ENVIROMENTAL STUDIES

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The Environmental Studies Program offers interdisciplinary majors in environmental policy, environmental science, and environmental computation as well as a minor that can be elected by majors in any discipline.

The Environmental Studies Program at Colby was founded in 1971 and has received national recognition for developing an innovative, research-based curriculum and for challenging students to engage hands-on with environmental issues at Colby, in Maine, and around the world. Our students and faculty are active locally, nationally, and internationally in studying and helping to solve diverse environmental challenges. The program encourages and supports student environmental initiatives and activism. Resources are available to support student internships and research projects, and a majority of students study abroad at some point.

Colby was one of the first colleges in the nation to achieve carbon neutrality and uses 100-percent renewable source electricity. The College uses sustainably harvested wood biomass instead of oil as its primary fuel for heat and hot water, reducing fossil fuel use by approximately 90 percent, and recently installed 5,300 solar panels to supply 16 percent of the College’s electricity. Colby seeks LEED silver certification of all new construction and major renovations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, the state of Maine, and other organizations have recognized Colby for its commitment to environmental academics and sustainability. Recent examples of student-led environmental initiatives include establishing an organic garden and beekeeping club, organizing activities to reduce carbon emissions on campus, developing a climate change action plan in the local community, raising awareness about the dangers of using hazardous chemicals in personal care products and children’s toys at the state and federal levels, and reducing bottled water use on campus.

A strategic partnership between Colby and the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences has expanded educational and research opportunities in marine sciences for students. The partnership includes an expansion of the program’s marine sciences curriculum, including a semester of study in residence at Bigelow, Jan Plan courses taught by Bigelow research scientists, an increase in student research opportunities, and curricular innovations that combine scientific research with economic and social policy analysis.

The Environmental Studies Program curriculum emphasizes inquiry-based learning and original research. Each major is flexible and enables students to pursue their individual academic goals and interests. Each major provides a broad-based course of study that combines interdisciplinary breadth and focus-area depth to prepare graduates to understand and to address complex environmental challenges facing society. The interdisciplinary nature of our curriculum is enhanced by close ties to many departments and programs in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and other interdisciplinary programs. Our science and policy curricula benefit from our Maine location, including access to diverse natural areas and unique access to government, nonprofit, and business institutions. Our graduates are prepared to take leadership positions in businesses, nonprofits, consulting firms, educational institutions, and government agencies. Many of our graduates complete postgraduate and professional study in environmental sciences/studies/management, ecology, limnology, international development, law, marine science and oceanography, medicine, natural resource conservation and management, planning, public health, public policy, and other related areas.

A student may elect only one of the majors offered by the Environmental Studies Program. A student cannot elect both the chemistry: environmental science concentration and the environmental science major with an environmental chemistry focus.

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Policy

The interdisciplinary environmental policy major provides an extensive introduction to the study of domestic and international environmental policy. Students combine a foundation course in environmental studies with courses in environmental economics, domestic environmental policy and law, international environmental policy and politics, and environmental science. Diverse electives allow students to explore topics such as introductory geographic information systems (GIS), conservation biology, global food policy, marine and freshwater conservation, public health, and the environmental humanities.

Environmental policy majors are encouraged to take Environmental Studies 118 (spring) in their first year at Colby. Students pursuing this major should elect Environmental Studies 233 and 271 (if possible) in the fall and 234 in the spring of their sophomore year. Biology 163 (fall) and 164 (spring) are prerequisites for Environmental Studies 271. Students must complete at least one course at the 300 level or above from category III below. No more than one course at the 100 level may be used to fulfill category III. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. AP credit can fulfill core course requirements based on exam performance and coverage.
Exemption from Environmental Studies 118 is granted with an AP test score of 4 or 5, allowing advanced placement into other courses. Courses not listed below, such as those offered by some off-campus study programs, may count toward the major pending prior approval by the program director. Up to two courses may be counted toward the major from approved off-campus study programs.

Environmental policy majors are encouraged to work with their advisor to develop a curricular pathway that includes both depth and breadth of study. Recommended thematic groupings selected from electives in category III and category IV below include: conservation and resources, energy and climate, environmental humanities, food and agriculture, public health, and water resources (marine and freshwater). See the Environmental Studies Program website for details on suggested courses for these groupings. Students are welcome to develop additional thematic pathways (e.g., environmental justice, green building, urban and regional planning).

I. Required Environmental Studies Core Courses

Biology
- 163 Cellular Basis of Life
- 164 Evolution and Diversity

Environmental Studies
- 118 Environment and Society
- 271 Introduction to Ecology

Economics
- 133 Principles of Microeconomics
- 231 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

II. All of the Following Courses

Environmental Studies
- 233 Environmental Policy
- 234 International Environmental Policy

Statistics
- 212 Introduction to Statistical Methods

III. Humans and the Environment (three courses, at least two from environmental studies)

Anthropology
- 256 Land, Food, Culture, and Power

English
- 337 Climate Fiction

Environmental Studies
- 151 Landscape and Meaning: An Exploration of Environmental Writing
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing (if not used to satisfy IV below) or 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis (if not used to satisfy IV below)
- 242 Marine Conservation and Policy
- 265 Global Public Health
- 276 Global Change Ecology (if not used to satisfy IV below)
- 283 Environmental Humanities: Stories of Crisis & Resilience
- 297 Sustainable Business Seminar
- 319 Conservation Biology (if not used to satisfy IV below)
- 344 Marine Fisheries Management
- 346 Global Food Policy
- 358 Ecological Field Study (if not used to satisfy IV below)
- 364 Climate Change, Justice, and Health
- 366 Environment and Human Health (if not used to satisfy IV below)
- 397B Community, Economics, and Conservation

