

# Environmental Studies

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Unice L. Blavascunas, Anthropology and Environmental Studies

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Environmental studies courses deal with a wide range of contemporary problems associated with the interactions between humans and nature. Coursework is designed to meet the needs of two groups of students: those who choose to major in environmental studies and those who desire knowledge in this area as part of their general education. A primary objective of the program is to aid the student in understanding that environmental problems are multi-causal phenomena, and to develop skills necessary for effective environmental citizenship and leadership.

The program introduces students to a wide variety of perspectives that examine the many connections between humans and nature. To do this, the program combines a broad set of relevant courses in the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. The basic preparation can then transfer easily to further graduate training or to an immediate career in research, policy, or some other professional environmental direction. The hallmarks of the Whitman program are its multidisciplinary organization, and local and regional in empirical emphasis. Students wrestle with the challenges, and come to understand the necessities, of an interdisciplinary approach in the elucidation of any environmental problem. They develop a literacy in understanding their Walla Walla environmental address, so they can appreciate the deep links between their temporary community and the surrounding human and natural environments. Field trips and internship opportunities are a vital part of this experience.

## Program Goals

- To foster critical thinking skills in relation to environmental problems.
- To enhance environmental literacy.
- To encourage interdisciplinary integration of disciplinary approaches to environmental concerns.
- To develop communication skills in a wide variety of formats designed for diverse audiences.

## Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of relevant concepts that underlie environmental processes, thought and governance in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.
- Integrate and apply sophisticated perspectives from multiple disciplinary approaches that address complex environmental problems.
- Design and conduct research on environmental topics. Research could include a variety of methods (quantitative, qualitative, artistic, rhetorical, spatial, etc.) as well as in a variety of contexts (senior thesis, summer research, course assignments, study abroad, etc.).
- Communicate effectively in both written and oral formats to academic and non-academic audiences.

The environmental studies major develops a common core of knowledge through extensive interdepartmental coursework, complemented by a concentration in a specific area in either the environmental humanities, sciences, or social sciences. The student may elect one of eight areas of concentration — biology, chemistry, economics, geology, humanities, physics, politics, sociology, or an individually planned major (psychology, for example) in the environmental studies major.

The following course of study is required of all environmental studies majors. Students earn a minimum of 25 credits in environmental studies (including foundation courses), and combine these credits with an area of concentration. No more than eight transfer credits may be applied to the environmental studies requirements. Semester in the West and Whitman in the Wallawas are programs run by Whitman College and count as credit earned on campus. Courses taken P-D-F may not be used to satisfy requirements for the environmental studies major.

Environmental studies majors are encouraged to study for a semester or a year in a program with strong environmental relevance. Particularly appropriate are Whitman College's field program in environmental studies, Semester in the West; and the School for Field Studies. See the *Special Programs* section in this catalog. Also, consider the University of Montana's Northwest Connections Field Semester.

# Environmental Studies Requirements

- 25 Credits (minimum)
  - Plus additional specific department credit requirements
- Required Courses
  - Environmental Studies 120, 207, and 479
  - Foundation Coursework
    - Fulfill the requirements for the two areas outside of your focus area; humanities, natural/physical sciences, or social sciences
      - Humanities: Take two courses from the list below
      - Natural/physical sciences: Take 7 credits from courses on the list below. Credits must come from at least two departments, and include at least one course with a lab
      - Social sciences: Take two courses from the list below
  - Take one interdisciplinary course from the list below
- Other notes
  - 8 transfer credits may be applied to the major
  - No courses may be taken PDF
- Senior Requirements
  - Environmental Studies 479
  - Further requirements are specified within your concentration below
- Honors
  - Specified within each concentration

**Introductory coursework:** Take the following: Environmental Studies 120 *Introduction to Environmental Studies*; Environmental Studies 207 *Methods of Environmental Analysis*.

**Foundation coursework:** Satisfy requirements in the two areas listed below that are *outside* the area of your declared environmental studies major. Course substitutions for foundation area courses must be approved by the Environmental Studies Committee.

