

## ENVS 001: Introduction to Environmental Studies

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MWF 11:15-12:05  
Fall 2005  
CC Theater

This course 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 Texts:

- 1) *Environmental Science*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, W.P. Cunningham, M.A. Cunningham & B. Saigo, eds.
- 2) *Taking Sides*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, Thomas Easton, ed. (McGraw-Hill)

### Course Outline:

### Reading (for day listed):

AUG	29	Mon	<b>Environmental Foundations</b> Introductions, Telling the stories	
	31	Wed	History of the Environmental Movement	Intro, Chap 1
SEPT	2	Fri	Watershed Moments, Influential Thinkers <i>Environmental Program resources, Ibit Getchell</i>	TS ch 7
	5	Mon	Labor Day – no class	
	7	Wed	Ecosystems: material cycles, energy flows	Chap 3
	9	Fri	Biomes – structure and stories	Chap 5
	12	Mon	Ecosystem relations, species dynamics	Chap 4
	14	Wed	Population biology	Chap 6
	16	Fri	Protecting Vermont's Endangered Species <i>Ian Worley, field botanist and Director, Environmental Program</i>	
	19	Mon	<b>Environment and Human Health</b> Impacts of Population Growth	Chap 7
	21	Wed	Impacts of Human Consumption	
	23	Fri	Impacts on Human Health <i>Guest panel on breast cancer, lead, toxics, disease</i>	Chaps 8,10; TS ch17
	26	Mon	Reducing our Ecological Footprint <i>Jim Merkel, author of <u>Radical Simplicity</u></i>	
	28	Wed	Systems Impacts of Health & Environmental Degradation	
	30	Fri	<u>MID-TERM EXAM #1</u>	
OCT	3	Mon	<b>Areas of Environmental Concern and Responsibility</b> Food and Agriculture	Chap 9

	5	Wed	Challenges and Achievements in Vermont Agriculture <i>David Zuckerman, organic farmer and Vermont legislator</i>	
	7	Fri	Pests and Pesticides	Chap 10
	10	Mon	Protecting and Sustaining Biodiversity	Chap 11, TS ch4
	12	Wed	Investing Locally in Healthy Forests <i>Cecilia Danks, Environmental Program</i> <i>David Brynn, Green Forestry Education Initiative</i>	Chap 12
	14	Fri	Fall break -- no class	
	17	Mon	Protecting Water Resources	Chap 17, 18
	19	Wed	Solid and Hazardous Waste	Chap 21, TS ch 19
	21	Fri	Ecological Restoration and Conservation Biology <i>Rick Paradis, UVM Natural Areas Director</i>	Chap 13
	24	Mon	Air and Climate	Chaps 15, 16
	26	Wed	Energy for the Future	Chap 19, 20; TS ch8, 12
	28	Fri	Minerals, Ores, and Earth Resources <i>Saleem Ali, Environmental Program</i>	Chap 14
	31	Mon	<u>MID-TERM EXAM #2</u>	
NOV	2	Wed	<b>The Next Wave: Innovative and Interdisciplinary</b> Ecological Design: Sustainable Systems <i>Amy Seidl, Foundation for a Sustainable Future</i>	
	4	Fri	Campus Greening at UVM <i>Gioia Thompson, Environmental Coordinator</i>	
	7	Mon	Urban Green Planning	Chap 22
	9	Wed	Ecological Economics	Chap 23
	11	Fri	Collaborating Locally for Effective Change <i>Jon Erickson, Environmental Program, and Deb Sachs, 10% Challenge</i>	
	14	Mon	Environmental Policy and Law	Chap 24, TS ch6
	16	Wed	Environmental Ethics <i>Adrian Ivkahiv, Environmental Program</i>	Chap 2
	18	Fri	Environmental Justice	TS ch5, 18
	21	Mon	Environmental Education <i>Tom Hudpseth, Environmental Program</i>	
	23	Wed	Thanksgiving break	
	25	Fri	(International Buy Nothing Day)	
	28	Mon	Ecopsychology and Social Change	
	30	Wed	Religion and Ecology	
DEC	2	Fri	Environment and the Expressive Arts <i>Cami Davis, Ibit Getchell, Adrian Ivakhiv</i>	
	5	Mon	What then Shall We Do? Creating a Livable Future <i>ENVS Faculty panel</i>	Chap 25
	7	Wed	Closing Reflections	
	9	Fri	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	

## Discussion Sections

All students are expected to attend one discussion section each week. These will be 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 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.

## 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 11:15; 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. 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. We will ask you to fill the front rows of the hall first in order to maximize instructor contact.
- 3) Exams -- There are two mid-terms and a final exam. Exams will be part multiple choice, part short answer, and a short essay. 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 contact the head TA to make alternative exam arrangements.
- 4) Quizzes -- There will be 6-7 announced and unannounced quizzes across the semester. These will be no more than 10 multiple choice or short answer questions to encourage you to stay current with lecture and reading content. 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 1-3 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, 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.

## 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 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 60% on major exams and 40% on weekly writing assignments, quizzes, and attendance/participation.

Mid-term #1, Sept 30th	150 points
Mid-term #2, Oct 31st	200
Final Exam, Dec 9th	250
Weekly Writing assignments (12 at 25pts each)	300
Quizzes	50
Attendance & Participation	<u>50</u>
Total	1000 points

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

*\*Extra credit:* You may receive 5-10 extra credit points per event for attending lectures, films, conferences, workshops, special events related to the environment as announced in class. To receive credit, you should turn in to your TA a two-page review, including a 2 paragraph summary of the event and a 2 paragraph reflection on what you learned and how it affected you.

## Course Policies

1) Absences -- Attendance will be taken on a regular basis, and unexcused absences will factor into your final grade. Even if you are feeling a little 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. 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 small group section.

2) Late work -- Turn work in on time, i.e. at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. Because there are weekly assignments, it will be very confusing if work comes in late. Late work is subject to penalties, i.e. 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 or one of the teachers 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.