History
- 248 Nuclear Visions, Environmental Realities
- 397 U.S. Environmental History

Italian
- 297: Nature in Italian Literature and Film
Philosophy
• 216 Philosophy of Nature
• 243 Environmental Ethics
• 328 Radical Ecologies

Science, Technology, and Society
• 215 Weather, Climate, and Society

IV. Three of the Following Courses (at least one from environmental studies)

Biology
• 198 Biochemistry of Food
• 225 Immunology
• 237 Woody Plants
• 246 Parasitology
• 259 Plants of the Tropics
• 275 Human Physiology
• 277 Vertebrate Natural History
• 334 Ornithology
• 354 Marine Ecology
• 382 Ecological Modeling

Chemistry
• 121 and 122 Earth System Chemistry I and II or
• 141 and 142 General Chemistry I and II or
• 147 Comprehensive General Chemistry (cannot be counted with Chemistry 141 and 142)
• 217 Environmental Chemistry
• 331 Chemical Methods of Analysis

Economics
• 278 Joules to Dollars

Environmental Studies
• 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or
• 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis
• 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in R
• 244 Marine Communities
• 276 Global Change Ecology
• 319 Conservation Biology
• 338 Forest Ecosystems
• 356 Aquatic Ecology
• 358 Ecological Field Study
• 366 Environment and Human Health
• 371 Current Topics in Environmental Science

Geology
• 111 Geology of National Parks
• 141 Earth and Environment or
• 262 Earths Climate: Past, Present, and Future
• 378 Geologic Environments in the Marine Realm

Physics
• 141 Foundations of Mechanics or
• 143 Honors Physics
• 145 Foundations of Electromagnetism and Optics

V. One of the Following Capstone Courses

Environmental Studies
• 493 Environmental Policy Practicum or
• 494 Problems in Environmental Science (with permission of director)

VI. Senior Colloquia
Environmental Studies

- 401, 402 Senior Colloquium (one credit for the year)

Environmental Studies 401 and 402 provide one credit for the senior year and typically are taken in addition to a normal four-course semester.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in relevant on- and off-campus opportunities, including research projects, public policy and/or humanities experiences, field studies, or internships in the discipline to complement their academic work. Environmental studies majors may apply for Environmental Studies Program financial assistance to participate in relevant research or internship opportunities.

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Science

The interdisciplinary environmental science major includes foundation courses and core courses in environmental economics, biology and ecology, chemistry or physics, geology or GIS, and mathematics. Students select a focus area to explore in depth. Current focus areas include aquatic sciences (freshwater and marine), conservation biology, ecosystem ecology, energy and climate, and public health. Students may also petition the Environmental Studies Program director to propose well-structured alternative focus areas. The senior capstone seminars provide a hands-on approach to environmental science research in freshwater or marine ecosystems.

Environmental science majors are encouraged to enroll in Biology 163 (fall) and 164 (spring) and Environmental Studies 118 (spring) in their first year, and Environmental Science 271 (fall) in their sophomore year. Students interested in the environmental science major with a marine science focus should consider the Bigelow Laboratory Changing Oceans semester program in their junior year.

Majors must complete at least two courses at the 300 level or above selected from categories III and IV below. No more than one course at the 100 level may be used to fulfill category III. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. AP credits may also provide advanced placement in biology, chemistry, physics, calculus, and microeconomics. Environmental science majors should consult with their advisor as early as their first year at Colby to identify any courses beyond the major requirements that may be desirable to meet their postgraduate goals, especially graduate or professional school.

I. Required Environmental Studies Core Courses

Biology
- 163 Cellular Basis of Life
- 164 Evolution and Diversity

Environmental Studies
- 118 Environment and Society
- 271 Introduction to Ecology

Economics
- 133 Principles of Microeconomics
- 231 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

II. Required Science and Mathematics Courses

Chemistry
- 121 and 122 Earth System Chemistry I and II or
- 141 and 142 General Chemistry I and II or
- 147 Comprehensive General Chemistry

OR

Physics
- 141 Foundations of Mechanics or 143 Honors Physics and
- 145 Foundations in Electromagnetism and Optics

Geology
- 121 and 122 Earth System Chemistry I and II or
- 141 Earth and Environment

Note: The two-semester Chemistry/Geology 121 and 122 sequence can replace the requirement to take two chemistry and one geology/GIS course.

OR

Environmental Studies
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or
- 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis
Mathematics and Statistics

- Mathematics 121 Single-Variable Calculus and
- Statistics 212 Elementary Statistics

Students electing the energy and climate focus area are encouraged to also take Mathematics 122 Series and Multi-Variable Calculus.

III. Humans and the Environment (two courses, not taken from the same discipline unless that discipline is environmental studies, at least one course from Environmental Studies)

**Anthropology**

- 256 Land, Food, Culture, and Power

**English**

- 337 Climate Fiction

**Environmental Studies**

- 151 Landscape and Meaning
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing Studies (if not used to satisfy II above) or
- 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis (if not used to satisfy II above)
- 233 Environmental Policy
- 234 International Environmental Policy
- 242 Marine Conservation and Policy
- 265 Global Public Health
- 276 Global Change Ecology
- 283 Environmental Humanities: Stories of Crisis & Resilience
- 297: Sustainable Business Seminar
- 319 Conservation Biology
- 344 Marine Fisheries Management
- 346 Global Food Policy
- 358 Ecological Field Study
- 364 Climate Change, Justice, and Health
- 366 Environment and Human Health
- 397B Community, Economics, and Conservation

**History**

- 248 Nuclear Visions, Environmental Realities
- 397 U.S. Environmental History

**Italian**

- 297: Nature in Italian Literature and Film

**Philosophy**

- 216 Philosophy of Nature
- 243 Environmental Ethics
- 328 Radical Ecologies

**Science, Technology, and Society**

- 215 Weather, Climate, and Society

IV. Focus Area (four courses, depending on the focus area chosen, and an additional culminating experience chosen in consultation with advisor)

The Environmental Studies Program will consider well-structured proposals for additional focus areas. Advanced Placement credits can provide advanced placement in focus areas but cannot reduce the number of required focus-area courses below four.

