

Course Descriptions for ENVS Topics Courses (4100- 4800) Fall 2008

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.

Section – 001 CT Property and Protest

Professor Ben Hale

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.

Section-002 CT Biofuels

Dr. Catherine Stewart, Instructor

E-mail: cstewart@colorado.edu

This course will use critical thinking to explore the ecological, economic and policy factors of biofuels production; for example, the trade-offs between using agricultural commodities for biofuels feed stock versus feeding poor communities or the positive and negative effects of genetic engineering of biofuel organisms. Approved for all Track A and B specializations.

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.

Section – 003 TPC-Energy Science and Technology

Professor Paul Komor

These and other energy-related questions will be covered in a new ENVS energy course: ENVS 4100, Energy Science and Technology. This course will provide an understanding of the basics of energy science and technologies. We'll start with energy concepts (such as 'power,' 'resources,' and 'carriers'), and then move on to a closer look at how we produce, transform, and consume energy in the U.S. We'll explore how energy use contributes to environmental challenges, notably climate change. And we'll assess alternatives, including renewables and energy efficiency, to better understand their potentials and limitations.

No technical background is required. This course is open to all students. There are no prerequisites. This course is approved for all Track A specializations in ENVS. No specialization credit given to ENVS majors if students already have received credit for ENVS/PHYS3070.

Section-002 TPC- Water Policy/Science

Paul Hempel, Instructor, Director of Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative

This course will focus on the Clean Water Act as it pertains to surface waters locally, regional and nationally. Included topics include water quality standards, state oversight of federal permits, wetlands regulations, non-point source pollution, total maximum daily loads (TMDL's), storm water and mining regulations. River science, values and issue identification in regards to citizen action will also be covered. Case studies on the above topics and others will be reviewed to highlight the connection between water policy and science. Approved for Track A Natural Resources and Decision Making specializations and Track B Water specialization. Contact information paulhempel@hotmail.com.

ENVS4990-3 Senior Thesis

Supervised project involving original research. Open only to environmental studies majors with at least a 3.30 GPA. Thesis proposal must be accepted by honors chairman. May be repeated up to 6 total credit hours. PREREQ MIN 3.3 GPA.

Section 802- The Art of Research

Prof. Lisa Dilling, ldilling@colorado.edu or 303-735-3678.

Are you interested in learning how to do research in Environmental Studies? Are you stuck trying to figure out how to come up with a research question for an honors thesis? Do you wonder how the process of research works? This is the course for you! This course is designed to introduce students to the practice of doing research, from formulating a researchable question to research design, general introduction to methods, and using arguments and evidence in evaluating data. This course is not a substitute for an in-depth course in methods specific to your area of research, but will provide a general overview of quantitative and qualitative methods that you might encounter in environmental studies research. Open to juniors and seniors, strongly encouraged for those wanting to do an honors thesis. GPA of 3.0 needed to enroll in this course or permission of the instructor.

Class Details:

Seminar format, meets once a week, Fridays 1-3:30pm. Students will read assigned texts and original research articles, create and critique arguments, evaluate evidence, perform library and online research, and write an original research proposal. Assignments and reading will be detailed in the full syllabus, which will be available in August. If you have any questions about the class, please contact the professor, Lisa Dilling, ldilling@colorado.edu or 303-735-3678. (Controlled enrollment. Please contact the professor or the ENVS program office to register.)

7/28/08

http://envs.colorado.edu/undergrad_program/C73/Current%20Courses/