**Humanities area coursework:** Take a minimum of two of the following

Art History and Visual Culture Studies 226/Classics 319/*Environmental Studies 319 Landscape and Cityscape in Ancient Rome*  
Art History and Visual Culture Studies 352  
*Art/Environment*  
Classics 200 *ST: Ancient Travel and Travelers*  
Classics 205/*Environmental Studies 205 Women and Nature in the Ancient World*  
Classics 217/*Environmental Studies 217 Classical Foundations of the Nature Writing*  
Classics 226/*Environmental Studies 226 Conceptions of Nature in Greek and Roman Thought*  
*Environmental Studies 202 and 302 Special Topics, all offerings*  
*Environmental Studies 230 The Cultural and Literary Life of Rivers*  
*Environmental Studies 235 The Pastoral, the Wild, and the Commons*  
*Environmental Studies 247 The Literature of Nature*  
*Environmental Studies 308 (Re)Thinking Environment*  
*Environmental Studies 335/German Studies 335 Romantic Nature*

*Environmental Studies 339/German Studies 339 Writing Environmental Disaster*  
*Environmental Studies 340 Environmental Radicals in Literature*  
*Environmental Studies 347 The Nature Essay*  
*Environmental Studies 349 Regional Literatures of Place: The West and the South*  
*Environmental Studies 358 Ecocriticism*  
*Environmental Studies 360 Environmental Writing and the American West\**  
*Environmental Studies 365 Other Earths: Environmental Change and Speculative Fiction*  
*Geology 338 Pages of Stone: The Literature of Geology*  
*Global Literature 328 Haiku and Nature in Japan*  
*Global Literatures 387 ST: Concepts of Nature in Chinese Culture*  
*Philosophy 120 Environmental Ethics*  
*Philosophy 208 Food: What's for Dinner?*  
*Philosophy 227/Environmental Studies 227 Concepts of Nature in Modern European Philosophy*  
*Philosophy 262 Animals and Philosophy*

\* Offered only to students admitted to Semester in the West

**Natural/physical science area coursework:** Take a minimum of seven credits from the following courses. Credits must come from at least two different departments and include at least one course with a laboratory:

Biology 114 *Tree Biology*  
Biology 115 *Natural History and Ecology*  
Biology 118 *Agroecology*  
Biology 130 *Conservation Biology*  
Biology 177 *Ecology of the American West\**  
Biology 210 *When is science reliable?*  
Chemistry 100 *Introduction to Environmental Chemistry and Science*  
Environmental Studies 201 and 301 *Environmental Sciences, all offerings*

Geology 125 *Environmental Geology* (or Geology 110 *The Physical Earth* or Geology 120 *Geologic History of the Pacific Northwest*)  
Geology 130 *Weather and Climate*  
Geology 229 *Geology and Ecology of Soils*  
Geology 258 *Geology in the Field*  
Physics 105 *Energy and the Environment*

\* Offered only to students admitted to Semester in the West

**Social sciences area coursework:** Take a minimum of two of the following courses from different departments:

Anthropology 246/ <i>Environmental Studies 200 ST: Domestic/Wild: Unruly Homes, Wild Biomes</i>	History 262 <i>People, Nature, Technology: Built and Natural Environments in U.S. History</i>
Anthropology 247/ <i>Politics 200 ST: Land, Water Justice</i>	History 263 <i>From Farm to Fork; Slow Food, Fast Food, and European Foodways</i>
Economics 100 <i>Principles of Microeconomics</i>	History 355 <i>Pacific Whaling History</i>
Environmental Studies 200 and 300 <i>Environmental Social Sciences, all offerings</i>	History 398 <i>VT: Japan's Natural Disasters</i>
Environmental Studies 313 <i>Communism, Socialism, and the Environment</i>	Politics 119 <i>Whitman in the Global Food System</i>
History 155 <i>Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral: Natural Resources in Global Environment History</i>	Politics 124 <i>Introduction to Politics and the Environment</i>
History 205 <i>East Asian Environmental History</i>	Politics 228 <i>Political Ecology</i>
History 206 <i>European Environmental History to 1800</i>	Politics 287 <i>Natural Resource Policy and Management</i>
History 231 <i>Oceans Past and Future: Introduction to Marine Environmental History</i>	Politics 309 <i>Environment and Politics in the American West*</i>
History 232 <i>Changing Landscapes: Introduction to Terrestrial Environmental History</i>	Politics 339 <i>Nature, Culture, Politics</i>
	Sociology 229 <i>Environmental Sociology</i>
	Sociology 325 <i>Sociology of Disasters</i>