**A. Aquatic Sciences (Freshwater and Marine) (four courses)**

**Environmental Studies**

- 244 Marine Communities
- 356 Aquatic Ecology

Two Courses from the following:

**Biology**

- 254 Marine Invertebrate Zoology
- 354 Marine Ecology

Chemistry
- 217 Environmental Chemistry
- 331 Chemical Methods of Analysis

Environmental Studies
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis or 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in R
- 276 Global Change Ecology
- 344 Marine Fisheries Management
- 358 Ecological Field Study

The Bigelow Laboratory Changing Oceans semester program will fulfill three courses in the Aquatic Sciences focus area.

Culminating Experience:
Environmental Studies
494 Problems in Environmental Science or One course from Bigelow Laboratory Changing Oceans semester and evidence of a writing project with a Bigelow faculty research advisor submitted to the ES program director. This course cannot also count toward the focus area.

B. Climate and Energy (four courses)

Environmental Studies
- 276 Global Change Ecology

Chemistry
- 217 Environmental Chemistry

OR

Economics
- 278 Joules to Dollars

Two Courses from the following:

Biology
- 382 Ecological Modeling

Chemistry
- 241 Organic Chemistry I
- 242 Organic Chemistry II
- 217 Environmental Chemistry (if not used above)
- 278 Joules to Dollars (if not used above)
- 331 Chemical Methods of Analysis
- 341 Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics and Kinetics
- 342 Physical Chemistry: Quantum and Statistical Mechanics

Environmental Studies
- 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in R
- 364 Climate Change, Justice and Health

Geology
- 363 Paleoceanography

Physics
- 312 Physics of Fluids

The Bigelow Laboratory Changing Oceans semester program will fulfill up to two courses in the Climate and Energy focus area.

Culminating Experience:
Environmental Studies
- 494 Problems in Environmental Science
C. Conservation Biology (four courses)

*Environmental Studies*
- 319 Conservation Biology
- 338 Forest Ecosystems

Two Courses from the following:

*Biology*
- 237 Woody Plants
- 259 Plants of the Tropics
- 277 Vertebrate Natural History
- 334 Ornithology
- 354 Marine Ecology
- 382 Ecological Modeling

*Environmental Studies*
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing *or*
- 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis (if not used to satisfy II above)
- 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in $R$
- 242 Marine Conservation and Policy
- 244 Marine Communities
- 356 Aquatic Ecology
- 358 Ecological Field Study

**Culminating Experience:**

*Environmental Studies*
- 494 Problems in Environmental Science

D. Ecosystem Ecology (four courses)

*Environmental Studies*
- 276 Global Change Ecology
- 338 Forest Ecosystems

Two Courses from the following:

*Biology*
- 382 Ecological Modeling

*Chemistry*
- 217 Environmental Chemistry
- 331 Chemical Methods of Analysis

*Economics*
- 278 Joules to Dollars

*Environmental Studies*
- 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in $R$
- 244 Marine Communities
- 356 Aquatic Ecology

*Geology*
- 225 Mineralogy
- 363 Paleoceanography

**Culminating Experience:**

*Environmental Studies*
- 494 Problems in Environmental Science

E. Public Health (four courses)

*Environmental Studies*
- 265 Global Public Health
• 366 Environment and Human Health

Two Courses from the following:

Biochemistry
• 362 Medical Biochemistry or
• 367 Biochemistry of the Cell I

Biology
• 225 Immunology
• 246 Parasitology
• 275 Mammalian Physiology
• 278 Biomedical Genomics and Bioinformatics
• 348 Pathogenic Bacteriology

Chemistry
• 241 Organic Chemistry I

Environmental Studies
• 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis (if not used to satisfy II above) or 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in R
• 364 Climate Change, Justice and Health

Statistics
• 306 Topics in Epidemiology

Culminating Experience:

Environmental Studies
• 493 Environmental Policy Practicum or
• 494 Problems in Environmental Science

V. Senior Colloquium

Environmental Studies
• 401, 402 Senior Colloquium (one credit for the year)

Environmental Studies 401 and 402 provide one credit for the senior year and typically are taken in addition to a normal four-course semester.

Students are encouraged to consider field courses offered by Colby or other approved programs. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in research projects, relevant field studies, or internships in the discipline to complement their academic work. Environmental studies majors may apply for Environmental Studies Program financial assistance to participate in relevant research or internship opportunities.

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Studies Computation

The interdisciplinary major in environmental computation provides an introduction to environmental studies as a discipline as well as training in computational techniques used in environmental policy and science. Students become familiar with quantitative tools used to investigate environmental problems. The major is designed to provide students with proficiency in computational thinking, the analysis and understanding of environmental systems, challenges, and solutions, and in the design and implementation of algorithms for modeling and analysis. Students gain experience applying computational thinking and statistical methods to a diverse spectrum of topics in environmental studies and are introduced to the complexity and inter-relatedness of coupled human and natural systems and diverse computational environments. Diverse electives allow students to explore environmental topics in depth, including agriculture and food, conservation science, energy and climate, environmental humanities, marine and freshwater conservation, and public health.

