experience by learning about the diversity of Ukrainian environments, people, and cultures both in the classroom at Wesleyan and by traveling to Ukraine during Spring Break. During our time in Ukraine we will receive lectures in English from noted scholars, politicians, professors and scientists on topics such as environmental law, global environmental security, urban environment, environmental policy in developing states, and sustainable development for the developing world. We will travel and learn from scientists at Chernobyl about the regeneration of forest ecosystems, learn from agronomists about agriculture on the steppes, and learn from politicians and scholars about Ukrainian environmental policy and their views of U.S. policies. We will also enter into round table discussions with university students to exchange ideas about potential international solutions and approaches to environmental problems. These are just some of the experiences that are planned for our visit. Ukraine, as a pivotal democracy of the former Soviet Bloc, is an amazing place to witness how a nation wrestles with dramatic changes in policy. At the same time Ukraine is culturally diverse, which presents interesting challenges to formulating fair and cohesive policies.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: CGST303
Prereq: ENVS197 OR E&ES199

ENVS304 Environmental Politics and Democratization
This course explores the role that environmental movements and organizations play in the development and transformation of democratic politics. It examines
ENVS306 Ecology and Natural History of Freshwater Fishes of South America
South America has the highest diversity of freshwater fishes anywhere in the world. In fact, there are more than twice the number of mammals and about the same number of birds in the world. Why has this remarkable radiation occurred in a relatively short period of time? How can so many fishes coexist in the same rivers, utilizing the same resources? In this intensive course, we will travel to Colombia during spring break (March 7-21) in order to gain firsthand knowledge about the ecology and natural history of freshwater fishes in South America. We will learn about the ecological and environmental factors that contribute to perhaps the largest biological radiation on the planet.

Students will obtain firsthand experience with the South American tropics, freshwater fishes, and with doing experiments in the field. Each day there will be a combination of lectures and field or laboratory exercises. We will travel to and explore fish ecology in different types of rivers at different elevations. Students will gather and analyze data about biological, physical, and environmental issues that are covered in the lectures. The habitats that we explore will be both terrestrial and freshwater rivers. Our base will be at the Instituto Humboldt in Villa de Leyva, Colombia. We will interact with Colombian students who are studying ecology and biodiversity at the Institute in order to exchange ideas about current environmental issues.

All the costs of travel, lodging, and meals will be covered by the course.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Identical With: BIOL306, E&E5306
Prereq: None

ENVS307 The Economy of Nature and Nations
On many of the key environmental problems of the 21st century, from climate change to biodiversity conservation, the perspectives of ecology and economics often seem poles apart. Ecology is typically associated with a skeptical stance toward economic growth and human intervention in the environment, while economics focuses on understanding (and often, celebrating) human activities of production, consumption, and growth. At the same time, ecology and economics share a common etymology: both words spring from the Greek oikos, or household. They also share much common history. This course thus explores the parallel histories of economics and ecology from the 18th century to the present, focusing on changing conceptions of the oikos over this period, from cameralism's vision of the household as a princely estate or kingdom, continuing through the emergence of ideas about national or imperial economic development, and culminating in the dominant 20th-century recasting of economics as being centrally concerned with problems of resource allocation. Simultaneously, the course explores connections between changes in economics and the emergence of ecological science over this period, from Enlightenment natural history and early musings on the 'economy of nature,' to the design of markets for carbon credits today.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST307, SISP307
Prereq: None

ENVS310 The Economics of Sustainable Development, Vulnerability, and Resilience
This course will build on the first principles of economics as applied to sustainable development and decision making under uncertainty. One of the course's major objectives will be to explore how efficiency-based risk analysis can inform assessments of vulnerability and resilience from uncertain sources of external stress in ways that accommodate not only attitudes toward risk but also perspectives about discounting and attitudes toward inequality aversion. Early sessions will present these principles, but two-thirds of the class meetings will be devoted to reviewing the applicability of insights drawn from first principles to published material that focuses on resilience, vulnerability, and development (in circumstances where risk can be quantified and other circumstances where it is impossible to specify likelihood, consequence, or both). Students will complete a small battery of early problem sets that will be designed to illustrate how these principles work in well-specified contexts. Students will be increasingly responsible, as the course progresses, for presenting and evaluating published work on vulnerability and resilience—offering critiques and proposing next steps. Initial readings will be provided by the instructor and collaborators in the College of the Environment, but students will be expected to contribute by bringing relevant readings to the class from sources germane to their individual research projects. Collaboration across these projects will thereby be fostered and encouraged by joint presentations and/or presenter-discussant interchanges.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ENVS
Identical With: ECON212
Prereq: ECON110

