

Environmental Studies Spring 2009

Course Descriptions for Topics Courses: Spring 2009

ANTH 4020-005 Peoples and Cultures of the North Atlantic

This course will focus on peoples and cultures from three areas of the North Atlantic: Iceland; Greenland; and Labrador (Nunatsiavut). There will be both a historical and a contemporary focus with a strong emphasis on environmental issues. Some of the aspects that will be considered from an anthropological perspective are: The "Viking" settlement of Iceland, Greenland and the New World; historical and literary writings from Iceland (including the Icelandic sagas); Scandinavian mythology and cosmology; the rise and fall of the Norse Greenland settlements; "Colonial" domination of Iceland and Greenland by Denmark; the many peoples of Labrador (Inuit, Métis, Norwegian, Scottish...); Norse and Native interactions; Cultural adjustments in Greenland and Labrador; The current collapse of the Icelandic economy; Environmental impacts in the North Atlantic in the past and present.

ENVS 3001 Sustainable Solutions Consulting, Professor Lisa Barlow, ENVS

Introduces students to green design, industrial ecology, and life cycle analysis. Students use basic techniques of environmental auditing to analyze the CU-Boulder campus. Prereq: any two-semester science sequence. Restricted to junior and senior ENVS majors. Approved for all Track A, except international development.

GEOL/ENVS 3520 Environmental Issues in Geosciences (Section 001)

This course explores where our energy comes from and the potential for future sources. As fossil fuels dominate our energy production, we will also investigate the hype and realities of climate change and greenhouse gases. We will consider these topics through the lenses of basic science, policy, politics, economics and ethics.

GEOL/ENVS 3520 Environmental Issues in Geosciences: Global Warming; Understanding the Forecast (Section 002)

Uses the example of man-made climate change to develop an analytical understanding of the Earth system (solid, fluid, and living) that can be used to interpret the complex and uncertain forecast. Emphasis is given to the concepts of forcing, feedback and response in order to examine natural vs. man-made environmental changes and climate change mitigation strategies.

ENVS 3621-001 Energy, Policy and Society, Professor Paul Komor, ENVS/Energy Initiative

This course will examine how society makes decisions about energy, and how these decisions affect the environment and the economy. The student will use tools from policy analysis, economics, and other disciplines to build an in-depth understanding of energy's role in U. S. contemporary society. Approved for all Track A, except international development.

ENVS 3930-800 Earth Education: Education for Sustainability, Susie Strife, PhD Candidate , Environmental Studies

Tired of sitting in lectures? Imagine a class that was fun, innovative and allowed you, the student, to teach. Imagine that this class also provided you with the communication skills and tools to teach the next generation about sustainability and environmental issues. ENVS 3930 (Section 800) **Education for Sustainability: Earth Education** is being offered as a three credit internship through the Environmental Studies program during this upcoming spring semester. No prior teaching experience is necessary and you can teach with partners.

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The course will be on Wednesdays from 1-3, location TBD and includes a weekly teaching practicum for one hour a week in a local school during a time and day that fits into your schedule. To register contact Corlin Ambler, Corlin.Ambler@colorado.edu, or 303-492-5420. For more information about Earth Education check out our website <http://ecenter.colorado.edu/earthed/internship.html> or email us at earthed@colorado.edu.

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ENVS 4100 (1-3) Topics in Environmental Policy.

Covers a variety of topics not currently offered in the curriculum; offered depending on instructor availability and student demand. May be repeated up to 9 total credit hours, provided the topics vary.

ENVS 4100-002 TPC- Carbon Neutral CU, Dave Newport, instructor, Environmental Center Director

The students in Carbon Neutral CU will learn the concepts that inform this definition of climate-neutrality, the technical approaches available to the campus that can be employed, develop an analytical framework by which to evaluate these options, and draft a proposed strategic plan that would guide an implementation analysis of available options. The class may attend planning meetings of the various committees charged by the Chancellor to develop UCB's actual plan. Field trips to relevant campus facilities may also occur. Approved for all Track A Specializations.

