

Environmental Studies Courses

Spring 2010

(Note: Degree/Day students must wait until December 14 to register for Continuing Education (CE) courses)

ENVS 002 International Environmental Studies

10674 / 4 Credits / Saleem Ali / MWF 9:35-10:25 am / ML Science 235

This course reviews a range of environmental issues and popular and institutional politics around them in our world today. We investigate the ways in which the environment is perceived by people, how it is degraded, how such degradation affects people's lives, how people organize into environmental movements, and the effect such movements have. We explore rural ecology, links between race and environment, the preservation of the countryside, fisheries, forests, dams, saving tigers, people hugging trees, green parties, opposition to nuclear power, fried chicken, and much besides. Around the world in one semester! Prerequisites: **Students must register for the lecture and a lab section; see registrar's web site for details.**

ENVS 151 Intermediate Environmental Studies

10693/ 3 Credits / Rick Paradis / TR 2:30-3:45 pm / Lafayette L108

Through the development of networking and other research skills each student in this course compiles diverse background knowledge about areas of personal environmental interest. From this knowledge are developed personal academic and activity plans. Presentations by class members and guests provide interdisciplinary context through current issues, organized advocacy, and personal and professional opportunities. FOR ENVS MAJORS ONLY. Prerequisite: ENVS 1, 2; ENVS major; soph. or jr. stdg. Enrollment Limit: 30.

ENVS 151 Intermediate Environmental Studies

14269/ 3 Credits / Cecilia Danks / TR 2:30-3:45 / Terrill 207

Same as description above. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 156 Permaculture

14454 / 3 Credits / Keith Morris / M 5:10-8:10 / Hills 017

Course meets March 9-13 plus 2 weekends in April: 4/4-5 and 4/11-12 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at Green Mountain Permaculture in Isle LaMotte, Vermont 05463; \$450 fee for meals & lodging with shared bedrooms and baths. Permaculture is the study and practice of the way human beings—as individuals and societies—can participate in the creation of ethical and ecological support systems. We present a whole systems design approach that integrates plants, animals, buildings, people, communities, and the landscapes that surround us. The course is designed to introduce students to the principles and practice of permaculture design through collaboration on real-world projects with an eye towards repairing, restoring and regenerating human ecosystems Prerequisite: 3 credits of basic BIOL or ecol. sci. or permission. Cross-listed w/PSS 156. Enrollment Limit: 12.

ENVS 173 Landscape Natural History

14085 / 3 credits / Alicia Daniel and Heather Fitzgerald / R 1:00-3:45 / Allen House 104 CONTINUING EDUCATION

This field-based course will explore the nature of Vermont's landscapes from a multidisciplinary perspective. Through a series of field trips, projects, and lectures, students will gain an understanding of why the surrounding landscape looks the way it does. We'll investigate a variety of landscapes from the bedrock up through the wildlife habitat, and learn to identify and understand the natural history of various components. In addition to exploring the emerging disciplines of landscape ecology, conservation biology, and ecosystem management, we will also examine landscapes from artistic and historical perspectives. Prerequisites: ENVS 1 or NR 1 or Intro. Natural Science, ENVS major, sophomore stdg. Enrollment Limit: 15

ENVS 174 Natural Areas Conservation & Stewardship**13667 / 3 Credits / Rick Paradis / W 4:05-7:05 / ML SCI 105 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Natural areas serve many functions, from maintaining regional biological diversity to providing important open space for contemplative and recreational activities. Protecting and managing these areas in fragmented and human influenced landscapes is an increasingly formidable challenge. This course examines the land protection and stewardship activities of conservation organizations, land trusts, and public natural resource agencies, along with the principles of conservation biology and landscape ecology in an effort to better understand the important issues, approaches, and concerns in conserving and managing natural areas in natural and working landscapes. A premise of this course is that sound ecological thinking and information should fuel decision-making in land protection and management. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or NR 1 or permission (656-4055). Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 182 Religion and Ecology**14086 / 3 credits / Kit Anderson / TR 11:30-12:45 / Aiken 119**

An exploration of the role of religions and religious beliefs in addressing current environmental issues. Primary focus is on the major world traditions, especially Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Taoism. For each, we will consider some of the historical and scriptural bases for environmental beliefs and practices, then look at examples of how these are being applied today to “green” the faith traditions. Other topics include indigenous people’s spiritual beliefs regarding the non-human world and modern eco-spiritual movements. Guest speakers from different faith traditions and student research presentations will form a significant part of the class.