ENVS314 Environmentalism in a Global Age
Over the second half of the 20th century, popular movements in the United States and around the world achieved landmark protections for the environment. Yet in that same period, accelerating globalization and the emergence of transnational environmental issues like acid rain threatened to undercut the effectiveness of national laws and regulations. This seminar investigates how environmental activists have responded to a range of challenges in the global age, from economic development and species conservation to population growth and Malthusian family planning campaigns. As those two examples suggest, environmentalists have engaged with key developments in the modern world, in sometimes troubling ways. Although the subject matter is historical, this course will also focus on what the history of global environmentalism can contribute to contemporary advocacy, not least with regards to climate change.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST314
Prereq: None

ENVS316 Community Research Seminar
Small teams of students will carry out research projects submitted by local community groups and agencies. These may involve social science, natural science, or arts and humanities themes. The first two weeks of the course will be spent studying the theory and practice of community research. Working with the community groups themselves, the teams will then design and implement the research projects.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-SOC
Identical With: SOC316
ENVS317 Colonizing Space: Exploration, Extraction, and Inhabitation
On March 26, 2019, Vice President Mike Pence directed NASA, under the authority of the president, to ensure that the US be the first nation to return to the moon, and to do so ’by any means necessary.’ In this shocking appropriation of Malcolm X’s call to black liberation, Pence announced an uncompromising endeavor to secure American sovereignty in the face of the technological advancements of China, Israel, and India—not to mention the perennial aeronautical rival of Russia. Considering the persistent underfunding of scientific research in the US, fulfilling this presidential injunction will require NASA to cooperate with private corporations like lunar minder Moon Express and Planetary Resources, along with aspirational Mars-colonizers SpaceX and Blue Planet. This course will track the ideological and colonial history of the space race before coming to terms with the scientific, corporate, and legislative landscape that enables its contemporary expression. It will explore the mythological underpinnings, narrative imaginings, and theological justifications for unfettered exploration and inhabitation in order to interrogate the possibility of an ethically and ecologically sustainable space program.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI317, SISP327
Prereq: None

ENVS318 The Politics of Death: The Living, the Dead, and the State
This course will explore the intersections between the living, the dead, and the state, focusing on the ways that death and the dead body raise particular questions and problems for different kinds of political regimes. The course will examine the collisions between the state and the dead, both symbolic and material, by investigating spaces where the state and death intersect in revealing ways: cemeteries, cremation, monuments, rituals, and religious institutions and cultures. The course will also follow, borrowing anthropologist Katherine Verdery’s term, ‘the political lives of dead bodies,’ the ways in which states mobilize dead bodies to reconfigure the political order.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: HIST318, REES318
Prereq: None

ENVS325 Healthy Places: Practice, Policy, and Population Health
The built environment influences many aspects of health and well-being: psychological stressors (crime, noise, and violence), what people eat, the water they drink, the air they breathe, where (or if) they work, the housing that shelters them, where they go for health care, what social networks are available for support, and how political power is distributed and public resources allocated. How cities, suburbs, and rural areas are managed; local policy; and planning and design decisions can all help determine whether the places we live will be threats to public health and, perhaps more important, to an aging society. The focus of this course connects the fields of planning, psychology, and public health to explore contemporary challenges (and innovations) in the 21st-century built environment. Students will explore the multiple forces that impact population health, how to analyze these determinants, and what roles planning and public health agencies, as well as other institutions such as local governments, civil society, the private sector, and communities themselves, can play in research and action aimed at improving physical and mental health.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC325

Prereq: None

ENVS330 Special Topics: Ecopoetics - Experimental Poetry in the Anthropocene
How do poets speak for and from a world in flux and crisis? How do poets register and attempt to restore the degradation of the planet through language? How might altering the boundaries of conventional language use—through poetry—alter the boundaries of conventional thinking and behaving, thus leading to more engaged and sustainable modes of living? This course, in part, will serve as a tour of contemporary eco-poets invested in looking at and caring for the current state of our planet through poetry. We will read poems that reflect the most critical environmental concerns of our time and we will learn to see how these poems resist closure and are instead guided by experimentation, exploration, and interrogation in an attempt at reorienting our attention and intention as inheritors of this planet.

