Environmental Studies Courses
Fall 2017

ENVS 001 SU: Introduction to Environmental Studies
90166 / 4 Credits / Tatiana Abatemarco / MWF 10:50-11:40 am / Must register for lab
A broad-based survey course intended to provide a comprehensive introduction to the multi-disciplinary field of environmental studies through a combination of lectures, discussion seminar, field walks, and site visits. This course examines the ecological, social and political-economic aspects of contemporary environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Grading is based on three exams and discussion seminar assignments. Prerequisite: First year or sophomore standing, or instructor permission. Students must register for the lecture and a lab section; see registrar’s website for details. Enrollment Limit: 264.

ENVS 095 C SU: Introduction to Vermont
93223 / 3 Credits / Richard Watts / TR 2:50 - 4:05 pm
This course surveys Vermont’s geography, history, politics, social issues, ethnic populations, culture, and environment. Special emphasis on an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Vermont. Cross-listed with VS 052 A. Enrollment Limit: 7.

ENVS 107 SU: Human Health and the Environment
93935 / 3 Credits / Christine Vatovec / M 12:00 - 3:00 pm
This course offers an introduction to the field of “environmental health.” We will begin our collective work by situating environmental health within the context of sustainability—specifically, the idea that sustainability is achieved by creating a balance between ecological flourishing and human well-being, and that health is a primary component of well-being. Building upon this foundation, we will next cover a range of traditional environmental health topics including the methods of environmental health science (toxicology and epidemiology), environmental hazards (physical, biological, and chemical), risk analysis, communication and management, vulnerable populations, precautionary approaches, and environmental health regulations. Finally, we will apply the knowledge gained during the first half of the semester to understanding and identifying opportunities for mitigating a variety of current environmental health challenges including climate change, food production and access, energy production, water quality and access, and waste management. We will conclude the semester with a discussion of how we, as a society, may best achieve healthy lifestyles and healthy communities that are supportive of the ecological systems upon which our health depends. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Cross-listed with: HLTH 107, NR 107. Enrollment limit: 25.

ENVS 137 Landscape Design Fundamentals
91064 / 4 Credits / Stephanie Hurley / MW 1:10 - 3:45 pm
Landscape Design Fundamentals is a studio course that introduces students to the principles of landscape design. Students in this class will examine the world in new and different ways, including observations of natural and cultural phenomena, and studies of form and function on small and large scale sites. We will explore the process of landscape design, from site inventories and analyses to conceptual and schematic plans, and learn the basics of planting plans, section drawings, and design details. Students will learn to use graphic media and materials and will be expected to keep a sketchbook practicing their skills. This class will work on two major design projects during the semester, at least one of which will be in collaboration with partners from the Vermont community. Typically, the first is a team project that introduces students to field observation, drawing, and analysis techniques. The second is an individual project, which requires critical thinking about a real design challenge and will include schematic planning and design details. Students will work on graphic and verbal presentation skills, and learn to give their peers constructive criticism. Students will share their work with faculty, professionals, and community partners during mid-term and final presentations. Cross-listed with: NR 137 A and PSS 137 A. Prerequisites: Minimum junior standing; at least one course in drawing, design, or mapping; instructor permission required. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 141 Introduction to Ecological Economics
91856 / 3 Credits / Jon Erickson / TR 2:50 - 4:05 ENVS SOCIAL SCIENCE BREADTH COURSE
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. As such, 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 build subsequent problem-based learning courses at UVM, and (2) acquire problem solving skills to address complex social challenges. To serve these goals, weekly readings from a textbook in ecological economics will introduce topics, and student groups will then apply course material to a class project. Cross-listed with: NR 141. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing. Enrollment Limit: 85.

ENVS 142 Introduction to Environmental Policy
92178 / 3 Credits / Curtis Ventriss / MW 3:30 - 4:45 pm
This course covers the basic literature on policy formulation and implementation as it relates to major issues in environmental policy. This course will expose students to policy approaches ranging from climate change to land use issues. Case studies will be an integral part of this course. Students will also be involved in doing a policy analysis on an environmental issue of their choosing. Cross-listed with: NR 153 A and POLS 195 C. Prerequisite: Minimum sophomore standing; NR 104 or POLS 021. Enrollment Limit: 40.
ENVS 143 Political Ecology
95426 / 3 Credits / Ingrid Nelson / TR 11:40 - 12:55 pm