ENVS 183 Unlearning Consumerism**14084/ 3 credits/ Valerie Esposito / TR 4:00-5:15/ L/L-B B101**

Through readings, student-led research, and weekly “lab” exercises, we will study the face of consumerism both personally and in the context of globalization. Looking at ads, catalogues, websites, and other popular manifestations, we will evaluate social, psychological, and environmental impacts of brand-name thinking and material values. Other topics include: industrial ecology: how things are made, export of First World consumer values to Third World cultures, links between consumerism and other addictions, shopaholism, “green” products, voluntary simplicity and other resistance movements. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or 2, NR 1 or 2. Enrollment Limit: 30

ENVS 191 Environmental Practicum**10703/ 0.5-9 Credits / Stephanie Kaza / TBA**

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Permission by application.

ENVS 195 Campus Sustainability**14088 / 3 credits / Christina Erickson and Tatiana Abatemarco / M 12:50-3:50 / Billings MLK**

This course will provide students with a real time exploration of frameworks, methods, policies, procedures, and interaction with stakeholders related to furthering sustainability practices within organizations. University of Vermont will be used as the primary case study to investigate its institutional practices related to sustainability and the associated roles of members of the campus community. The campus serves as a living laboratory for identifying, evaluating and assessing indicators of progress. Particular attention will be given to empowering students with the knowledge, organizational skills, and confidence to develop their own capacities as change agents for fostering a greater institutional commitment to sustainability. Students will apply their learning by developing assessment reports for programs on campus as well as other area campuses.

ENVS 195 Environmental Art**14087/ 3 credits/ Cami Davis/ W 5:10-8:10/ Aiken 119**

Environmental Art: Studio Seminar is a hands-on studio and academic seminar. Students will explore several emerging areas within the field of Environmental Art, including Ecoventions (restoration and remediation), sense of place, use of “natural” materials and/or “natural” forces, content/issues of the environment (including social justice) (often traditional art mediums), art activism, and the role of perception in understanding the human=nature relationship. Readings, discussions, visual journal exercises, lecture notes and the artist statement essay will further support students’ understanding of their own artwork: studio, site-specific, or performative, within the wider context of the growing Environmental Art movement. In addition students will complete an assignment that collaborates with small or whole group teams.

ENVS 195 Global Environmental History**14271 / 3 credits / Frank Zelko / TR 5:30-6:45 / Lafayette L207**

In addition to introducing students to the basic principles and concepts of environmental history, this course will explore the influence of nature—climate, topography, plants, animals, and microorganisms—on human history and the way people, in turn, have influenced the natural world around them. The course will be global in scope and will examine how humans have interacted with their environment from the Paleolithic era to modern times. In particular, it will focus on how some of the world's major civilizations changed their environment, how the environment limited their development, and how they coped—or failed to cope—with the environmental problems that civilizations inevitably produce.

ENVS 195 Introduction to Ecological Economics**14106 / 3 Credits / Jon Erickson / MWF 9:35-10:25 am / Waterman 427**

This course will introduce ecological economics as a transdisciplinary framework to economic, social, and environmental problem solving. “Transdisciplinary” implies a problem-orientation that draws from a diverse web of knowledge across the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. In this spirit, the class is cross-listed in three UVM programs, including Business Administration (BSAD), Environmental Studies (ENVS), and Natural Resources (NR). The class will build on a diverse body of student knowledge and experience from across the UVM campus, draw on each perspective to address complex problems, and build a shared understanding of solutions that are sustainable in scale, equitable in distribution, and efficient in allocation. The class serves two broad goals: (1) to establish a knowledge base in ecological economics from which to launch subsequent problem-based learning courses at UVM; and (2) acquire problem solving skills to address complex social challenges. To serve these goals, weekly reading from a recent textbook in ecological economics will introduce topics, and student groups will then apply course material to group projects. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. Cross-listed w/ BSAD 185, and NR 185. Enrollment Limit: 70.

