

Curriculum and Requirements

Interdisciplinary

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The Environmental Studies Concentration provides an interdisciplinary framework for understanding the interactions of individuals, societies, and the natural world. The concentration brings together the different perspectives of the humanities, life sciences, physical sciences, and social sciences. The academic program is enhanced by the 450-acre Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC). The BFEC, within walking distance of campus, features a wide range of natural and managed habitats and includes part of the Kokosing River (one of Ohio's State Scenic Rivers). In addition, Kenyon encourages students to think in more global terms through affiliations with the School for Field Studies (which provides classes in Australia, British West Indies, Costa Rica, Kenya, and Mexico) and the Organization for Tropical Studies, as well as through off-campus study opportunities like the Duke University Marine Laboratory and the Semester in Environmental Science at Woods Hole. Our goals are to increase basic knowledge in the relevant subjects and to learn techniques for evaluating complex issues, especially those with both technological and social components.

The implications of our interaction with the environment extend well beyond either natural or social sciences, however, as ethics and aesthetics are integral to those interactions. Consequently, the concentration in environmental studies knits together many traditional academic disciplines. In addition, the concentration can be integrated with a major in international studies, an interdisciplinary program.

First-Year and New Students

Students interested in ENVS are encouraged to take ENVS 112 in their first year. Other appropriate courses for first-year or new students include BIOL 106, BIOL 115, CHEM 108, or ECON 101 . Other introductory courses in affiliated departments may be taken as interests dictate.

The Curriculum

The environmental studies program consists of four components: a one-semester introductory course, ENVS 112 (.5 unit); three semester courses in "core" subjects (biology, chemistry, and economics, for 1.5 units); a selection of 1.5 units (three courses) from affiliated courses in at least two departments; and a one-semester capstone seminar, ENVS 461 (.5 unit). The

concentration requires a total of 4 units. Affiliated courses are offered in anthropology, biology, chemistry, economics, philosophy, physics, political science, religious studies, and sociology.

Concentration Requirements

Required Environmental Studies Courses: 1 unit

ENVS 112 (.5 unit) Introduction to Environmental Studies

ENVS 461 (.5 unit) Seminar in Environmental Studies

Core Courses in Environmental Studies: 1.5 units

BIOL 115 (.5 unit) Energy in Living Systems (BIOL 106 can serve as a replacement)

CHEM 108 (.5 unit) Solar Energy (CHEM 110, 121, or 122 can serve as a replacement)

ECON 101 (.5 unit) Principles of Microeconomics

Elective Courses for Environmental Studies: 1.5 units selected from the following courses:

Anthropology courses

ANTH 111 Introduction to Biological Anthropology

ANTH 320 Anthropology of Food

ANTH 324 Biocultural Adaptations

ANTH 333 Old World Archaeology

Biology courses

BIOL 228, 229 Ecology and Ecology Laboratory

BIOL 251 Marine Biology

BIOL 352, 353 Aquatic Systems Biology and Aquatic Systems Laboratory

Chemistry courses

CHEM 125 Nanoscience and Materials Chemistry

CHEM 231, 232 Organic Chemistry I and lab

CHEM 341 Instrumental Analysis

Economics courses

ECON 336 Environmental Economics

ECON 342 Economics of Regulation

ECON 347 Economics of the Public Sector

Environmental studies courses

ENVS 150 Environmental Geology

ENVS 251 Field Experience: Environmental Outreach

ENVS 253 Sustainable Agriculture

ENVS 261 Geographic Information Science

Philosophy courses

PHIL 110 Introduction to Ethics

PHIL 115 Practical Issues in Ethics

Physics course

PHYS 108 Geology

Political science courses

PSCI 361 Globalization

PSCI 363 Global Environmental Politics

PSCI 480 Science and Politics

Religious studies course

RLST 481 Religion and Nature

Sociology courses

SOCY 233 Sociology of Food

SOCY 477Y-478Y Fieldwork: Rural Life

Transfer Credit Policy

A maximum of two courses may be taken off-campus. Students planning to take a course for transfer credit should consult a codirector of the concentration in advance.

Because careful course selection is necessary to achieve specific objectives, students are urged to consult as early as possible with a program codirector and other faculty members in the Environmental Studies Concentration.

Environmental Studies

Note: This page contains **all** of the regular courses taught by this department. Not all courses are offered every year. Check the [searchable schedule](#) to see which courses are being offered in the upcoming semester.

ENVS 112 Introduction to Environmental Studies

Credit: 0.5

This course examines contemporary environmental problems, introducing the major concepts pertaining to human interactions with the biosphere. We will explore this interaction at both local and global scales. Course topics include basic principles of ecology (flows of energy, cycling of matter and the role of feedback), the impacts of human technology, the roots of our perceptions about and reactions to nature, the social and legal framework for responding to problems, and economic issues surrounding environmental issues. We will discuss methods for answering questions regarding the consequences of our actions and, using a systems approach, focus on methods for organizing information to evaluate complex issues. The format of the course will be three-quarters discussion and lecture, one-quarter workshop. The workshops will include field trips, experience with collecting data, and application of computer modeling. This course counts as a biology course for the purpose of diversification. No prerequisites. Offered every spring.