Students interested in this major are encouraged to take Environmental Studies 118 (spring) in their first year, Computer Science 151 or 152 or 153, and 231 (fall or spring), and 251 (spring) in their first year, and one or more Environmental Studies electives in their second year. No requirement for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Advanced Placement credits can fulfill core course requirements based on exam performance and coverage. Exemption from Environmental Studies 118 is granted with an AP test score of 4 or 5, allowing advanced placement into other courses. Courses not listed below, such as those offered by some off-campus study programs, may count toward the major pending approval of the program director. Up to two courses may be counted toward the major from approved off-campus study programs. Courses counted in one section cannot also be counted as an Application Course.

Students should consult with the Environmental Studies Program director or their Computer Science advisor when planning their course of study, including capstone experience.
I. Required Foundational Courses

**Computer Science**
- 151 Computational Thinking: Visual Media or
- 152 Computational Thinking: Science (recommended) or
- 153 Computational Thinking: Smart Systems and
- 231 Data Structures and Algorithms

**Environmental Studies**
- 118 Environment and Society and
- One 200-level course (e.g., 171, 233, 234, 242, 244, 276, 365)

II. Required Modeling and Analysis Courses

**Computer Science**
- 251 Data Analysis and Visualization
- 341 Systems Biology or
- 363 Robotics or
- 365 Computer Vision
- or other course approved by advisor

**Environmental Studies**
- 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or
- 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis

**Mathematics and Statistics**
One of the five courses may be selected from the following:
- Statistics 212 Introduction to Statistical Methods or
- Mathematics 122 Multivariable Calculus

III. Application Courses (five courses)
Five courses selected from the following:

**Computer Science**
At least one and up to two courses at the 300 level or above

**Environmental Studies**
At least three and up to four courses not also counted elsewhere to provide depth in an application area. Recommended application groupings include: conservation and resources (e.g., 319, 338, 344), ecosystem ecology (e.g., 276, 366), energy and climate (e.g., 217, 276), food and agriculture (e.g., 344, 346), public health (e.g., 265, 364, 366), and water resources (marine and freshwater) (e.g., 242, 244, 356). Courses from the Bigelow Semester can count toward this requirement; up to two courses from study abroad can be counted toward this requirement with prior approval from the Director of the Environmental Studies Program. At least one course must be at the 300 level.

**Mathematics and Statistics**
One course selected from the following
- Statistics
  - 321 Statistical Modeling
- Mathematics
  - 253 Linear Algebra
  - 262 Vector Calculus
  - 311 Ordinary Differential Equations
  - 332 Numerical Analysis

IV. Culminating Experience

**Environmental Studies**
- 401, 402 Environmental Studies Colloquium (one credit for the year)

One capstone selected from the following determined in consultation with the student’s advisor:
- Computer Science 4xx or
- Environmental Studies 493 Environmental Policy Practicum or
- Environmental Studies 494 Problems in Environmental Science
Environmental studies 401 and 402 provide one credit for the senior year and typically are taken in addition to a normal four-course semester.

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in relevant on- and off-campus opportunities, including research projects, internships, field studies, and other opportunities to complement their academic work. Environmental Studies majors may apply for Environmental Studies Program financial assistance to participate in relevant research or internship opportunities.

Environmental Studies 401 and 402 provide one credit for the senior year and typically are taken in addition to a normal four-course semester. Environmental studies majors may apply for Environmental Studies Program financial assistance to participate in relevant research or internship opportunities.

Requirements for Honors in Environmental Studies

Environmental studies majors with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.7 at the end of the January Term of the junior year or with special program approval are eligible to apply for the Environmental Studies Honors Research Program. Interested students should contact a faculty sponsor during the spring semester of the junior year to discuss a project. Students who are studying abroad in the spring should try to make initial contact with a potential sponsor in the spring via email, but may complete their proposal in the fall at the beginning of the academic year. If the faculty sponsor approves a proposed project, students will register for ES491 (Independent Study) in the fall of their senior year. During the fall, students must write a thesis proposal, have it approved by the environmental studies faculty, and make progress on their research. Students may continue working on their project by registering for Environmental Studies 291 (Independent Study) during Jan Plan. Students approved by the environmental studies program will continue their research during the spring semester in Environmental Studies 484 (Honors Project). Upon successful completion of honors, Environmental Studies 491 and 291 will be converted to honors credit. A maximum of eight credits for honors research is allowed for the entire year.

Also, students enrolled in Environmental Studies 493 or 494 may petition the program to expand their independent study for these courses into an honors project to be conducted in January and the spring semester. Successful completion of the honors program will include an approved thesis, an oral presentation at the Colby Liberal Arts Symposium, a successful thesis defense, and the completion of the required course work for the major. The student fulfilling these requirements will graduate with “Honors in Environmental Studies.” In cases where requirements for honors have not been fulfilled at the end of the spring semester, Environmental Studies 484 (Honors Research) will revert to a graded Environmental Studies 492 (Independent Study).

Requirements for the Minor in Environmental Studies

The environmental studies minor is designed to introduce students to environmental issues and their ramifications in the context of the social and natural sciences. Course requirements provide flexibility, allowing students to study in areas of most interest to them. AP credit in a subject allows advanced placement, but it does not reduce the number of courses required for the minor. Students who receive an AP 4 or 5 for environmental science do not have to take Environmental Studies 118 but must take an additional course from Group 1 below. Courses not listed below, such as those offered by some off-campus study programs, may count toward the minor pending prior approval by the program director.