ENVS 195 Z1 Food, Land & Seeds: Emerging Popular Movements**14381 / 3 Credits / Brian Tokar / W 4:05-7:05 pm / L/L-B B101 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Recent years have seen a flowering of new popular movements across the world, raising concerns about the future of food, seeds, and access to land. This course will offer a comprehensive look at the broad, international scope of such movements, from the emergence of organic and local food activism in the North to the diverse “new peasant” movements in the global South. We will examine the ideas and contributions of rainforest dwellers, campesino activists and “landless workers” in Latin America, “post-industrial peasants” in France, localvores in New England, and urban gardeners across the US, among others. Guest speakers and films will address both the local and international dimensions of these movements, and students will participate in and examine local projects aimed at furthering sustainable food systems in our region. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or 2 or NR1 or permission. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 195 Z9 Media Literacy and the Environment**14100 / 3 Credits / Suzanne DeBrosse / T 1:00 – 3:45 / L/L-A A162 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

A healthy democracy and a healthy planet depend on an informed and aware citizenry that understands the complex role of the mass media. This course will explore the fundamentals of media literacy as they relate to the environment and environmental issues, including advertising, public relations, consumerism, commercialism, media economics (ownership and control), media coverage of environmental and global issues, and media and environmental activism. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or NR 1 or permission. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 195 Z4 Therapeutic Herbalism**14094 / 3 Credits / Barbara Raab / M 4:05-7:05 pm / Rowell 102 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

For students who have introductory herbalism experience and a sound understanding of anatomy and physiology, this course is the next level of study. Topics included are: the relative safety-toxicity of herbs, determining correct dosages, current issues in botanical medicine, a sampling of pathologies and conditions and their treatment protocols, and phytotherapeutic approaches to health and well-being. Prerequisite: ENVS 095 "Introduction to Herbalism" or permission, barbara.raab@gmail.com. \$10 lab fee. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 195 Transportation Planning**14096 / 3 credits / Richard Watts / T 4:00-6:45 / Rowell 102 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Local, regional and global transportation systems are vital to community, the environment, and economic development. Transportation policies and programs impact the environment, energy, culture, equitable mobility between regions and groups, as well as overall quality of life. The objective of this course is to 1) Understand how our transportation systems evolved into the systems they are today; 2) Focus on transportation planning as a field and explore planning from a range of theoretical perspectives; and 3) Examine the discourse, citizen participation and policy discussion around transportation planning nationally and locally; 4) Engage students in hands-on projects related to transportation planning. The use of transportation systems has a tremendous impact on the environment. In this course we extend students' knowledge of transportation policy, infrastructure and planning through class lectures, readings and student projects. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. Cross-listed w/NR 185. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 195 Z2 Visions of Landscape: Exploring Vermont Natural History Through Photography**14089 / 3 credits / Dan Wells / MW 12:50-3:50 / Allen House 104 / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

This course explores the Vermont landscape through the eyes of the naturalist and photographer. Students will use the camera as a tool to discover and interpret the landscape around them. This is a field-based course which combines development of photographic skills and the use of these skills to explore the natural world and our own relationship to it. Assignments will include weekly work based on field trips, a semester-long photographic journal, and a detailed study of a specific place of the student's choosing. Readings will be selected from both the photographic and naturalistic traditions. For more information, contact Dan: danwellsphoto@gmail.com. Prerequisite: ENVS 1, NR 1, or permission. Enrollment Limit: 12.

ENVS 195 Women, Health, and the Environment**14102 / 3 credits / Stephanie Kaza / TR 1:00-2:15/ L/L-B B101**

Cosmetics, chemicals, hormone disrupters – how do environmental toxins impact women's health? We will look at early warning calls from Rachel Carson and Theo Coburn as well as recent literature hot off the press. Course topics will examine the connection between women's health and environment, with a special focus on women's health activism and the environmental breast cancer movement. All genders welcome to join the course.

ENVS 196 Environmental Communication**14108 / 3 credits / Stephen Boyle / TR 11:30-12:45 / L/L-B B101**

In this course, we will investigate environmental communication, focusing on the rhetorical efforts of numerous agencies and citizens who shape our public interactions with the environment. The course offers a practical speech communication skill set, as well as some philosophical and theoretical tools to analyze and evaluate environmental rhetoric. In particular, students will investigate the concept of ecological citizenship in communicating social change by focusing on contemporary advocacy campaigns, the mass media, and the evolution of environmental movements and philosophy.

