

INTERMEDIATE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
ENVS 151

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Tues/Thur 2:00-3:15
L/L Room B101

ENVS 151 is a core course in the major, designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge for making the most of their major and for charting a life path beyond college. Assignments prepare majors for further in-depth course study and senior project/thesis work. Through reading, reflection, independent research, and professional contacts, students develop programs of study, career options, and potential thesis topics.

Purpose of Course:

- 1) to identify personal strengths, interests, philosophies, and goals which will inform your choices at UVM and beyond;
- 2) to examine career/life paths of interest to you through access to networks of people and organizations;
- 3) to enhance your research, analytical, and communicative skills to effectively use and convey information about the environment;
- 4) to develop a personal academic plan through investigating course options, graduate and professional study, career and lifestyle options.

Course Texts:

- 1) *Listening to the Land: Conversations about Nature, Culture, and Eros*, ed. Derrick Jensen (San Francisco: Sierra Club, 1995). Selections to be supplied in a reader available at the Bittersweet.
- 2) *The Writer's Brief Handbook*, Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1999). The most recent edition (5th) is preferred, but 3rd and 4th editions are also okay. This book is required for ENVS 201 and 202 and can be a helpful reference for all your academic writing.

Course Outline:

AUG 31 Tues Course Objectives,
Preparing the Time Capsule

SEPT 2 Thur Introductions
Academic planning in ENVS

3 Fri (not a class day)

7 Tues Internships, Study Abroad, ENVS resources
Ibit Getchell, student services ([joint](#))

9 Thur Preparing an Environmental Resume

14 Tues Framing your Personal Statement
Peer editing, UVM writing resources
Sue Dinitz, Writing Center

16 Thur Reading Groups, session #1
Introduction to Group Process

21 Tues Reading Groups, session #2

Assignments:

(151 application)

Bring in "item of significance"

DUE: Major Plan & course list
by 4:30pm, in my box

DUE: Resume and cover letter
(and job announcement)

DUE: Resume peer edits;
Reading, part 1

DUE: Reading, part 2;
Major Plan Rewrites

	23	Thur	Visit to UVM Career Center (<u>joint</u>) <i>Meet at Career Center (L/L E building)</i>	DUE: Personal Statement
	28	Tues	Reading Group exchange Oral Presentation skills	DUE: Personal Statement edits; Reading reflection paper
	30	Thur	Exploring Environmental Careers Informational Interviewing; Time Management	
OCT	5	Tues	Career Panel: Voices from the Field (joint session)	DUE: Resume rewrites
	7	Thur	Oral Presentations	DUE: Oral Presentations
	12	Tues	Oral Presentations	
	14	Thur	Oral Presentations	
	19	Tues	Library session #1 – evaluating information Laurie Kutner, Reference Librarian	
	21	Thur	Library session #2 – web career research Laurie Kutner, Reference Librarian	
	26	Tues	Writing an academic research paper Critical thinking	
	30	Thur	Mid-Term Exam	DUE: Source List for career : literature, websites, people
NOV	2	Tues	Environmental citizenship panel Everyday activists	
	4	Thur	Individual Conferencing (optional)	DUE: Career Paper
	9	Tues	Environmental Studies Advising Completing the Academic Plan	
	11	Thur	The Senior Thesis Process: Student Panel (joint session)	
	16	Tues	Preparing for ENVS 201, 202 Faculty Panel (joint session)	
	18	Thur	Environmental Citizenship Models Gioia Thompson, UVM Env Council coordinator	DUE: Senior thesis options
	23	Tues	no class	DUE: Academic Plan in my box by 4:30pm
	25	Thur	Thanksgiving break	
	30	Tues	Evaluation and Celebration! Opening the Time Capsule	DUE: evaluations

Assignments

Reading: Except for the reading group sessions, there is relatively little assigned reading for this class. Most of your reading will come as you pursue your independent research on career and course planning topics.

Writing: Because this class focuses on reflection, integration, skill-building, and research, most of the work for this class is in writing assignments. We recommend a writing handbook text which you can use as a general reference for citations, organization, and guide to clarity in written papers. Look over the assignments at the beginning of the semester. You will need to plan your time well to accommodate the number of assignments. During the weeks when no assignment is due, consider the week a "research week" in preparation for the next assignment. There are six major assignments in three subject areas:

1) Personal Goals and Planning	30%
2) Career Research	25%
3) Academic Skills	35%
[Peer Editing, participation, attendance]	10%]

These assignments are designed to provide direction and focus for the remaining semesters of your undergraduate program in Environmental Studies. To the extent that you do them thoroughly, investigating your own personal interests, they will provide you with a foundation for all your future training and environmental work.