Requirements include

- 118 Environment and Society

and

1. Either Economics 133 and 231; or Anthropology 112 and one of 256 or 253 or Global Studies 255; or Environmental Studies 233 and 234; or Environmental Studies 265 and either 364 or 366; or Philosophy 243 and either 216 or 328;
2. Either Biology 163 or 164; or Geology 141 and one additional geology course; or Chemistry 141 and 142, or 147 and one additional chemistry course; or Chemistry 121 and 122; or two courses from Bigelow Ocean Science Semester
3. Two additional courses, including one numbered 300 or above, selected from the following group(s):

Group 1: At least one course selected from the environmental studies core courses:

- Environmental Studies
  - 151 Landscape and Meaning
  - 212 Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing or
  - 214 Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis
  - 218 Exploratory Data Analysis in R
  - 233 Environmental Policy
  - 234 International Environmental Policy
  - 242 Marine Conservation and Policy
  - 244 Marine Communities
  - 265 Global Public Health
  - 276 Global Change Ecology
  - 283 Env Humanities: Stories of Crisis & Resilience
  - 297: Sustainable Business Seminar
• 319 Conservation Biology
• 337: Climate Fiction
• 338 Forest Ecosystems
• 343 Environmental Change
• 344 Marine Fisheries Management
• 346 Global Food Policy
• 356 Aquatic Ecology
• 358 Ecological Field Study
• 364 Climate Change, Justice and Health
• 366 Environment and Human Health
• 371 Current Topics in Environmental Science
• 397B Community, Economics, and Conservation

Group 2: If only one course is chosen from the environmental studies core group (Group 1), then one additional course from:

Anthropology
• 256 Land, Food, Culture, and Power
• 253 Goods, Gifts, and Globalizing Consumers

Art
• 218 Architectural Design Workshop

Biology
• 237 Woody Plants
• 259 Plants of the Tropics
• 277 Vertebrate Natural History
• 354 Marine Ecology
• 382 Ecological Modeling

Chemistry
• 217 Environmental Chemistry
• 331 Chemical Methods of Analysis

Economics
• 231 Environmental and Resource Economics
• 278 Joules to Dollars

Geology
• 254 Principles of Geomorphology

History
• 248 Nuclear Visions, Environmental Realities

Philosophy
• 216 Philosophy of Nature
• 243 Environmental Ethics
• 328 Radical Ecologies

Science, Technology, and Society
• 215 Weather, Climate, and Society

Minors also are encouraged to have a hands-on environmental activity either of an experiential nature (internship) or an academic nature (research project). In many if not most cases, at least one of these activities may be required by one of the courses selected and satisfied automatically. No requirement for the minor may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Course Offerings

ES118s Environment and Society An interdisciplinary study of human relationships with and impacts on the environment. Examination of important local, national, and global environmental issues by exploring causes and methods for investigating these pressing problems, as well as possible solutions, from scientific and public-policy perspectives. Students explore important literature and ideas in the field to complement the lectures; conduct an original, semester-long, group research project; and complete several writing assignments. Four
[ES120] Community Responses to Environmental Hazards  An introduction to community-level environmental problems related to hazardous waste and the impacts on and responses of affected communities. Explores the concept of environmental justice and how the risk of hazardous exposures is related to race, ethnicity, class, and gender. We discuss U.S. policy debates on hazardous waste regulation and environmental injustice claims, and we consider the evidence for the inequitable distribution of environmental quality and adverse health impacts, the mechanisms for environmental and public health decision making, and community access to informational resources and empowerment.  

Four credit hours.  W1.

[ES120B] From Darwin to Dillard: Nature Writing through Time  Focusing on broad themes such as observing and exploring, encountering animals, working the land, and dwelling in place, we thoughtfully and critically engage a century of excellent nature writing by authors worldwide. Students learn about and practice nature writing using the personal journal, the essay, word pictures and figurative language, story telling, poetry, and activism. Through reading, writing, art, music, video, and time outdoors, students encounter nature using all their senses, and gain an appreciation of the content and process of nature writing.  

Four credit hours.  W1.

[ES143] Sustainable and Socially Responsible Business  Provides a broad overview of sustainable and socially responsible business principles and the ways in which companies incorporate them. Also introduces sustainable and socially responsible investment strategies and reviews their potential impact and effectiveness. Through a series of readings, lectures, guest speakers, and real-world case studies, students are exposed to the issues and opportunities facing green businesses. Includes small-group and individual presentations.  

Three credit hours.

ES151] Landscapes and Meaning: An Exploration of Environmental Writing  An exploration of the works of selected 20th-century environmental writers and how their life experiences contribute to a sense of connection with and action on behalf of the Earth. Through readings, film, writing assignments, group discussion, and journaling, students will develop critical thinking and communication skills while reflecting on their own personal relationship with nature.  

Three credit hours.  L. MACKENZIE

[ES212] Introduction to GIS and Remote Sensing  A comprehensive theoretical and practical introduction to the fundamental principles of geographic information systems and remote sensing digital image processing. Topics include data sources and models, map scales and projections, spatial analysis, elementary satellite image interpretation and manipulation, and global positioning systems. Current issues and applications of GIS, with emphasis on environmental topics. Students develop and carry out independent projects using GIS. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Not open to students who have completed Environmental Studies 214 or 214J.  

Four credit hours.

ES214f Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis  An introduction to geographic information systems’ (GIS) data management and visualization capabilities as well as the theory and application of spatial analysis techniques. Topics covered include spatial data representation in a GIS, effective map making, coordinate systems and projections, exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA), and spatial statistical analysis. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Not open to students who have completed Environmental Studies 212 or 214J.  