ENVS 196 The Politics of Land Use in Ecuador**14107 / 3 Credits / Pete Shear / TBA / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

This is a winter term travel/study course. This study-abroad and service-learning course focuses on issues of land use, distribution, and reform in Ecuador. Today, social movements in Ecuador are at the global forefront of grassroots political organization and egalitarian land reform. This two-week-long course provides students with an experiential introduction to the Andean region through the historical, cultural, political, ecological, and physical geography of Ecuador. Stays with families, participatory agricultural work, lectures from Ecuadorian scholars and officials, visits to institutions, and guided hikes. **Notes:** Student course fee: \$1580 (tuition and airfare) TBA; Ecuador; 12/27/09-1/1/10; Mandatory pre-departure meetings will be announced; Cross-listed w/GEOG 190. Prerequisite: Instructor permission. For more info contact instructor, nshear@uvm.edu. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 197 Environmental Activism**12473 / 3 credits / Stephanie Kaza* / MW 6:15-7:30 / Allen House 104**

*This "Students Teaching Students" (STS) course, facilitated by Connor Gibson ENVS '09 and Jess Serrante '09. This course will explore and challenge the theories, strategies, practical skills, and history of the U.S. environmental movement in the context of other U.S. and global social movements. Students will receive trainings on common grassroots organizing skills while critically investigating social and environmental activism to decide what is

effective. The overall goal of this course is to prepare students for work in environmental organizing and to transform them into skillful and thoughtful advocates and organizers prepared to be environmental leaders capable of making strategic contributions toward today's most pressing environmental and social problems. The class will operate as a learning community and will provide a participatory atmosphere in which students will actively listen and speak intentionally to learn both from and with each other. **For permission to enroll answer the following questions in an email to JSerrante@gmail.com:** Why are you interested in this course? What do you think you will gain from the course? What is/is not effective activism? Prerequisite: ENVS 1 & 2, Soph. standing, and/or permission.

ENVS 197 Ecological Tipping Points and World Systems Analysis
14522 / 3 credits / Stephanie Kaza* / R 5:30-8:15 / OMANEX A303

*This "Students Teaching Students" (STS) course, facilitated by Keith Brunner ENVS '09 and Lindsey Gillies '09. Recently, the term "crisis" has become commonplace in the media—indeed, it seems as if many of our institutions are experiencing one sort of crisis or another. Behind it all, the ecological crisis seems increasingly dire, as advocates, policy-makers, and business leaders rush to "fix" the "climate problem." Looking for answers, many of us young people are stepping back and posing questions: "Are these crises connected?" "How did the world get to be like this?" "Where exactly are we headed, and where do we want to go?" Using systems thinking and ecological concepts as a lens, we will explore the history and nature of the global economy, the nation-state, and the systems of thought that have brought us to our current position and predicament. With this deeper critique, this class will create an intellectual learning community based around understanding current events in context. Prerequisite: ENVS 1 or 2. Soph. standing or permission. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 197 Rethinking Education Paradigms
14451 / 3 credits / Stephanie Kaza* / MW 4:05-5:20 / L/L-D D107

*This "Students Teaching Students" (STS) course, facilitated by Ben Shafer-Rickles ENVS '09 and Tyler Wilkinson-Ray '11. The objective of this course is to rethink how education as an institution addresses environmental concerns. It draws on systems thinking to interpret the foundation of the modern education paradigm and through what perspective it approaches environmental resolutions. Environmental issues call for creative capacities and the restructuring of our institutionalized educational methodologies to enhance critical pedagogical approaches and environmental acuity. This STS class is community oriented and draws heavily on participation and intense collective listening. **For permission, please answer the following questions and send them to bshaferr@uvm.edu:** Is the University capable of educating students to deal with current environmental problems? What do you have to give to a community of people dedicated to learning other ways of educational thought and practice? If you don't want to write this, formulate your own questions and answer them.