This is a workshop for students committed to developing an understanding of ecopoetry’s place in the more-than-literary world, as well as developing a personal ecopoetics from which to write, read, and live. Students will choose an environmental topic to research and write in service of for the semester and, by the end of the semester, each student will have written a project-centered collection of eco-poems. There will be bi-weekly presentations on the poetry collections we read, in-class writing experiments, and intensive workshops of one another’s work. The class will culminate in an eco-book arts project and reflective essay.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: NSM-BIOL
Identical With: BIOL337, BIOL537
Prereq: [BIOL182 or M&B182]

ENVS337 The Origins of Bacterial Diversity
Wherever there is life, there are bacteria. Free-living bacteria are found in every environment that supports eukaryotes, and no animal or plant is known to be free of bacteria. There are most likely a billion or more species of bacteria, each living in its unique ecological niche. This course will explore the origins of bacterial biodiversity: how bacteria evolve to form new species that inhabit new ecological niches. We will focus on how the peculiarities of bacterial sex and genetics facilitate bacterial speciation. Topics will include the characteristics of bacterial sex, why barriers to genetic exchange are not necessary for speciation in bacteria, the great potential for formation of new bacterial species, the evolutionary role of genetic gifts from other species, and the use of genomics to identify ecologically distinct populations of bacteria.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC325

Prereq: None
ENVS344 Renewable Energy and Negative Emission Technologies
This course explores renewable energy solutions society must transition to in order to mitigate global climate change. The course will focus on renewable energy technologies such as solar, wind (onshore and offshore), geothermal, biofuels, hydro, and wave power. It will also cover negative emission technologies including soil carbon sequestration, reforestation, and carbon capture and storage (CCS).
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS, SBS-ENVS
Prereq: None

ENVS347 Ethics, Ecology, and Moral Change
People commonly recognize that in facing global climate crises, we need to change our habits and practices. Yet our activities are bound up with our perceptions and with our embodied experience of value and possibility. This seminar dives into recent attempts to radically rework our ways of understanding and inhabiting the world. As the flip-side of environmental alienation is alienation from our embodiment, our sessions will incorporate movement and other challenges to sedentary classroom habits.

Given an account of thinking and action as always actively embodied and embedded in our surroundings, we will consider the hypothesis that shifts in action emerge together with shifts in perception. Radical accounts of metaphor and its uptake will help us develop accounts of perceptual change. Our readings will follow a variety of metaphorical directions, including animism and animacies, affordance and hyperobject, process and intra-action, native and other, inflammation and balance, dwelling and death, consumption and sustainability. How -- and with what risks and unexpected outcomes -- can these patterns of recognition help in orienting us to the challenges of environmental interdependence and volatility?

This course benefits from collaborative visits with philosopher-dancer Jill Sigman, via Wesleyan’s Creative Campus Initiative. Sigman will co-shape discussion and activities during at least two of our sessions.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PHIL
Identical With: PHIL347
Prereq: None

ENVS352 Energy and Modern Architecture, 1850–2015
This seminar explores the evolution of mechanical systems for heating, ventilating, and cooling in modern architecture from the mid-19th century to the present. The aim is to show how architects, engineers, fabricators, and urban governments worked to develop modern systems of environmental controls, including lighting, as means of improving both the habitability of buildings and health of their occupants. The course will trace the adaptation of technical innovations in these fields to the built environment and how those responsible for it sought to manage energy and other resources, such as funds and labor, to create optimal solutions for different building types, such as factories, theaters, assembly halls, office buildings, laboratories, art museums, libraries, and housing of various kinds, including apartment buildings for higher- and lower-income residents. An important theme will be the relationship of energy systems for individual buildings and urban infrastructure, including water systems, electrical, and other utilities. The last part of the course focuses on contemporary green, or sustainable, architecture, including passive and active solar heating, photovoltaics, energy-efficient cooling, LEED certification, wind and geo-exchange energy, green skyscrapers, net-zero energy buildings, vertical farming, and zero carbon cities in the United States, Europe, and Asia.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ENVS353 Agricultural Food Webs
Ecological communities are structured by feeding interactions, and agricultural systems are no exception to this rule. This class will focus on attributes of food webs that impact agriculture, including topics such as natural biological control of insect pests, to soil microbes and nutrient cycling, to causes of honeybee colony collapse disorder. This course includes a rigorous survey of both ecological theory and applied environmental problems. Students will read primary literature from the fields of food web ecology and agroecology and discuss the implications through group work.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: BIOL354
Prereq: BIOL182 or BIOL197

ENVS359 Space Design for Performance
In this course, students will study, construct, and deconstruct the performative space, whether theatrical or site-based, by analyzing the space as a context to be activated by the body of the performer and witnessed by an audience. Through practical assignments, the class will learn the aesthetic history of the theatrical event (considering plays, rituals, street parades, and digital performances, among others), while developing and discovering the student's own creative process (visual, kinetic, textual, etc.). Students will be guided through each step of the design process, including concept development, visual research, renderings or drawings, model making and drafting.