Four credit hours.  GIMOND

ES214Jj Introduction to GIS and Spatial Analysis  An introduction to geographic information systems' (GIS) data management and visualization capabilities as well as the theory and application of spatial analysis techniques. Topics covered include spatial data representation in a GIS, effective map making, coordinate systems and projections, exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA), and spatial statistical analysis. Prerequisite: Sophomore or higher standing. Not open to students who have completed Environmental Studies 212 or 214.  

Three credit hours.  GIMOND


Four credit hours.  N. FLEMING

[ES216] Philosophy of Nature  Listed as Philosophy 216.  

Four credit hours.

ES217s Environmental Chemistry  Listed as Chemistry 217.  

Three credit hours.  MCKINNEY

ES218s Exploratory Data Analysis in R  Exploratory data analysis employs methods such as robust data summaries and data visualization to isolate important patterns and features in the data to shed light on the phenomena being investigated. Students will learn the building blocks of effective graphic design for data exploration and for publication using the R programming environment. They will also learn how to manipulate and restructure complex data sets (including spatial data) for data analysis. Students will use R and RStudio to generate dynamic reports that will integrate both analysis and presentation with a strong emphasis on reproducible research. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.  

Four credit hours.  GIMOND
ES219j  Architectural Design Workshop  Listed as Art 218.  Three credit hours.  LOCK

[ES228]  Nature and the Built Environment  Listed as American Studies 228.  Four credit hours.  H.

ES231s  Environmental and Natural Resource Economics  Listed as Economics 231.  Four credit hours.  MEREDITH

ES233f  Environmental Policy  A comprehensive and interdisciplinary introduction to the process and challenges of developing, implementing, and evaluating environmental policy. The roles of costs and benefits, uncertainty and risks, science and technology, and attitudes and ethics are explored. Historic and contemporary case studies are used to examine major institutions and actors, laws and regulations, incentives and enforcement approaches, and their role in addressing our nation's most pressing environmental problems. Students complete a semester-long research assignment. **Prerequisite:** Environmental Studies 118.  Four credit hours.  NYHUS

ES234s  International Environmental Policy  Examines how communities, nations, and international organizations govern the use of natural resources including water, land, forests, fisheries, and the global climate. Through case studies and international environmental treaty analyses we will develop an understanding of global environmental issues; explore complementarities and tradeoffs among local, national, and global approaches to environmental governance; highlight the environmental justice implications of various resource management regimes; and assess the effectiveness of policies to address major environmental problems. **Prerequisite:** Environmental Studies 118.  Four credit hours.  I.  INSTRUCTOR

[ES240]  Microbes in the Environment  Listed as Biology 240.  Three credit hours.  N.

ES242s  Marine Conservation and Policy  Human activities and effects—including overfishing, water pollution, climate change, and benthic habitat destruction—have all had major impacts on ocean ecosystems. Through lectures and discussions we will investigate global, regional, and local threats to marine biodiversity and ecosystem function. Potential conservation solutions will be considered. Independent and group research projects will investigate the science and policy of marine conservation issues and will evaluate and synthesize information from scientific literature, popular media, and online discussions. **Prerequisite:** Environmental Studies 118.  Four credit hours.  MCCLENACHAN

ES243s  Environmental Ethics  Listed as Philosophy 243.  Four credit hours.  PETERSON

ES244s  Marine Communities  Introduces students to key ecological interactions in marine communities around the world, including kelp forests, coral reefs, sea grasses, and the open ocean. A key learning goal is improved scientific literacy through in-depth reading and synthesis of scientific papers and the development of a research proposal. Global innovation course that will involve an optional field trip to Belize during spring break to collect data. There will be an additional fee for the spring break trip; students should contact the instructor as soon as possible about opportunities for financial support and deadlines to apply. **Prerequisite:** Biology 271 or Environmental Studies 271.  Four credit hours.  MCCLENACHAN

[ES259]  Plants of the Tropics  Listed as Biology 259.  Three credit hours.

ES265f  Global Public Health  An introduction to the principles and measures of global health, disease burdens, and environmental determinants of health, including poverty, climate change, pollution, population, violence, and lack of safe food, clean water, and fuels. We will also study international health institutions, key actors, and environmental regimes for the regulation of environmental health hazards. Through small-group presentations and discussion we will explore global case studies that highlight the complex relationship between human health and the environment. **Prerequisite:** Environmental Studies 118 or a course in the natural sciences.  Four credit hours.  CARLSON

ES271f  Introduction to Ecology  Listed as Biology 271.  Four credit hours.  N, Lb.  BECKNELL, MOORE

ES276s  Global Change Ecology  Provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the principles of climate, ecosystems, and biogeochemistry needed to understand human impacts on the natural environment. Students will study the impacts of climate warming, our changing atmosphere, land-use change, altered hydrologic and nutrient cycles, and other global changes. We will examine key elements of global ecosystem function and investigate how human activities have altered global ecosystems since the Industrial Revolution. We will critically assess scientific evidence for anthropogenic changes, and consider both impacts and solutions to the challenges of global changes. Relies heavily on reading of primary scientific literature and group participation and discussion. **Prerequisite:** Environmental Studies 118 and one college-level science course.  Four credit hours.  BRUESEWITZ
ES297f Sustainable Business Seminar A comprehensive introduction to the ways businesses are implementing sustainability and corporate social responsibility. Lectures and business case studies are used to examine the costs and benefits of sustainable business practices to companies, the environment, consumers, and the greater community. Students will analyze different types of sustainable businesses, from start-ups to multi-national companies, and examine the role that entrepreneurs and founders have in creating mission-driven organizations. Students will complete a semester-long group research paper and presentation, as well as several individual and group writing assignments. Credit cannot be earned for both this course and Environmental Studies 143. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118 or Economics 133. Four credit hours. PENNEY