Political ecology is a community of practice best realized in conversation with others. Through a writing-intensive and research-based approach, this course examines how politics shape our understandings of and interactions with various forms and ideas of nature in geographically diverse contexts. ‘Nature’ is a historically and culturally contingent concept, deployed unequally for the benefit of some and to the detriment of others. Through researching compelling topics, the course offers a unique lens on discourses and analytical assumptions about human-environment relationships in five major areas including: i) degradation and marginalization, ii) conservation (including its origins, neoliberal practices and related use of social media and technology), iii) environmental conflicts related to extraction, war and militarism, iv) environmental subjects and identities and v) political objects and actors. Cross listed with: GEOG 173. Prerequisite: ENVS 001 and ENVS 002 and GEOG 040 or 050 or GEOG 070. Enrollment Limit: 10.

ENVS 156 SU: Permaculture
91089 / 3 Credits / Victor Izzo / TR 4:25 – 5:40 pm

This course provides students with an introduction to the principles of permaculture. As a multidimensional and transdisciplinary approach to sustainable living, permaculture is a “way of thinking”. We will explore the permaculture approach via a process of knowledge and experience stacking. This is what I call a grassroots educational pursuit. Through a combination of lectures, field trips, in-class activities, written reflections, guest speakers and films, we will explore each of the fundamental principles underlying the permaculture paradigm. This class is designed as a primer for students looking to take a formal Permaculture Design Course (PDC). Skills and techniques for “reading the landscape,” developing site-responsive design, and representing interpretations and plans through visual maps and public presentations will be developed through a collaborative design by students in groups. Prerequisites: 3 credits in basic biology or ecology. Cross-listed with: PSS 156. Prerequisite: Minimum sophomore standing; 3 credits in basic biology or ecology, or permission. Enrollment Limit: 40, and 20 for each lab section.

ENVS 167 D2: Global Environmental History
91590 / 3 Credits / Frank Zelko / TR 1:15 – 2:30 pm ENVS HUMANITIES BREADTH COURSE

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. Global in scope, this course 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. Assessment: Exams and quizzes. Cross-listed with HST 067. Prerequisites: ENVS 002 or NR 002. Enrollment Limit: 162.

ENVS 173 Landscape Natural History
90908 / 3 Credits / Ian Worley / M 1:10 - 4:45 pm / Off-Campus

Consisting entirely of field trips, this course will explore the nature of Vermont’s landscapes from an interdisciplinary perspective. Through site visits and projects students will learn skills to help understand how landscapes look the way they do. We'll investigate a variety of locations including lakeshores, cliffs, uplands, and ravines—looking at the interactions among rocks, soil, water, plants, animals, weather and human activity, emphasizing how the past has shaped the present. From Aristotle's insights on plant life forms to the myriad of natural scientists that travel daily to the smallest and broadest features of Earth, we will draw upon the fundamental questions of natural history that evolved from Francis Bacon and others of the dawn of modern science—who created with the explorations of Cook and Darwin the paradigms of the great natural historians of a century ago—and reveal simple pictures of local events in the interwoven scenes of many scales viewed so wonderfully from College Hill. Time, space, dimensions—along with entities and energy—bring forth patterns built by processes constrained by simple principles in complex interactions. We will study these not as Watson, but as Mr. Holmes (Sherlock, that is) always asking deductively to what each observable is a clue. Our axioms are the principles and facts hard won through centuries of observation combined with inductive and experimental research. Yet this Western approach is but one investigative and epistemological tool, indigenous knowledge and the wisdom of Coyote bring other insight and realities. Perspectives from natural history, landscape ecology, historical analysis, agriculture and forestry, conservation biology, and aesthetics will be integrated during site assessments. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or NR 001. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 174 Natural Areas Conservation and Stewardship
93932 / 3 Credits / Rick Paradis / MW 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Natural areas serve many functions from maintaining regional biological diversity and habitat to providing important open space for contemplative, educational, 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 ecology, conservation biology, and landscape ecology in an effort to better understand the important issues, approaches, and concerns in conserving and managing natural areas in diverse and often fragile settings. A premise of this course is that sound ecological thinking and information should fuel decision-making in land protection and management. We will explore these topics using a combination of readings, presentations, discussion sessions, guest speakers, take-home assignments, problem-solving exercises, and field investigations. Prerequisites: ENVS 001, NR 001 or permission. Enrollment Limit: 30.