\* Offered only to students admitted to Semester in the West

**Interdisciplinary coursework:** Take a minimum of one of the following courses. Course substitutions for interdisciplinary coursework must be approved by the Environmental Studies Committee.

Environmental Studies 203 and 303 <i>Interdisciplinary Studies, all offerings</i>	Environmental Studies 329 <i>Environmental Health</i>
Environmental Studies 305 <i>Water in the West</i>	Environmental Studies 345 <i>The Cultural Worlds of Mountains</i>
Environmental Studies 306 <i>Culture, Politics, Ecology</i>	Environmental Studies 353 <i>Environmental Justice</i>
Environmental Studies 307 <i>Beastly Modernity: Animals in the 19th Century</i>	Environmental Studies 362 <i>Food, Culture, and Politics</i>
Environmental Studies 314 <i>Art and the Anthropocene</i>	Environmental Studies 408 SW <i>Western Epiphanies: Integrated Project*</i>
Environmental Studies 322 <i>The Anthropocene</i>	Environmental Studies 459 <i>Interdisciplinary Fieldwork.</i>
Environmental Studies 327 <i>Biodiversity</i>	

\* Offered only to students admitted to Semester in the West

**Senior coursework:** Take Environmental Studies 479 *Environmental Citizenship and Leadership.*

Additional senior year requirements vary by major. For majors where a thesis is required, students must complete an interdisciplinary research project with a grade of C-or better. In addition, all environmental studies majors must pass an oral examination within their area or department of concentration. For majors that do not require a senior thesis, or if a student's senior thesis is deemed insufficiently interdisciplinary by the Environmental Studies Committee, an oral examination in Environmental Studies also is required.

## Environmental Humanities

### Art-Environmental Studies

M Acuff, Art

Nicole Pietrantonio, Art

The Art-Environmental Studies major is designed to serve students whose deep interest in environmental issues dovetails with a developing capacity for creative thinking and production in the visual arts.

### Art-Environmental Studies major

- 40 Credits (in addition to the 25 Environmental Studies credits)
- Required Courses
  - Art 130 or Art 160
  - Two beginning level Art courses
  - One intermediate level Art course
  - One advanced level Art course
  - Art/Environmental Studies 314, Art 480 and Art 490, Arth 103 and Arth 352
  - One AHVCS course from the following list: Arth 226, 228, 229, 230, 250, or 355
  - One additional Environmental Humanities foundation course (see humanities area of the environmental studies major requirements). NOTE: Arth 226 or 352 cannot fulfill this requirement and the Art History and Visual Cultures course requirement.
- Other notes
  - Arts/Environmental Studies 314 cannot also fill the interdisciplinary requirement in Environmental Studies
  - No courses can be taken PDF
- Senior Requirements
  - Art 480 and 490
- Senior Assessment will take place within Art 490 and it will be composed of three elements
  - Original body of work for the Senior Thesis Exhibit. This work should clearly reflect an environmental focus and synthesis of ideas gleaned from Art, Environmental Studies, and Art History and Visual Cultures Studies coursework.
  - Written artist statement
  - Oral defense of work before a committee of 3-4 advisors from Arts, Art History and Visual Cultures Studies, and Environmental Studies.
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