ES297Bf Nature in Italian Literature and Film (in English) Listed as Italian 297. Four credit hours. L. FERRANDO

ES297Cj Creative Environmental Storytelling Explores the roles of awe, mindfulness, and active imagination in environmental writing. Students will be encouraged to access their "inner hermit" and explore how, as biological beings, we can create effective storytelling to envision a future where all life thrives. Students will explore the writings of others and practice writing their own stories. Introduces the idea of the evolutionary body and how it can relate to effective engagement for positive environmental change. Previously offered as Environmental Studies 297 (Jan Plan 2018). Three credit hours. WILLIAMS

ES297Dj Global Change Impacts on Marginal Marine Ecosystems Investigates impacts of global change on "marginal" marine ecosystems, using the subtropical reefs of Bermuda as a case study. The month will combine experiential learning at the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences with subsequent lab analyses at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences. Hands-on field work, including snorkeling and underwater photography, use of contemporary water quality sensors, readings in primary scientific literature, and use of biological and chemical analytical capabilities, will teach students technical skills and develop their capacity to think critically about environmental science. Nongraded. Counts toward the biology major as a laboratory course in field biology. Prerequisite: Biology 164, Chemistry 142, Environmental Studies 118, or Geology 142. Three credit hours. N, Lb. PRICE

ES298s Seafood Forensics: Uncovering Fraud in Ocean Food Systems Students will explore the varied impacts of fraud in ocean food systems. Students will learn how mislabeling affects the management and conservation of marine resources, supply chain economics, and risks to human health. Students will study how new molecular tools are being used to combat fraud, and explore the broader policy implications of forensic science. Students will grow their scientific literacy and enhance their writing and presentation skills. Prerequisite: Biology 163. Four credit hours. RASHER

ES298Bs Managing Environmental Risk The incidence of environmental disasters has increased in recent decades. This trend is explained by multiple intersecting factors related to climate change, demography, geography and economics. This course examines how policy institutions and communities conceptualize and address environmental risk with a particular focus on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and resilience building. Students will gain a topical understandings and introduction to key theoretical frameworks. Students will gain insight into the ways in which research and empirical evidence informs policy and practice. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 234. Four credit hours. ABRAHAMS

ES319s Conservation Biology Concepts of conservation biology are examined in detail. Topics include patterns of diversity and rarity, sensitive habitats, extinction, captive propagation, preserve design, and reclamation of degraded or destroyed ecosystems. Interdisciplinary solutions to the challenges of protecting, maintaining, and restoring biological diversity are discussed. Offered in alternate years. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118 or 271 or Biology 263, and sophomore or higher standing. Four credit hours. NYHUS

[ES328] Radical Ecologies Listed as Philosophy 328. Four credit hours.

[ES331] Natural Resource Economics Listed as Economics 341. Prerequisite: Economics 223. Four credit hours.

ES332f Chemical Methods of Analysis Listed as Chemistry 331. Four credit hours. KING
ES338s  Forest Ecosystems  Forest ecosystems regulate climate, store and filter water, provide food and fiber, and serve as recreational areas and sacred spaces. These ecosystems are undergoing dramatic changes with important ecological, economic, and social consequences. We will use cutting-edge methods in ecosystem science to explore how forest ecosystems are changing and how that influences the value we derive from forests. An interactive lecture and workshop-style lab will introduce a mix of practical skills and theoretical knowledge to serve as tools for understanding the causes and consequences of changing forest ecosystems. Prerequisite: Biology 237, 271 or Environmental Studies 271.  Four credit hours.  L.  BECKNELL

ES344  Marine Fisheries Management  Managing marine fisheries represents one of the most significant challenges in the conservation of global resources. We explore political, cultural, and ecological factors essential for successful management. Through lectures, discussions, and readings, students become familiar with global fisheries issues, including high seas management, initiatives to protect the food security and biodiversity of tropical island nations, and management of marine and anadromous fish in the United States. Prerequisite: Biology 263 or Environmental Studies 118 or 271, and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.  N, Lb.  BECKNELL

ES346  Global Food Policy  Examines the emergence and development of global food systems and food policies starting with the earliest agricultural societies and continuing to the present day. We explore the economic, nutritional, and environmental justice implications of agricultural systems and critically analyze the intended and actual outcomes of food policies for nations and agricultural communities. Case studies, films, and independent research further highlight the role of food and food policy in degrading the environment, exacerbating ethnic tensions and social inequities, and even spurring conflict. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118 and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.  I.

ES354f  Marine Ecology  Listed as Biology 354.  Three credit hours.  WILSON

ES356  Aquatic Ecology  Concern over the impact of human activities on aquatic communities and ecosystems has brought aquatic ecology to the forefront of public attention. Through lecture, discussion, writing assignments, and laboratory work, students will explore the major ecological principles that influence the physical, chemical, and biological organization of aquatic ecosystems. Experimental approaches and sampling techniques used by limnologists will be employed in local lakes, streams, and rivers, as well as in the laboratory to investigate topics of concern in freshwater ecosystems, including eutrophication, pollution, land use change, invasive species, and the impact of climate change. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 271, a W1 course, and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.  W2.

ES358  Ecological Field Study in Moorea  Biological diversity, ecology, and conservation of marine ecosystems in Moorea, French Polynesia. Involves qualitative and quantitative field studies of the biological diversity and ecology of coral reef ecosystems; field-based investigation of the environmental challenges facing these ecosystems; discussions with conservation practitioners about innovative conservation solutions and the efficacy of local marine protected areas; exposure to the culture and history of Polynesian Islanders, including pre-European ecosystem management practices and traditional ecological knowledge of marine biodiversity and ecosystem function. Lectures, films, and discussions of assigned readings during the first week followed by a 20-day field trip. Cost: TBD. Financial aid available for qualified students. Prerequisite: Biology 131 or 164 or Environmental Studies 118, and permission of the instructor.  Three credit hours.