ENVS 179 D2: Ecofeminism
3 Credits / Annika Ljung-Baruth / T 4:35 – 7:35 pm

“Like all environmental movements, ecofeminism is concerned with relationships between humans and the natural world. Exploring the connection between environmentalism and feminism, the field of ecofeminist studies specifically addresses the traditional interpretation of “nature” as female (or feminine), the connection between the oppression of women and the exploitation of nature, and ways in which environmental issues often affect women in particular. In this course we will read from a broad range of ecofeminist texts. Our goals will include learning about ecofeminist approaches to literature and studying ecofeminist theory, as well as developing our understanding of the various connections between women, nature, sustainability, and patterns of environmental domination. Our reading list will include authors such as Barbara Kingsolver, Lesley Marmon Silko, Alice Walker, Jane Smiley, Wangari Matthai, Rachel Carson, Val Plumwood, Vandana Shiva, and Carolyn Merchant.” Cross-listed with: WGST 179. Prerequisite: ENVS 001, ENVS 002, NR 002, or GSWS 001. Enrollment Limit: 11.
ENVS 181 D1: Environmental Justice and Sustainability
95432 / 3 Credits / Bindu Panikkar / TR 2:50 - 4:05 pm
This course will examine the disproportionate environmental toxic exposures and the health disparities affecting the communities of color across the US and the world. Powerful companies create, handle, and dump toxic waste in the neighborhoods of the politically weak, and the poor in the United States. Government tests dangerous technologies on indigenous lands. Corporate mines and companies leave native lands contaminated. Production and “recycling” takes place in countries without adequate protections for human health and the environment. Environmental Justice presents a deep challenge to the mainstream environmental and sustainability frameworks. This course will examine foundations of environmental justice concepts, the social movements organized by communities of color to improve justice in both the rural, urban, and indigenous communities, and the links between environmental justice and sustainability movements. We will look at case studies, examine regional and national environmental injustice issues, as well as examine some promising examples of successful environmental justice organizing and activism. Students will be asked to critically examine these efforts and also explore unresolved chronic problems with environmental injustices and health impacts. Cross-listed with: CRES 181. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 002. Enrollment Limit: 37.

ENVS 182 D2: Religion and Ecology
94002 / 3 Credits / Adrian Ivakhiv / TR 11:40 - 12:55 pm
Pope Francis and the Dalai Lama are among world religious leaders who have called the faithful, as well as political leaders, to address Earth’s changing climate. Will this help to shift attitudes and behaviors? Some scholars of religion and ecology believe this is exactly what’s needed. Others are not so sure. In this course we’ll explore connections between the world’s religious traditions and the environment, and the role of beliefs, practices and cultural contexts in shaping human/other-than-human relationships. We’ll also study recent events and documents to learn what trends are emerging that might affect the future. Class will include readings, discussions, written assignments, guest lectures, research and forays into the community beyond UVM. Several types of contemplative practices and traditional storytelling will be integrated throughout. Prerequisites: ENVS 001, ENVS 002 or NR 002. Enrollment Limit: 30.

ENVS 185 Land and Food Justice
95643 / 3 Credits / Brian Tokar / W 4:05 – 7:05 pm
Recent decades have seen a flowering of new popular movements across the world, highlighting concerns about the future of food, seeds, and access to land. This course will examine both domestic and international movements for land and food justice, from the emergence of organic and local food activism in the North to the diverse “new peasant” movements in the global South, among others. We will examine the ideas and contributions of rainforest dwellers, campesino activists and “landless workers” in Latin America, farmer activists in Africa and Asia, urban gardeners, “locavores,” and food chain workers across the US, among others. The class follows a discussion/seminar format, with students as well as the instructor presenting on core topics, and evaluated on their participation in class and online discussions, as well as through response papers on the readings. Additionally, students take turns presenting current news on climate-related issues and movements, followed by a research paper, and also develop and critically evaluate their own hands-on group projects that apply their knowledge to local and regional food and agricultural issues. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 001 or 002 or CDAE 002. Enrollment Limit: 30.

