

ENVS 001: Introduction to Environmental Studies

Dr. Stephanie Kaza, Professor
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MWF 12:20-1:10
Fall 2008
Billings Lecture Hall

TAs: Sarah Williams (grad), Jared Alvord, Holly Borday, Keith Brunner, Kerry Canton, Pier Davis, Kayla DeCarr, Colleen Hertz, Elena Mamatatas, Emily Piccone, Jessica Serrante, Greg Soll, Jamel Torres, Alena Warren, Erica Wilson.

ENVS 001 offers students a broad overview of environmental concepts and issues, with an emphasis on local, regional, and national concerns. In contrast, ENVS 002, takes an international approach to global concerns of sustainability and development, drawing more on the social sciences. The course is welcome to students of all interest areas and is a required foundation course for all ENVS majors and minors.

Course Purpose:

- 1) To introduce key concepts and issues in the diverse interdisciplinary areas of environmental studies
- 2) To introduce environmental issues and resources locally in Burlington and Vermont
- 3) To develop academic skills in listening, reading, writing, and critical thinking
- 4) To integrate analytic, reflective, collaborative, and experiential ways of learning

Course Text:

Environmental Science, 9th edition, W.P. Cunningham, M.A. Cunningham & B. Saigo, eds.

Course Outline:

			<u>Reading</u> (for day listed):
SEPT	3 Wed	Environmental Foundations Introductions, the Big Questions	
	5 Fri	History of the Environmental Movement	Intro, Chap 1
	8 Mon	Key Events and People, 1960s to present	
	10 Wed	Ecosystems: material cycles, energy flows	Chap 3
	12 Fri	Biomes – structure and stories	Chap 5
	15 Mon	Ecosystem relations, species dynamics	Chap 4
	17 Wed	Population biology	Chap 6
	19 Fri	Protecting Vermont's Endangered Species <i>Liz Thompson, field botanist for The Nature Conservancy</i>	
	22 Mon	Environment and Human Health Impacts of Population Growth	Chap 7
	24 Wed	Impacts of Human Consumption	pp 534-535
	26 Fri	Impacts on Human Health	Chap 8
	29 Mon	Reducing our Ecological Footprint <i>Jim Merkel, author of <u>Radical Simplicity</u>, invited</i>	
OCT	1 Wed	Systems Impacts of Health & Environmental Degradation	
	3 Fri	<u>MID-TERM EXAM #1</u>	
	6 Mon	Areas of Environmental Concern and Responsibility Food and Agriculture <i>Ernesto Mendez, Environmental Program/ Plant and Soil Sciences</i>	Chap 9
	8 Wed	Pest and Pesticides	Chap 10

	10	Fri	Challenges and Achievements in Vermont Agriculture <i>David Zuckerman, organic farmer and Vermont legislator</i>	
	13	Mon	Protecting and Sustaining Biodiversity	Chap 11
	15	Wed	Healthy Forest Stewardship <i>Cecilia Danks, Environmental Program</i>	Chap 12
	17	Fri	Ecological Restoration and Conservation Biology <i>Rick Paradis, UVM Natural Areas Director</i>	Chap 13
	20	Mon	Protecting Water Resources	Chap 17, 18
	22	Wed	Transportation <i>Lisa Aultman-Hall, Director, UVM Transportation Center</i>	
	24	Fri	Air and Climate <i>Jen Jenkins, Rubenstein School</i>	Chap 15, 16
	27	Mon	Energy for the Future	Chap 19, 20
	29	Wed	Solid and Hazardous Waste	Chap 21
	31	Fri	<u>MID-TERM EXAM #2</u>	
NOV	3	Mon	The Next Wave: Innovative and Interdisciplinary Ecological Design: Sustainable Systems <i>Amy Seidl, Living Future/Teal Farm</i>	
	5	Wed	Environmental Policy and Law	Chap 24
	7	Fri	Environmental Information Literacy <i>Laurie Kutner, UVM environmental reference librarian</i>	
	10	Mon	Urban Green Planning	Chap 22
	12	Wed	Environmental Advocacy	
	14	Fri	Environmental Education <i>Tom Hudspeth, Environmental Program</i>	Chap 25
	17	Mon	Environmental Ethics	Chap 2
	19	Wed	Ecological Economics <i>Jon Erickson, Environmental Program, Rubenstein School</i>	Chap 23
	21	Fri	Campus Greening at UVM <i>Gioia Thompson, Environmental Coordinator</i>	
	24-28		Thanksgiving break – no class	
DEC	1	Mon	Ecopsychology and Social Change	
	3	Wed	Religion and Ecology	Chap 2
	5	Fri	Environment and the Expressive Arts <i>Adrian Ivakhiv</i>	
	8	Mon	What then Shall We Do? Creating a Livable Future <i>ENVS Faculty panel</i>	Chap 25
	10	Wed	Closing Reflections DUE: all lab write-ups and extra credit	
	12	Fri	<u>FINAL EXAM</u> , 7:00-9:30pm in CCTheater	