Instructor: Staff

ENVS 251 Field Experience: Environmental Outreach

Credit: 0.13

In "Field Experiences", students will examine special topics in environmental science, gaining subject knowledge so that they can lead educational experiences for elementary school classes visiting the Brown Family Environmental Center. Students will participate in two workshops at the beginning of the semester and then participate in at least four programs for visitors. Participants will keep a journal and submit a final report on their experiences along with evaluations of the effectiveness of the programs. Prerequisites: ENVS 112 or BIOL 112 or equivalent or permission of the instructor. Offered each semester.

ENVS 253 Sustainable Agriculture

Credit: 0.5

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the principles of sustainable agriculture through hands-on experience on local farms and through readings of current literature. The course thus combines fieldwork and seminar-style discussion. Work on the farm will be varied, determined by the seasons and farm projects under way. In addition, students may be taken to the

local Producers Livestock Auction and other off-farm sites as the time and season allow. Students can expect to handle and feed animals, clean barns, harvest and plant crops, prepare farm products for market, build and repair fences, bale hay, and work with, repair, or clean equipment and buildings. Readings will be drawn from relevant books, current environmental literature, and the news media. Discussions will be student-led and combine readings and their experiences in the field. There are no prerequisites for this course, although completion of ENVS 112 is strongly encouraged. However, students must have available in their academic schedule four continuous hours one day per week to spend working at a local organic farm (travel time will be in addition to these four hours). In addition, students will participate in a weekly seminar discussion of assigned readings, lasting from an hour and a half to two hours. Participation is limited to eight to ten students, and permission of the instructor is required. Preference will be given to upperclass students. Offered every fall.

Instructor: Staff

ENVS 261 Geographic Information Science

Credit: 0.5

This course is for all students interested in improving their spatial literacy, or the ability to use spatial information to communicate, reason, and solve problems--in this case environmental problems, nearly all of which have a spatial component. Following a review of maps (coordinate and projection systems, cartographic principles, etc.) we will survey a number of online mapping applications (e.g., Google Earth) and use these to produce informative maps. We will also explore the nature of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and how data can be collected in the field for future analysis and presentation. The focus of the course will eventually settle onto the nature of computer-based geographic information systems (GIS) and the ways in which this powerful suite of tools can be used to analyze geographic data, model spatial processes, and make informed decisions. Lectures will introduce fundamental concepts such as scale and resolution, the nature and structure of spatial data models, and the construction of GIS queries. A series of laboratory case studies will present real-world applications of GIS while offering students opportunities to apply the fundamental concepts discussed in lectures. Prerequisites: sophomore standing or above and permission of the instructor.

Instructor: E. Holdener

ENVS 461 Seminar in Environmental Studies

Credit: 0.5

The intention of this capstone seminar is to draw together and apply the concepts learned in earlier courses in the Environmental Studies Concentration. The focus of the course will be on case studies of natural-resource management, with specific topic areas to be determined. In this strongly interdisciplinary effort, we will explore ecological, economic, social, and legal issues that influence how people exploit natural resources, and whether that exploitation is sustainable.

Students will be expected to develop and communicate their understanding of the complex and inseparable relationships of human well-being, ecosystem services, and environmental management. Prerequisites: junior or senior standing; students must also be pursuing the concentration in environmental studies. Offered every year.

ENVS 493 Individual Study

Credit: 0.25-0.5

Because the Environmental Studies Concentration has no faculty of its own, the nature of an individual study will necessarily vary dramatically depending on the home discipline of the faculty member guiding the course. Details regarding the expected number of contact hours per week, workload, and assessment will be left to the discretion of the faculty member guiding the individual study. There are no formal restrictions on who can pursue an individual study in ENVS. Individual studies are not intended to replace an elective course in fulfilling the requirements of the Environmental Studies Concentration.

Additional courses that meet the requirements for this major/concentration

ANTH 111: Introduction to Biological Anthropology
ANTH 320: Anthropology of Food
ANTH 324: Biocultural Adaptations
ANTH 333: Seeds, Settlements, and Standing Stones: The Neolithic in Western Asia and Europe
BIOL 106: Conservation Biology
BIOL 228: Ecology
BIOL 229: Ecology Laboratory
BIOL 251: Marine Biology
BIOL 321: Developmental Biology
BIOL 352: Aquatic Systems Biology
BIOL 353: Aquatic Systems Lab
CHEM 108: Solar Energy
CHEM 110: Environmental Chemistry
CHEM 121: Introductory Chemistry
CHEM 122: Chemical Principles
CHEM 231: Organic Chemistry I
CHEM 232: Organic Chemistry II
CHEM 233: Organic Chemistry Lab I
CHEM 234: Organic Chemistry Lab II
CHEM 341: Instrumental Analysis
ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 336: Environmental Economics
ECON 342: Economics of Regulation
ECON 347: Economics of the Public Sector
PHIL 110: Introduction to Ethics
PHIL 115: Practical Issues in Ethics
PHYS 108: Geology

PSCI 361: Globalization
PSCI 363: Global Environmental Politics
PSCI 480: Science and Politics
RLST 481: Religion and Nature
SOCY 233: Sociology of Food