Peer Editing: Past students have expressed great appreciation for peer editing – both giving and receiving comments on their writing from fellow students. You will be graded on your peer editing, both quality and promptness. We will provide peer editing instruction in class. By the end of the semester, you should be both a better writer and a better editor.

Guidelines for Assignments: All written work should be completed on a word processing program and handed in as a printed paper. Do not hand in disks or handwritten papers; I will not read these submissions. Double-space your papers, allowing normal 1-1.25" margins for comments. Number your pages, and staple all pages together for safety. Check for computer errors, broken lines or unformatted paragraphs, and strange hyphenation. Spell-check and proofread your work before handing it in. Use inclusive language; i.e. be conscious of your use of gender pronouns and referents. Use "people" or "humankind" instead of "man", and "he or she" or "they" instead of simply "he". Printing on both sides of the page is fine, if your computer can do this. If possible, use 100% recycled paper for all assignments; white paper is not necessary or preferred for this class (except for the resume). Paper which has been used on one side is fine for draft assignments. Just be sure it is clear which side of the paper is your work!

Cooperative Learning: Almost all successful environmental work is done collaboratively in cooperative teams. I highly encourage you to work with other 151 students on your assignments, sharing resources and ideas and helping each other with direction, focus, and clarity. Also, please feel free to ask advice of any of the other faculty in the Environmental Program and across campus. You maybe drawing on your ENVIS colleagues for many years to come, so cultivate relationships now!

Course Policies

Attendance

Your participation is valued in this class and therefore counts toward your grade. Since you cannot participate if you do not attend, no matter what the reason, attendance is a big part of participation. I will take attendance daily in this class as a way to spot trouble from absenteeism. Over the years, I have observed that those who attend class do better on their assignments than those who cut class. I reserve the right to administer grade penalties for cumulative unexcused absences. "Showing up" is a way to build community with peers and gain the most from discussion, editing, and advising sessions. Our class group will be a network itself, and your active participation helps build that network so it is useful to others.

Late work

Turn work in on time, i.e. at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. Late work is subject to penalties, the most important one being my lack of attention. Don't let your paper be the one buried in my pile of mail! Your grade will drop a half grade each day the paper is late unless you have a medical excuse. If you need an extension due to illness or family emergency, please speak with me personally. I will do my best to read all the papers at once after they are turned in and try to return them to you within two weeks.

Plagiarism

I support UVM's commitment to academic honesty. This means your written words should be your own. When you draw on other sources, they should be cited properly to give adequate credit. 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.

Grading:

There are six written assignments, plus an oral presentation for a total of 500 points. The two major papers -- career/lifestyle investigation and research essay -- count for 50% of your grade. In order of due dates, the assignments are:

Major Plan, class list	25	Due Sept 3; rewrites Sept 21
Resume and cover letter	50	Due Sept 14; rewrites Oct 5
Personal Statement	50	Due Sept 23
Reading reflection paper	25	Due Sept 28
Oral Presentation	50	In class Oct 7, 12, 14
Mid-term Exam	50	Oct 28
Career paper Source List	25	Due Oct 28
Career/ Lifestyle Investigation	100	Due Nov 9
Senior Thesis Options	25	Due Nov18
Academic Plan	50	Due Nov 23
Peer editing/participation/attendance	<u>50</u>	
TOTAL	500	

Grading Philosophy: I do not believe that grades are central or necessary to the learning experience. However, given the limitations of grades imposed by the university, I will do my best to be fair, open, honest, and communicative about the grading process. I will try to be clear about the assignments and criteria for excellent work and give you helpful feedback on your papers. Sometime midway through the semester, I will try to give you a midpoint grade indication, so you can tell how you are doing in the course. Many assignments can be redone for an improved grade based on my comments and peer edits.

Staying on top of this class:

Classes will be a variety of formats, including workshop exercises, lectures, discussions, oral presentations, guest panels. As only 1-2 classes are assigned for each main topic, the course will move along at a regular clip. Although much of the work takes place outside class, class sessions are designed to introduce skills and prepare students for their individual investigations. A word of advice: **do your best not to get behind on assignments**. If you are in trouble and falling behind, please come and talk to me. If you are stuck on an assignment, please come and talk to me. Talk to me by phone, in person, or by email. I will try to be prompt in getting back to you, given my other obligations. I want this class to be a success for you and a good foundation for your ENVS major at UVM.