ENVS 4100-003 TPC- Wildlife Policy, David Cherney, Phd Candidate in ENVS

Approved for all Track A Specializations.

We are presently entering the earth's 6th mass global extinction event. The World Conservation Organization (IUCN) estimates that current species extinction rates are 1,000 to 10,000 times the historical norm. Many factors contribute to this trend including landscape alteration, invasive species, pollution, and climate change. The decline of species and the resulting ecosystem effects have broad implications for human communities, as people rely on many goods and services provided by the environment. Solving this global challenge requires more than simply developing technical or theoretical solutions. Successful conservation requires professionals who can effectively navigate and integrate knowledge from a variety of substantive fields in the physical and social sciences. The primary aim for this course is to develop students' problem-solving abilities and critical-thinking skills. This will be accomplished by introducing students to a variety of concepts and methods that have proven successful in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

ENVS 4100-004 TPC – Water in the West, Professors Patty Limerick and Wendy Redal

Water and the West

This course capitalizes on the fact that the supply and allocation of water affect every aspect of life in the American West. The course will pay attention to the political, economic, social, cultural, and literary aspects of water's key role in the region's human and natural environments. Topics explored will include the West's hydrography, aquatic and riparian ecosystems, Indian water rights, Spanish and Mexican acequias, prior appropriation, hydraulic mining, irrigated agriculture, urban water systems, the Colorado River Compact, instream flows, drought and impacts of global climate change including rates of wildlands fire, conservation, ties to energy production, and creative literature about water. Student writing assignments may be incorporated in a possible publication of the Center of the American West, "What Every Westerner Should Know about Water."

Approved for Track A policy and natural resources specializations and Track B water.

ENVS 4800-3 Critical Thinking in Environmental Studies.

Examines a specific environmental topic in depth, synthesizing information from complex and controversial issues. Different course sections present different topics. May be repeated up to 6 total credit hours. Restricted to students with junior or senior status in environmental studies. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: critical thinking.

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ENVS 4800-001 CT-Rethinking Hurricane Katrina, Professor Diana Nemergut ENVS/INSTAAR

The impact of Hurricane Katrina on the city of New Orleans was an event unprecedented in America in modern times. The world watched as the local, state, and federal government failed to protect and respond to this disaster. This course aims to dissect the environmental issues (e.g., global warming, sediment transport, wetland degradation) that led to and resulted from Katrina. Additionally, we will delve into the role of political, sociological, and economic factors in this disaster. We will also cover the history of this ecologically and culturally unique city. As a class, we will examine various aspects of Hurricane Katrina and the city of New Orleans in detail, and produce a comprehensive written review of the role of environmental problems in this disaster. Students will engage in independent research, reading, writing, editing and class presentations. Approved for all Track A Specializations.

ENVS 4800-003 CT – Environmental Health Risk, Professor Jill Litt ENVS/Denver Health Science Center

This course will examine and evaluate environmental risk sciences, risk communication and public health. Students will be introduced to the major concepts, methodologies and issues in the field of environmental risk assessment and use this knowledge to examine contemporary public environmental issues that impact local communities in Denver and across the country. The course will provide an understanding of the factors that influence community environments and the human health risks from chemical agents. Students will learn about the tools and data resources available for guiding policy decisions and public health prevention and intervention strategies. Students will be prepared to examine, evaluate and communicate contemporary environmental risk information that may have public health impacts. Approved for all Track A specializations.

ENVS 4800-004 CT- Environmental Property and Protest, Professor Ben Hale, ENVS

This class will center on private property questions at the heart of the debate around environmental policy, environmental activism, and the wise use movement. Specifically, we will read some of the foundational theories of property rights—Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Proudhon, Marx, Coase—as well as some of the central views on civil disobedience and protest—Thoreau, King, Malcolm X, Ed Abbey, Dave Foreman, John Zerzan, and Rawls. As this is also technically a course on critical thinking, we will spend approximately one third of the course covering material related to informal reasoning. Approved for all Track A specializations.