ES363  Paleoclimatology  Listed as Geology GE363.  Four credit hours.

ES364f  Climate Change, Justice, and Health  Examines the impacts of changing climate dynamics on human livelihoods, rights, health, and well-being. Through interdisciplinary readings, class discussions, research projects, and innovative communications, students will engage deeply with data from the natural and social sciences about human impacts, adaptations, and vulnerabilities, as well as explore climate justice activism. Key learning goals include improved information literacy and written and oral communication skills and increased understanding of how climate change is impacting the world in which we live. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118.  Four credit hours.  CARLSON

ES366s  The Environment and Human Health  How human health is affected by physical, chemical, biological, and social environments; how we use science to measure effects of these determinants at the level of cell, tissue, individual, and population; how we assess these determinants to make regulatory decisions. Topics include introductions to toxicology, epidemiology, and risk assessment; health effects of pollution, synthetic chemicals, consumer products, climate change, and the built environment; the etiology of health outcomes including cancer, obesity, endocrine disruption, and respiratory diseases. Students use primary scientific literature for independent research and, when appropriate, engage in environmental health policy debates in Congress and/or the Maine legislature. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118 or 126, and sophomore or higher standing.  Four credit hours.  N.  CARLSON
ES371f  Current Topics in Environmental Science  Explores emerging and cutting-edge topics in the field of environmental science. Lectures will be supported by in-class activities, including regular, student-led discussions. Students will read recent literature reviewing emerging topics from leading journals in environmental science and ecology. Additionally, we will examine a variety of experimental designs, laboratory methods, and statistical approaches used by environmental scientists to investigate and understand environmental processes and human impacts. A research assignment will enhance writing skills. Prerequisite: Biology 263, 271 or Environmental Studies 271.

Four credit hours.  NEAL

[ES378]  Geologic Environments in the Marine Realm  Listed as Geology 378.  Three credit hours.  N.

ES382s  Ecological Modeling  Listed as Biology 382.  Four credit hours.  MOORE

ES397Af  U.S. Environmental History  Listed as History 397.  Four credit hours.  REARDON

ES397Bf  Community, Economics, and Conservation  An interdisciplinary examination of sustainability through the intersection of communities, economics, and conservation. Students will gain critical thinking and leadership skills by examining strategies, policy frameworks, and decision support tools for evaluating trade-offs between economic interests and the environment. Case studies will focus on providing tools in land conservation, finance, recreational planning, GIS, and ecosystem services, with an eye towards application in a student project. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 118 or Economics 231.

Four credit hours.  AMUNDSEN

ES398s  Life in Times of Extinction  Listed as English 398.  Four credit hours.  L.  WALKER

ES398Bs  Environmental Security  Environmental security is a complex and contentious concept. This course provides students with an in-depth understanding and a critical examination of this term and how environmental degradation interacts with human and/or national security. Students will be exposed to major debates across, and among, academic and practitioner communities. Students will be able to apply lessons from historic environmental security debates to contemporary environmental security questions. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 234.

Four credit hours.  ABRAHAMS

ES401f, ES402s  Environmental Studies Colloquium  Attendance at selected program colloquia during the fall and spring semesters; written reflections to be submitted. Required of all senior environmental studies majors. Typically taken in addition to a normal four-course semester. One credit hour for the year. Prerequisite: Senior standing in environmental studies.  Noncredit.  NYHUS

ES484s  Honors in Environmental Studies  Majors approved for admission into the Environmental Studies Honors Program may elect this for the January Program or the spring semester. Requires research conducted under the guidance of a faculty member and focused on an approved topic leading to the writing of a thesis. A maximum of eight credits (including Environmental Studies 491 in the fall semester) may be earned in honors work. Upon successful completion of the thesis, an oral presentation, and all requirements for the major, the student will graduate with "Honors in Environmental Studies." Prerequisite: Senior standing and a 3.50 grade point average in the major at the end of the junior year or permission of the program. One to four credit hours.

ES491f, 492s  Independent Study  Independent study devoted to a topic chosen by the student with the approval of the program committee. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing as an environmental studies major or minor. One to four credit hours.  FACULTY

ES493f  Environmental Policy Practicum  An in-depth analysis of current issues and policies affecting the environment. Students work individually and collaboratively on a project with a common theme and are assigned unique roles as researchers, editors, and technical coordinators. Reading and discussion of primary literature is augmented with invited speakers, field trips, and student presentations. Prerequisite: Environmental Studies 233 (for domestic emphasis) or 234 (for international emphasis), and senior standing as an environmental studies policy major.  Four credit hours.  ABRAHAMS, MCCLENACHAN

ES494f  Problems in Environmental Science  Causes of and solutions to selected environmental problems are investigated through lectures, laboratory and field work, discussions, and guest presentations. Focuses on completion of a group research project with methods used by private consulting firms and governmental agencies to investigate freshwater (section A) or marine (section B) environmental problems. Research results are presented in a public forum at the end of the semester. The civic engagement component provides useful information to the community and the state and gives students experience interacting with interested stakeholders. Skill development includes research, communication (both oral and written), and collaborative work skills. Prerequisite: Biology 271 or Environmental Studies 271, and senior standing as an environmental science major. Five credit hours.  BRUESEWITZ, COUNTWAY, NEAL, PEARSON