ENVS 187 SL Campus Sustainability
95642 / 3 Credits / Wendy Berenback / TR 2:50 – 4:05 pm
As microcosms of the larger community, universities are uniquely positioned to be model sustainable communities. Universities have the potential to implement exemplar operation practices and policies, and to nurture a campus culture that values and contributes to a just and sustainable world. So, how is UVM doing? ENVS 187 Campus Sustainability students will find out! Our primary “text” is UVM’s campus and staff. We will meet and learn from those directly responsible for campus sustainability programs: The Green Building Program, The Green Energy Fund, The Real Food Challenge, recycling and composting, energy efficiency, socially responsible investing, UVM’s Active Transportation and Climate Action Plans. In this service-learning class, we will examine how the “UVM system” functions and identify leverage points in our system that can be used to promote meaningful change. Our SL partner is UVM’s Office of Sustainability (OoS). ENVS 187 students will work closely with OoS staff to develop projects that will contribute to our institutional effort to “walk the talk” of sustainability. ENVS 187’s course design incorporates education of sustainability principles; emphasizing systems thinking, positive future thinking, group collaboration and change-agency. The class format is a blend of active learning and reflective experiences, including small and large group discussions, in-class informal writing activities, and campus tours. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 001 or NR 002 or CDAE 002 or ENSC 001 or instructor permission. Enrollment Limit: 40.

ENVS 191 Environmental Practicum/Internship
90794 / 1-9 Credits / Staff
Students engage in independent study, research or internships that have been developed with a site supervisor and faculty sponsor. Course coordinator—currently Rory Shamlian—must approve proposals before the activity begins. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing. Instructor permission required.

ENVS 195 Energy Alternatives
95452 / 3 Credit / Richard Watts / W 5:05 - 6:20 pm
This course introduces the concepts of energy, work, and power. Focuses include, energy conversion, utilization, conservation, and energy systems for rural areas. Students will also gain an understanding of alternatives to fossil fuels including solar, wind, biomass, etc. Cross-listed with: CDAE 006. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 001 or NR 002 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 40.

ENVS 195 SL Sustainability from a Non-Human Perspective
93230 / 3 Credits / Trish O’Kane / M 7:30 - 10:30 am
This course puts undergraduates in charge of finding urban wildlife on and around campus, and mapping their territories. You will learn to observe and document the wildlife on your doorstep. The type of energy sources we use, the food we eat, the waste we produce, the way we move from one place to another, the types of structures we build, the noise we make—all affect other species. This course will explore these impacts through weekly lectures and field outings on campus. Visiting community speakers ranging from exterminators to animal rights activists will cover the spectrum of perspectives on urban wildlife. The disciplines of urban ecology and urban design for the biophilic city provide the conceptual framework for this course. Prerequisites: ENVS 001, 002 or NR 001, 002 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 15.
ENVS 195 Applied Ecology
93937 / 3 credits / Richard Paradis / MWF 9:40 – 10:30 am  
ENVS NATURAL SCIENCE BREADTH COURSE
This course provides students with an opportunity to develop a comprehensive knowledge base of the principal concepts, ideas, relationships, and tensions in ecology. We will investigate the physical characteristics of natural systems and the manners by which individuals and groups of individuals (populations) respond to these characteristics and with one another. Participants will learn how to apply an ecological perspective to the identification, framing, and addressing of emerging and recognized environmental challenges. Prerequisites: ENVS 001, 002 or NR 001, 002 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 60.

ENVS 195: Academic Planning Workshop
94037 / 1 Credit / Elizabeth Wright / TR 1:15 - 2:30 pm / Meets for 6 weeks at beginning of semester, plus two additional class sessions later.
This new one-credit, six-week course replaces ENVS 151 as a requirement for ENVS majors. It is designed to inform and direct ENVS sophomores who have completed ENVS 001 and 002 and are ready to develop an interdisciplinary plan of study that aligns with their emerging academic, personal and professional interests. A range of activities will instruct, inspire, assist and challenge students to take responsibility for their education. Expect guest speakers; readings and reflective writings; research; and engagement with class peers, ENVS faculty and staff, and peer mentors. Students will leave the course having completed a comprehensive major plan. Prerequisites: ENVS majors only; minimum sophomore standing; ENVS 001, 002 or NR 001, 002 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 60.