## Environmental Humanities

Emily Jones, German Studies and Environmental Humanities

Kathleen Shea, Environmental Humanities/Classics

Donald Snow, Environmental Humanities

Patrick Frierson, Philosophy

Rebecca Hanrahan, Philosophy

Inquiry in environmental humanities is guided by two questions: What is the relation between nature and culture? What should this relation be? These questions have become ever more important in the face of growing environmental problems. The environmental humanities major is governed by a subcommittee of the Environmental Studies Committee. The environmental humanities major uses traditions of nature writing, European and American literature, environmental philosophy, and the classics to give direction and focus to inquiry into the values and concepts that may govern our relation to nature. In order to insure an intellectually cohesive program, the student's faculty advisor will review and approve each major's plan for coursework leading to a senior thesis.

In addition to the courses required of all environmental studies majors, the following are required for the environmental humanities major:

- 28 credits (in addition to the 25 Environmental Studies credits)
- Required Courses
  - Two foundation courses from the list below
  - One writing course (Environmental Studies 347 or 360)
  - One critical thinking course from the list below
  - Three elective courses; two at the 300 level or above from the list below
  - Environmental Studies 488 or 498
- Other notes
  - Each course can only fill one of the three major requirements
- Senior Requirements
  - Environmental Studies 488 or 498
  - One hour oral on senior thesis
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

**Foundation coursework:** Take two foundation courses from the following list (courses satisfying this requirement cannot also satisfy the elective requirement):

Art History and Visual Culture Studies 226/Classics  
319/Environmental Studies 319 *Landscape and  
Cityscape in Ancient Rome*  
Art History and Visual Culture Studies 352  
*Art/Environment*  
Classics 200 *ST: Ancient Travel and Travelers*  
Classics 205/Environmental Studies 205 *Women and  
Nature in the Ancient World*  
Classics 217/Environmental Studies 217 *Classical  
Foundations of the Nature Writing Tradition*  
English 348 *The American Literary Emergence,  
1620-1920*

Environmental Studies 230 *The Cultural and  
Literary Life of Rivers*  
Environmental Studies 235 *The Pastoral, the Wild,  
and the Commons*  
Environmental Studies 247 *The Literature of Nature*  
Environmental Studies 308 *(Re)Thinking  
Environment*  
Environmental Studies/German 335 *Romantic  
Nature*  
Environmental Studies/German Studies 339 *Writing  
Environmental Disaster*  
Environmental Studies 349 *Regional Literatures of  
Place: The West and the South*

**Critical thinking requirement:** To fulfill the critical thinking requirement take one course from:

Classics 226/Environmental Studies 226 *Concepts of  
Nature in Greek and Roman Thought*  
Environmental Studies 308 (Re) *Thinking  
Environment*  
Global Literatures 387 *ST: Concepts of Nature in  
Chinese Culture*  
Philosophy 107 *Critical Reasoning*  
Philosophy 117 *Problems in Philosophy*

Philosophy 120 *Environmental Ethics*  
Philosophy 127 *Ethics*  
Philosophy 208 *Ethics and Food: What's for  
Dinner?*  
Philosophy 227/Environmental Studies 227  
*Concepts of Nature in Modern European Philosophy*  
Philosophy 262 *Animals and Philosophy*

**Electives:** Take three elective courses, two of which must be 300 or above, from:

Art History and Visual Culture Studies 226/Classics  
319/Environmental Studies 319 *Landscape and  
Cityscape in Ancient Rome*  
Art History and Visual Culture Studies 352  
*Art/Environment*  
Art History and Visual Culture Studies 248 *Ways of  
Seeing: Japanese Art and Aesthetics*  
Classics 205/Environmental Studies 205 *Women and  
Nature in the Ancient World*  
Classics 217/Environmental Studies 217 *Classical  
Foundations of the Nature Writing Tradition*  
Classics 226/Environmental Studies 226 *Concepts of  
Nature in Greek and Roman Thought*  
English 200 VT: *Reading the Anthropocene*  
English 339 VT: *Romantic Literature: Making  
Meaning through Poetry*  
English 348 *The American Literary Emergence,  
1620-1920*  
Environmental Studies 230 *The Cultural and  
Literary Life of Rivers*  
Environmental Studies 235 *The Pastoral, the Wild,  
and the Commons*