In this course, special emphasis is given to contemporary performance as a mode of understanding cultural processes as a relational system of engagement within our ecosystem, while looking at environmental and sustainable design, materials, and the environmental impacts of processing. Students will create and design performance spaces, while realizing scale models and drawings and integrating the notions of design and environmental principles and elements.

Students will have the opportunity to develop skills using 3D-drafting and 3D-modeling software, utilizing design-technology tools, such as laser cutters and 3D printing, to develop and enhance their work.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-THEA
Identical With: THEA359, DANC359
Prereq: THEA105 OR THEA150 OR THEA185 OR ARST131 OR ARST190

ENVS361 Living in a Polluted World
This course treats the occurrences and origins, natural pathways, toxicologies, and histories of the major environmental contaminants. We all know about lead and its effects on humans, but how about cadmium and hexachromium, or the many unpronounceable organic contaminants, usually referred to by some acronym (e.g., DDT, POPs)? We also deal with the larger topics of CO2/climate change, the environmental nitrogen-oxide balance, and eutrophication of coastal waters (the 'dead zones'). To be effective in this course, students will need basic high school/college-level proficiency in chemistry and math as we will delve into aspects of geochemistry, geology, toxicology, environmental law, and some simple modeling. The class consists of lectures, one problem set, one Hg-in-hair study, and a class project on lead in drinking water in the Middletown area. This is also a service-learning course, providing environmental outreach to the larger Middletown community on local pollution.
Offering: Host
ENVS369 Ecological Resilience: The Good, the Bad, and the Mindful
This course will examine the concepts of resilience, fragility, and adaptive cycles in the context of ecosystem and social-ecological-system (SES) structures. These concepts have been developed to explain abrupt and often surprising changes in complex ecosystems and SES that are prone to disturbances. We will also include nonhierarchical interactions among components of systems (termed panarchy) to compare the interactions and dependencies of ecological and human community systems. A systems approach will be applied to thinking about restoration ecology, community reconstruction, and adaptive management theory.

All of the terms—resilience, fragility, adaptation, restoration, reconstruction—are fraught with subjectivity and valuation. We will use mindfulness and meditation techniques (including breathing and yoga) to more objectively and dynamically engage in the subject matter, leaving behind prejudice or bias. Students will be expected to approach these techniques with an open mind and practice them throughout the semester. The objective is to provide students with a more comprehensive framework with which to gain deeper understanding and integration of the science with the social issues.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.25
Gen Ed Area: NSM-ENVS
Identical With: E&ES342
Prereq: [E&ES197 or BIOL197] OR [BIOL182 or MB&B182]

ENVS381 Japan’s Nuclear Disasters
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 are central to the history of the 20th century. This course examines the scientific, cultural, and political origins of the bombs; their use in the context of aerial bombings and related issues in military history; the decisions to use them; the human cost to those on whom they were dropped; and their place in history, culture, and identity politics to the present. Sources will include works on the history of science; military, political, and cultural history; literary and other artistic interpretations; and a large number of primary source documents, mostly regarding U.S. policy questions. In addition, we will be examining the development of the civilian nuclear industry in Japan with a focus on the nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima and other accidents. This is an extremely demanding course.

This interdisciplinary, experiential, and experimental course combines studio learning (movement studies and interdisciplinary, creative exploration) and seminars (presentations and discussions). No previous dance or movement study is required, and the course is not particularly geared toward dancers or performers. However, your willingness to experiment on and share movement is important. We encourage you to think about movement as a method of accessing human experiences and making distance malleable, a way to explore your own sensations, thoughts, and reactions in learning history.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.50
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST381, SISP381, CEAS384, DANC381
Prereq: None

ENVS387 History of the End
How will it end? Scientific hubris, a nuclear event, an asteroid, environmental disaster, overpollution, resource scarcity, commodity price spikes, riots, social chaos, social control? This seminar investigates how people have imagined apocalypse and post-apocalypse over time, on the premise that fantasies of the end provide a window into the anxieties of the societies that produce them.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST387, SISP387
Prereq: None

ENVS391 Senior Colloquium: Environmental Studies
The senior colloquium will provide students and faculty the opportunity to engage with each senior about their capstone project. The diversity of interests and modalities of our senior majors enhances the interdisciplinary discourse and lively discussions that occur during our meetings. In the Fall 2020 semester, students will be divided into one of four small-group discussion sections. Prior to discussions, students will record a 10-minute presentation in which they can use visuals, videos about the topic and performances about the topic and strategies for their senior project. The students will also post online a reading to accompany their discussion and provide all participants with some background into their topic. Presenters will receive constructive feedback from each of the sections. In addition, we will work together on the development of research questions and abstracts for your projects. Our learning goals are to enhance the knowledge of each of the participants in the topics researched by the senior majors.