ENVS 195: Fall Farm Operations
95597 / 3 Credits / Terence Bradshaw / MW 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
The Fall Farm Practicum is the continuation of the Summer Farm Practicum. In this hands-on, experiential course, students will learn principles and practices of sustainable, diversified vegetable production at the Catamount Educational Farm. We will build on concepts learned in the summer and focus on fine-tuning farming skills. Topics include: vegetable crop families; soil fertility management; composting; organic weed, insect and disease management; propagation and planting; crop planning; irrigation systems; farm financials and business planning; marketing techniques; broiler chicken management; and tractor operation. The class format will consist of a combination of lectures, hands-on fieldwork, visits to local vegetable farms and independent projects. Lectures will be presented by the instructors and guest speakers from UVM Extension, the Plant and Soil Science Department and local farms. Concepts and skills taught will immediately be applied through participation in Catamount Educational Farm’s five-acre vegetable operation that supplies produce to the community through a weekly CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share, two farm stands and multiple wholesale accounts. This course partners with the UVM Farmer Training Program, a non-credit, 6-month intensive program offered through Continuing and Distance Education. The practicum will learn alongside the Farmer Training Program students both in the field and in the classroom. Prerequisite: Summer Farm Operations in the same growing season immediately prior to enrollment. Cross-listed with: PSS 195. Prerequisites: Summer farm operations; ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 001 or NR 002 or ENSC 001; instructor permission required. Enrollment limit: 10.

ENVS 195: Cars, Culture, and the Media
95673 / 3 Credits / Robert Williams / M 5:05 - 8:05 pm
In the U.S. car use has steadily increased since the early part of the 20th century. Today, mobility is defined as automobility, or motorization, because about 85 percent of the trips we take (for a purpose) are in automobiles. Central to the growth in automobility has been the size, power and force of the automobile industry. Cars have become woven into American culture so much that it has become clichéd to say that we have a “love affair with the car.”
Culture can be defined as the symbols of expression that individuals, groups and societies use to make sense of their daily lives and to articulate their values. Culture is reproduced through music, TV, movies and advertising among other venues. We will break down the “love affair with the car” by examining the culture that surrounds the automobile, the promotion of that culture over time and the role of the media in promulgating car-related cultural artifacts. Cross-listed with: CDAE 195. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or 002 or NR 001 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 195: Plant Based Healing Medicine
95674 / 3 Credits / Katherine Elmer / M 5:05 - 8:05 pm
Students explore the historical perspectives of Herbalism, as well as its present-day context within both the realms of complementary/integrative and Western allopathic medicines. The sustainable harvesting, preparation, and storage of herbs are covered. A “weed walk” to view medicinal plants growing on the UVM campus is included. Additional trips may include RAILYARD Community Apothecary and Clinic and Rock Point’s medicine plant-rich land. Guest speakers include area herbalists, gardeners and integrative health practitioners. This service-learning course engages students as contributors to local community herbalism efforts to provide affordable, local, plant-based medicine for all members of our community. Prerequisites: ENVS 001 or ENVS 002 or NR 001 or NR 002 or ENSC 001. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 201 Research Methods
90331 / 3 Credits / Brendan Fisher / TR 1:15 - 2:30
This course covers the planning, design, and methods for the ENVS 202 senior capstone thesis or project. It is taught in seminar style and includes instruction and guidance for preparing the literature review and final proposal. Prerequisite: ENVS majors only; Minimum junior standing; ENVS 151 or APW. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 202 A: Senior Project and Thesis
90532 / 1-9 Credits / Brendan Fisher / T 2:50 – 3:40 pm
Weekly, voluntary check-in help/support sessions for students working on their ENVS 202 Senior Project or Thesis. Variable credit course. Prerequisite: ENVS major; ENVS 201 or concurrent registration, ENVS 151 or APW. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 202 D: Senior Capstone Internship
91418 / 1-9 Credits / Rick Paradis / W 12:00 - 12:50 pm
Weekly, voluntary check-in help/support sessions for students working on their ENVS 202 Capstone Internship. Variable credit course. Prerequisite: ENVS major; minimum junior standing, ENVS 151. Enrollment Limit: 40.
ENVS 202 E: Food, Land, Community Senior Capstone (THEESIS OR INTERNSHIP)
94038 / 1-9 Credits / Ernesto Mendez / W 3:30 - 4:20 pm
Weekly, voluntary check-in help/support sessions for students working on their ENVS 202 Capstone Internship. For students with Food, Land, Community concentration working on a senior thesis or capstone internship with Ernesto Mendez. Variable credit course. Prerequisite: ENVS major; minimum junior standing; instructor permission only. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 203 Honors Thesis
/ 1-9 Credits / Brendan Fisher / TBA
Honors conferred upon thesis evaluation. Variable credit course. Prerequisites: ENVS majors only; ENVS 201; Instructor permission only. Enrollment Limit: 20.