Discussion Sections

All students are expected to attend one discussion section each week. Attendance will be taken and TAs will follow up if you are absent frequently. Sessions are facilitated by competitively selected undergraduate Teaching Assistants familiar with the course and the Environmental Studies program. They will expect you to act respectfully in your section meetings and to contribute to making the discussion section a positive and enriching experience for everyone involved. The sections are meant to serve as learning communities where you will gain environmental knowledge through field trips, videos, discussion, and personal sharing. You will be the most successful in the course if you attend and engage in all meetings of your section. You are expected to take personal responsibility for being in the right place at the right time for your group's activities; pay particular attention to announced locations for field trips.

Schedule with Writing Assignments

Writing assignments are designed to reflect the content and approach to the associated lab session. The lab sessions and writing cover a wide range of topics, field and classroom experiences, and homework challenges. The lab part of the course is the equivalent of one of the four credits for ENVS 001, so we expect you to take it seriously.

Week	Topic	Writing Assignment (due the following week)
9/1	Intro to course	Personal letter of introduction
9/8	Green Campus Tour (field trip)	Green university vision
9/15	Centennial Woods (field trip)	Field studies science report
9/22	Consumerism (field trip)	Consumer product review
9/29	Eco-Footprint/library	Footprint reflections, letter to editor
10/6	Intervale (field trip)	Debate: pros & cons of vegetarianism
10/13	UVM Farm (field trip)	Food video review
10/20	Lake Champlain (field trip)	Nature writing/lake story
10/27	UVM heating plant (field trip)	Letter to Congress/energy issues
11/3	Environmental activism	Informational interview
11/10	End of Suburbia	Research skills
11/17	Media literacy and ecopsychology	Self-observation
11/24	Thanksgiving break	
12/1	Environmental ethics, religion, & art	Credo

Course Guidelines

- 1) Reading -- You will benefit the most from the assigned readings if you read them BEFORE the lecture on the topic. The reading serves as background for the lectures which will cover additional material as well as underscoring the ideas in the reading. Taking notes on key points or highlighting your text can be helpful for exam review.
- 2) Lectures -- You are expected to attend all lectures and arrive on time. Lectures will begin promptly at 12:20; announcements will be made at the end of the class. Please make every effort to arrive on time to be respectful to your classmates and the professor. If you arrive late, please minimize disturbance to others. If you are chronically late to class, points will be deducted from your attendance grade. To minimize distraction, please do not eat food or chew gum in class. Cell phone use is not permitted in any UVM class, including this one. Please respect the instructor and guest speakers by giving them your full attention. Please do not make work for others by leaving your trash behind.
- 3) Sections -- You are expected to attend all lab section meetings, beginning the first week of class. You are responsible for all weekly lab assignments and for staying in touch with your TA. Sections may meet for field trips in alternate locations, so watch for email alerts about your weekly section meeting.
- 3) Exams -- There are two mid-terms and a final exam. Exams will be part multiple choice, part short answer, and two short essays. The TAs will offer study sessions before the exams for those who are interested. You are expected to be in class for all exams; missing an exam means failing the exam. If you cannot take an exam on the scheduled day and time, you must present a written reason signed by your advisor or college dean. Make-up exams are granted solely at the discretion of the professor. People with registered learning disabilities should make alternative exam arrangements with the ACCESS office.
- 4) Quizzes -- There will be five announced quizzes across the semester. These will be multiple choice questions to encourage you to stay current with lecture and reading content. Material from the quizzes will be used on the exams. You will be able to drop the lowest scoring quiz from your final grade.
- 5) Writing assignments -- Each week there will be a writing assignment of 2-4 pages aimed at developing environmental writing skills. Guidelines and grading criteria for the exercises will be given in class and posted on the website. All written work should be typed and proofread for errors and neatness. Be sure your name, date, TA name, and the title of the assignment are on the front page and that all pages are fastened together.
- 5) Participation -- There are numerous opportunities for participation in your discussion groups. Each person in the group is expected to speak up and contribute to the discussion each week. You may also participate through your discussion section contributions to the lecture sessions. Regular attendance goes a long way to generating good levels of participation.
- 6) Extra Credit -- Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class. These will include campus lectures, environmental films, and environmental conferences. Each extra credit write-up is worth 5-10 points (10 would be an A+ write-up). You can earn up to 50 pts of extra credit which can raise your course grade by up to one half a grade (from B to B+, for example). Extra credit options and directions for write-up will be posted on the class website.