The course will be taught in four sections. Two sections will be an In-Person Accepting Remote Students course. Two sections of the course will be online only. All sections will be run using a blended synchronous simulcast lecture format. The course will be taught through synchronous delivery of pre-class content (videos, readings, podcasts, etc.) then simultaneous delivery of interactive/application activities to in-person or online synchronous groups. We will employ live-remote student patterning in class to provide a live discussion class format that will also be recorded for asynchronous viewing.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.50
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

ENVS392 Senior Colloquium: Environmental Studies
This colloquium will provide students and faculty the opportunity to discuss senior projects. Students will speak for up to 10 minutes about the topic and strategies for their senior projects. Faculty and the seniors can provide insights, references, research resources, or advice. Mentors from the primary department or programs will also be invited.

Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 0.25
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

ENVS399 History and Geography
Maps are part of a broader family of value-laden images. This is a research seminar about the global history of cartography from 1490s to the recent past. We will study maps from the early modern and modern world and examine how maps were used as instruments of political power, shaped the imagination of peoples around the world, and inspired new ways to imagine our self-identity.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-HIST
Identical With: HIST399, CEAS214, SISP399
Prereq: None
ENVS401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS403 Senior Essay: Environmental Studies  
All ENVS majors are required to complete a senior capstone project in a form  
that is approved by their primary major with a topic that is approved by the  
student's ENVS advisor. In the event that the student cannot find a mentor for  
their capstone project, the student may complete a special written research  
project to meet the research requirements. The topic must be approved by the  
ENVS advisor and progress must be reported to both the ENVS advisor and  
the Program Director during the fall semester. The written project is a senior  
essay, using primary sources and must concern an environmental topic from  
the perspective of the student's primary major. The senior project is due at the  
senior thesis deadline. It will be the responsibility of the ENVS Program Director  
to find a suitable reader to evaluate the written work.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS404 Senior Essay: Environmental Studies  
All ENVS majors are required to complete a senior capstone project in a form  
that is approved by their primary major with a topic that is approved by the  
student's ENVS advisor. In the event that the student cannot find a mentor for  
their capstone project, the student may complete a special written research  
project to meet the research requirements. The topic must be approved by the  
ENVS advisor and progress must be reported to both the ENVS advisor and  
the Program Director during the fall semester. The written project is a senior  
essay, using primary sources and must concern an environmental topic from  
the perspective of the student's primary major. The senior project is due at the  
senior thesis deadline. It will be the responsibility of the ENVS Program Director  
to find a suitable reader or to evaluate the written work.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS409 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

ENVS410 Senior Thesis Tutorial  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F

ENVS411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate  
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS419 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the  
chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U

ENVS420 Student Forum  
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the  
chair of a department or program.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: Cr/U

ENVS440 Painting II: The Shifting Landscapes of the Mind, Nature, and History  
Since the beginning of time, people have created art to document events in  
nature and society and to convey ideas and emotions as they responded to  
shifting conditions in the world--be they man-made or natural. Before written  
language, visual expressions of morality, concepts of the future, and abstract  
thought in the sciences and religion were represented in painting. Whenever  
dramatic shifts were experienced in society, painting documented them and  
commented on them. In this class, the skills and knowledge gained in ARST239  
will serve as the foundation upon which students will be challenged to become  
technically proficient while they explore the topic of shifting landscapes or the  
shifting viewpoints of the mind, history, and nature. The themes, prompts,  
and concerns addressed in this course will allow for any formal, conceptual,  
or stylistic form of expression to resolve them--each student will be working  
differently. The goal of this class is for students to become fluent with the  
medium and make aesthetic choices that can best convey their ideas about and  
responses to each prompt. Lectures and meaningful class discussions will provide  
information and feedback about historical and contemporary issues and the  
plans for work. Individual and group critiques as well as museum and gallery trips  
will complement class work.  
Offering: Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: HA-ART  
Identical With: ARST340  
Prereq: (ARST131 AND ARST239)

ENVS467 Independent Study, Undergraduate  
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized  
leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2)  
all specified requirements have been satisfied.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: None  
Prereq: None

ENVS469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate  
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of  
undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the  
responsibilities and method of evaluation.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: None  
Prereq: None

ENVS491 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity  
to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT

ENVS492 Teaching Apprentice Tutorial  
The teaching apprentice program offers undergraduate students the opportunity  
to assist in teaching a faculty member's course for academic credit.  
Offering: Host  
Grading: OPT