Environmental Studies 247 *The Literature of Nature*  
Environmental Studies 302 *ST: The Nature of Henry  
Thoreau*  
Environmental Studies 335/German 335 *Romantic  
Nature*  
Environmental Studies 339/German Studies 339  
*Writing Environmental Disaster*  
Environmental Studies 340 *Environmental Radicals  
in Literature*  
Environmental Studies 349 *Regional Literatures of  
Place: The West and the South*  
Environmental Studies 358 *Ecocriticism*  
Environmental Studies 360 *Environmental Writing  
and the American West\**  
Environmental Studies 365 *Other Earths:  
Environmental Change and Speculative Fiction*  
Global Literatures 328 *Haiku and Nature in Japan*  
Global Literatures 387 *ST: Concepts of Nature in  
Chinese Culture*  
Philosophy 120 *Environmental Ethics*  
Philosophy 262 *Animals and Philosophy*  
Philosophy 300 *Emerson*

## Environmental Sciences

Susanne Altermann, Biology

Nicholas Bader, Geology

Lyman Persico, Geology and Environmental Studies

Kurt Hoffman, Physics

Frank Dunnivant, Chemistry

Delbert Hutchison, Biology

Tim Parker, Biology

The natural and physical sciences provide foundational theories for understanding environmental phenomena in the physical world and support environmental studies by gathering and analyzing baseline data to inform policy decisions. Issues ranging from the effects of pollution, optimal land- or water-use practices, protections of biodiversity, and effective energy consumption all benefit from insights provided by the natural and physical sciences. Available majors and required courses appear below.

These requirements are in addition to courses required of all environmental studies majors.

### **Biology-Environmental Studies:**

- 69 total credits (including 30 Biology, 14 Supporting Sciences, 25 Environmental Studies credits)
- Required Courses
  - Biology 111, 112, 205, 3 credits of 490 or 498, and 499
  - Three credits in molecular/cell biology
  - Four credits in organismal biology
  - Eight credits in ecology/evolution
- Required supporting science classes
  - Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136 or 140, and 245

- Mathematics 125 or a course in statistics (Mathematics 128 or 247, Economics 227, Psychology 210, or Sociology 208)
- Other notes
  - Courses in physics are recommended
- Senior Requirements
  - Biology 490 or 498 (thesis or honors thesis, 3 credits), and 499
  - One hour oral exam
  - Biology Major Field Test (MFT)
    - Score 70th percentile above
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis prepared for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis
  - Pass the senior assessment (both written and oral) with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

#### **Chemistry-Environmental Studies:**

- 64-69 credits
  - 25 credits from Environmental Studies
  - 25 to 30 credits in Chemistry
  - 14 credits from Mathematics and Statistics and Physics
- Required Courses
  - Chemistry 125, 126, 135, 136, or 140; 245, 246, 251, 252, and 310
  - Two courses from Chemistry 320, 346, 388
  - One credit of either Chemistry 401 or 402 (taken no later than the second to the last semester)
  - One credit of Chemistry 490 or 498
  - Mathematics 125, 126
- Senior Requirements
  - One-hour oral examination
  - Comprehensive written examination
  - A final written thesis and a public presentation of thesis work
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

#### **Geology-Environmental Studies:**

- 26 credits of geology, 39-41 credits total (not counting 25 Environmental Studies credit requirements)
- Required geology courses:
  - Geology 125 and 126 (or Geology 110 and 111, or 120 and 121)
  - Geology 227, 270, 350, 358, 420, and 470
  - Geology 405 or 301
  - Chemistry 125, 135
  - Mathematics 125
  - One 3 or 4 credit course numbered above 125 from Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, or Physics
  - Either one additional course from Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, or Physics; or Biology 115, 130, or 177
- Recommended courses
  - Geology 480
  - Courses in meteorology, physics, calculus, statistics, biology, and chemistry
- Senior requirements
  - Geology 470
  - Senior assessment:
    - Four-hour geology written exam;
    - Geology oral exam, which may be conducted in the field
    - Environmental studies orals may be required for students who do not complete an interdisciplinary thesis
- Honors
  - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
  - The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