How to Succeed in this Course

Though this is a large lecture-style course, it does not need to be impersonal or a difficult learning environment. You will be most successful in the course if you (a) regularly attend class and section meetings, (b) take good notes in both, (c) do the reading attentively, (d) make friends to study with. It will also help if you check the course website regularly for updates and assignments, as well as examples of excellent work. And perhaps most importantly, ***make good self-care at college a habit***. Your learning capacities drop dramatically if you are sick, tired, hungry, upset, or distracted. Your beautiful healthy body/mind is a precious gift; take care of it wisely and you will be a more effective person in the world.

Course Grading

All written work and exams will be graded on a point basis, and grading curves will be announced in class. In general, we will follow these standards for grading:

A+	98-100%	C+	78-79%	F	below 60%
A	93-97%	C	73-77%		
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%		
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%		
B	83-87%	D	63-67%		
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%		

Your class grade will be based approximately 60% on major exams and 40% on weekly writing assignments, quizzes, and attendance/participation.

Mid-term #1, Oct 3rd	150 points
Mid-term #2, Oct 31st	175
Final Exam, Dec 12th	250
Weekly Writing assignments	300 (25pts each, best 12 of 13)
Quizzes	60 (15 pts each, best 4 out of 5)
Attendance & Participation	<u>65</u>
<i>Total</i>	1000 points
Extra Credit	up to 50 pts

**Mid-term warning letters:* If a student is doing poorly in class by mid October, s/he will receive a warning letter suggesting they either improve their work or consider withdrawing from class.

Course Policies

1) Communication – Contact your section TA first for all questions about assignments, meeting locations, exam review, course policies and expectations. Contact the grad TA Sarah Williams for questions about web postings, extra credit, excused absences, athletic or special needs requests. Contact Professor Kaza if your need does not fit in these categories. If the TAs cannot answer your question, they will forward it to the professor for a response. You can make an advising appointment with Professor Kaza at 656-4055.

2) Absences -- Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, and unexcused absences will factor into your final grade. Even if you are feeling under the weather, make an effort to come to class and keep up with the course. Absences are not “excused” unless they are personally cleared with the professor or TA by phone or email. This applies to religious holidays as well; please notify your TA ahead of time when you need to miss class for religious observances. I expect you to make it a commitment to attend every class, both for your own personal learning, and to contribute to the community of learners in your lab section.

2) Late work -- Turn work in on time, i.e. at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. Do not submit papers to your TAs via email; we expect you to hand in a carefully proofread paper in hard copy. Late work will receive point deductions for each day a paper is late. If you need an extension due to illness or family emergency, please speak with your TA.

3) Academic Honesty -- All students are expected to follow the academic guidelines issued by the University of Vermont. Dishonesty can become a bad habit if you let it be part of your academic schooling. Don't rationalize unethical behavior. In your writing assignments and exams, your written words should be your own. If you draw on other sources, they should be cited properly to give adequate credit. If you are having trouble in school or in the class, come and talk with us. Let your TA, the professor, or your advisor help you before it is too late and you are tempted to turn to self-degrading compromises. Work that appears to be plagiarized will be given no credit and students will be asked to meet with the instructor to explain the situation. Plagiarism at UVM is grounds for academic suspension; don't do it. (UVM's Code of Academic Integrity is available on line at www.uvm.edu/cses/.)