ENVS 201 Research Methods
10776 / 3 Credits / Kit Anderson / TR 2:30-3:45 / TBA

This course covers the planning, design, and methods for the ENVS 202 senior thesis or project, required of all ENVS majors. Includes the literature review and proposal writing. Prerequisite: ENVS 151, Jr standing, ENVS major. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 201 Research Methods
10788 / 3 Credits / Tom Hudspeth / TR 8:30-945am / TBA

This course covers the planning, design, and methods for the ENVS 202 senior thesis or project, required of all ENVS majors. Includes the literature review and proposal writing. Prerequisite: ENVS 151, Jr standing, ENVS major. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 202 Senior Project and Thesis
10801 / 1-9 credits / Kit Anderson / MW 4:05-5:20 / TBA

ENVS 204 Creating Environmentally Sustainable Communities
10980 / 3 Credits / Tom Hudspeth / TR 10:00-11:15 am / L/L-A A101

This course will consider the process of creating communities, which are environmentally sound, economically successful, and socially just. After gaining an understanding of sustainable development from conceptual and operational points of view and becoming familiar with successful sustainable development initiatives at the local, national, and international levels, participants will (1) carry out "ecological footprint" analysis, and (2) develop

chapters in A Field Guide to Sustainability in the Greater Burlington Area, featuring individuals, groups, and initiatives which can serve as role models or examples for others to follow or emulate in bringing about the transition to more environmentally-sustainable communities. Prerequisite: ENVS 1, 2, Jr standing. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 238 Ecological Landscape Design

14397 / 3 Credits / Jane Sorensen / TR 4:00-6:45 pm / Hills 228

This course will engage students in the analysis of ecological design as it relates to the landscape. This studio/discussion course will provide students with the opportunity to explore principles of ecological design and apply these principles in the design of an existing landscape at the regional, local, and site scales. The class will produce a professional-quality portfolio documenting the process and solutions for the design problem. In addition to the standard assignments, graduate students will be required to develop a paper exploring design guidelines for ecological landscape designs. Prerequisite: Jr. stdg; PSS 137 and at least one course in ecology; Instructor permission. Cross-listed w/ CDAE , PSS & NR. Enrollment Limit: 18.

ENVS 284 Teaching Assistantship

10824 / 1-2 Credits / Saleem Ali / F 12:50-3:50/ TBA

Assist instructor in teaching and administration of ENVS 002, International Environmental Studies. Primary responsibilities will include leading at least one section of weekly discussion sessions of 15 students each; planning and preparation of instructional materials for discussion sessions; maintenance of student records; and assisting with student grading of course examinations. Teaching assistants are expected to attend all ENVS 2 lectures; lead two weekly discussion sessions (3 hrs. each); attend a weekly morning staff meeting; and have regular office hours for students. Prerequisite: ENVS TA's only.

ENVS 291 Advanced Environmental Practicum

10771/ 1-12 Credits / Stephanie Kaza / TBA

Prerequisite: ENVS 1, 2; Sr. stdg., or Permission.

ENVS 295 Land Use & Environmental Law

13332 / 3 credits / Jared Margolis / M 5:10-8:10 / AIKEN 104 / CONTINUING EDUCATION

This course will provide a basic overview of land use issues and case law influencing local and regional land use decisions. Students will work with cases and statutes in order to become familiar with reading and interpreting the law. The course will address planning and control of land use, property rights, growth management, species and wetland protection, and will provide an overview of land use control in Vermont, including Act 250. We will also discuss the ongoing debate over the siting of green energy facilities in Vermont, such as wind farms, and the balance between the need for clean energy development and maintaining the aesthetics of the Vermont landscape. Students will be able to attend hearings before the Vermont Public Service Board and/or Vermont Environmental Court and debate these issues based on ongoing litigation that the Instructor is involved in.

ENVS 295 Seminar in North American Environmental History

14272 / 3 credits / Frank Zelko / W 4:05-7:05 / Lafayette L202

The course will examine the interaction between humans and the environment throughout the history of North America. The focus will be on the United States, but since nature tends to ignore political boundaries, we will also examine Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean from time to time. We will look at how various peoples (Indians, Spanish explorers, British colonists, Americans) experienced their environment throughout the continent's history; how they attempted to change it, how they were limited by it, and how they thought about nature. We will therefore be examining history at several levels: 1.) Material and ecological: the physical changes that humans have wrought over the past 10,000 years of North American history. 2.) Social and political: the connection between peoples' use of the environment and the way their society develops. 3.) Intellectual and ideological: how individuals and societies have understood nature at various points throughout history and how this understanding has shaped their actions.