ENVS 212 SL: Advanced Agroecology
91810 / 4 Credits / Ernesto Mendez / TR 10:05 - 11:20 am / Must register for lab
This course presents and in-depth overview of research and applications in the field of agroecology, with a focus on providing the student with conceptual and analytical content. The course combines an international and domestic geographic focus, and examines case studies from the U.S. and abroad. The learning and teaching objectives of the course are as follows: 1) students become familiar with current research and applied concepts and applications within the field of agroecology; 2) through hands-on field exercises in local farming systems, students learn ecological and social research and analytical skills, which are commonly used in agroecology and agrifood systems research; 3) students practice working in groups; 4) students practice their critical thinking and communication skills throughout the course by participating in discussions and preparing written and visual material. As a service-learning course, students are required to contribute a minimum of 12 hours of service working (and learning) with our farmer partners. This is apart from the hours of fieldwork students will dedicate to their on-farm agroecological investigations. Cross-listed with: PSS 212. Prerequisite: Senior or Graduate standing; PSS 021 or 1 semester ecology at or above the 100 level; or permission; Must register for ENVS 212 lab A01 or A02. Fieldtrip fee: $30. Enrollment Limit: 40.

ENVS 267 Environmental History Seminar
95447 / 3 Credits / Frank Zelko / R 4:35 - 7:35 pm
The course will examine the interaction between humans and the environment throughout history, focusing in particular on North and South America. We will look at how various people experienced their environment: how they attempted to change it, how they were limited by it, and how they thought about nature. Cross-listed with: HST 267. Prerequisites: twelve hours of History; Junior/Senior/Graduate Standing. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 284 Teaching about the Environment
90795 / 1-2 Credits / Tatiana Abatemarko / TBA
Teaching assistantship for ENVS 001 and ENVS 002. Students gain practical teaching experience through assisting with instruction, evaluation, and reflection. Tasks may include: leading discussion sessions, grading, and developing course materials. Prerequisites: Permission required; minimum junior standing. Variable credit, may be repeated. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 291 Advanced Environmental Practicum/Internship
90327 / 1-9 Credits / Staff
Students engage in advanced level independent study or internships developed with a site supervisor and faculty sponsor. Course coordinator must approve proposals before the activity begins. Prerequisite: ENVS 002, Senior standing, instructor permission required. Enrollment Limit: 15.

ENVS 293 Environmental Law
95675 / 3 Credits / Jody Prescott / R 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Environmental Law is a complex topic, and it has a very broad scope. This course covers the most significant Federal environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Air Act (CAA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund). To provide a fuller context for these laws, the course will review litigation that has occurred under each them as well as related state laws, and assess working documents generated by different government agencies to comply with these legal requirements. To be competent in this field one must appreciate how environmental legal issues play out legally, politically, and scientifically. Further, although the complexity of the laws and the implementing regulations drives specialization on the part of those who work with them, the interrelationships between the different areas of law require a fairly well-developed understanding of the field as a whole. Students will learn to write a legal memorandum, and complete an individual legal research project on an ongoing case or legal issue of their choice. In addition to a midterm and a final exam, students will also compete for the Fracking Cup, which recognizes the best researched and presented assessment of the validity of a legal issue or document by a team of about five students. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing; and either ENVS 001 & 002, or POLS 021. Cross-listed with CDAE 295H. Enrollment limit: 25.

ENVS 294 Environmental Education
95455 / 3 Credits / Rachelle Gould / TR 2:50 – 4:05 pm
Environmental education is, at its core, about creating a more engaged society. This class will embrace a broad definition of environmental education one that includes outdoor programs with children, but that also includes “educational” opportunities that infuse everyday life for people of all ages: campaigns encouraging people to reduce solo driving, conversations about food choices in the grocery store, materials designed to help us sort our waste, and thousands (millions?) of other examples. The core concern of the class is to address how people learn about and make decisions regarding the human relationship to that which surrounds us (i.e., “the environment”). This highly interdisciplinary class will explore the complex interactions of information, prior knowledge, attitudes, identity, social interaction, and context. We will combine insight from a variety of fields, including education, sociology, psychology, behavioral economics, communication, art, and religious studies. The class will involve multiple field trips to sites of environmental learning, and a class project designed to help one of these sites. Prerequisites: Junior Standing. Enrollment Limit: 25.
ENVS 295 G Human Ecology, Health & Sustainability in the Circumpolar Arctic
94039 / 3 Credits / Bindu Panikkar / T 4:35 - 7:35 pm
The Arctic has become a lens through which to understand the world. An unstable Arctic poses threats, not only to the future of the region, but to the world itself. In this course we will explore a landscape that is rapidly changing, largely as a result of climate and globalization. This seminar provides an interdisciplinary overview of histories and approaches to human-environment interactions in the circumpolar Arctic, with a focus on the contexts of sustainability, resilience, equity and social justice. We will examine the changing Arctic environment in three parts: the first part explores the various contentions around defining the Arctic, challenges to the ecosystem, to indigenous economies, and individual and community lifestyles, and well-being. The second focuses on the changing Arctic due to climate change, dangers brought by increased natural resource development, the global distillation of persistent organic pollutants to the north, and the increased threats to human health. The third part focuses on the geopolitics of Arctic governance, indigenous rights, and on the resilient and sustainable development policies being considered for the region. This course will also explore opportunities rooted in resilience and sustainability thinking, and on how an understanding of socio-ecological processes offer design solutions for sustainable futures within the changing Arctic. Cross-listed with: NR 395. Prerequisite: Minimum Junior standing. Enrollment Limit: 25.

ENVS 295 H SL/SU: Birding for Change
94133 / 4 Credits / Trish O’Kane / MW 2:00 - 5:00 pm
This service-learning course will pair UVM students as enviro-mentors and “bird buddies” with children at Flynn Elementary School. By creating an after-school birding and nature study club for fourth and fifth graders, UVM students will lay the foundation for a university pipeline program; many of Flynn’s students will become first-generation college students. Our class will cooperate with staff at Flynn Elementary School on Burlington’s New North End to provide this programming. Flynn Elementary has the largest after-school program in the Burlington school district with students from 33 different countries. The school is making herculean efforts to meet student needs by providing after-school programming and by emphasizing the sciences. Surrounded by woods and beautiful parks and gardens, this elementary school is just a five-minute walk from Lake Champlain. Based on the theoretical framework of environmental justice—that the environment is where we live, work and play—our class will help Flynn students to connect to their immediate environment and to improve it. In addition to Tuesday-Thursday indoor/outdoor lectures at UVM on birding, pedagogy, local justice issues in education, sustainability and nature study, the class will meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2-5:30pm at Flynn Elementary to work outside and inside with the children. No prior birding experience is necessary (experience working with children would be extremely helpful). Students will learn how to identify Vermont’s most common birds by sight and sound, then they will teach that skill to their Flynn “bird buddies” or “co-explorers.” We will spend every Wednesday afternoon together exploring the neighborhood surrounding Flynn to learn what the parks, woods, lake, and all the wild creatures have to teach us, and what we all have to teach each other. Prerequisites: Junior or senior standing, instructor permission required. Enrollment limit: 25.

ENVS 295 I Decolonial Feminist Political Ecology
95446 / 3 Credits / Ingrid Nelson / TR 2:50 – 4:05 pm
This advanced seminar on space, power and identity examines decolonial practices and theory. We begin with feminist writings from the ‘Andean’ region, where much of decolonial theory has its roots and connects with eco-social and indigenous movements further afield in Central and South America. How well do decolonial theories and practices ‘travel’ from their roots in the Andes to other places? What challenges do the unique naturecultures encountered in the worlds beyond, pose for feminist decolonial perspectives? This course will examine these questions in three highly contested spaces: i) hostess bars in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, ii) spaces of pious practice in the Middle East and iii) cancer treatment clinics in California, USA. These spaces are sites of remaking power relations, identities and knowledge. Three ethnographies will help us carefully unpack common gendered and racialized figures or tropes of sex workers, pious Muslim women, and breast cancer survivors in ways that radically rethink ideas of modernity, agency, freedom and other concepts. These texts also ask what it means to do embodied, intersectional ethnography. One of the major silences in these three ethnographies concerns ecology and narratives about nature. Throughout the course we will work together to locate the more-than-human relations in these cases through an approach known as feminist political ecology. This course is writing-intensive and will provide students with skills for doing critical analysis and research. Students should be prepared for engaging, thoughtful and challenging discussions throughout the course. Prerequisites: GEOG 173, intro-level Human Geography courses; GSWS students will have completed their intro-level coursework for the major at least; ENVS juniors and seniors also welcome in the course. Cross-listed with GEOG 272 and GSWS 295. Enrollment limit: 25.