#### **Physics-Environmental Studies:**

- 55-56 credits includes (25 Environmental Studies credits and 23-24 Physics and 7 in Mathematics)
- Required Courses
  - Physics 145 or 155 or 347
  - Physics 156, 245, 255, and 267
  - Two courses from Physics 325, 339, 347, 357, 385
  - One physics course 300-480 or BBMB 324 and 334
  - Mathematics 225 and 244
- Other notes
  - If students place out of Physics 155, they must take Physics 347
  - Physics 347 may not be used to satisfy multiple requirements
- Senior Requirements
  - Written exam in Physics
  - Oral exam in Physics
- Honors
  - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits



- Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
- Major GPA of at least 3.500
- Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
- Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
- Pass the senior assessment with distinction
- The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
- The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
- An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

## Environmental Social Sciences

Jakobina Arch, History

Alissa Cordner, Sociology

Eunice L. Blavascunas, Anthropology and Environmental Studies

Rosie Mueller, Economics

Nina Lerman, History

Aaron Bobrow-Strain, Politics

Jason Pribilsky, Anthropology

Philip D. Brick, Politics

Stanley J. Thayne, Politics

Human activities are at the root of most aspects of environmental degradation from global climate change to toxic waste to habitat loss. Applying social science theories and methods, environmental social science majors explore how human systems affect the natural environment, how decisions to utilize natural resources are made, and how various political strategies might address environmental concerns. Available majors and required courses appear below.

These requirements are in addition to courses required of all environmental studies majors.

### **Anthropology-Environmental Studies**

How does culture mediate relationships with land, water, soils, climate, plants, and animals? And how have these more-than-human beings had reciprocal relationships with humans? Using a range of methodologies, including ethnography, Anthropology-Environmental Studies majors will learn to build from different ways of knowing to examine the multi-faceted character of the environment and environmentalism at a time widely heralded as the Anthropocene. With humans at the center of this proposed geologic epoch the Anthropology-Environmental Studies major requires students to develop a working grasp of fundamental natural and scientific concepts central to environmental studies, while also understanding how scientific knowledge is always embedded in specific cultural features and historical contexts. An anthropological approach stresses that, while environmental processes and phenomena have material existence, they work within diverse cultural frames of meaning. As an environmental anthropologist you will be able to recognize the commonalities, coalitions and alliances that cut across cultures, as well as recognizing the political and economic agendas that guide and inform globalized environmental movements.

- Total 55 credits (30 Credits in addition to 25 Environmental Studies credits)
- Required Courses
  - Anthropology 101, 201, 490, and 492 or 498
  - 2 Core Anthropology courses from the list below
  - 2 elective courses from any 200 or 300-level anthropology course (excluding 201)
- Other notes
  - No more than eight credits in off-campus programs and transfer credits
  - No PDF courses
- Senior Requirements
  - Anthropology 490 and 492 or 498
- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program

- Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
- Pass the senior assessment with distinction
- Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
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Core Anthropology Courses: Two courses, eight credits, from the department's offerings in Environmental Anthropology from:

Anthropology 306 *Culture, Politics, Ecology*  
 Anthropology 313 *Communism, Socialism and the Environment*  
 Anthropology 328 *Medical Anthropology*  
 Anthropology 345 *The Cultural Worlds of Mountains*  
 Anthropology 360 *The Cultural Politics of Science*

### **Economics-Environmental Studies**

The Economics- Environmental Studies major allows you to explore, examine and analyze the most significant environmental issues of our times — global climate change, toxic waste, and habitat loss — through a perspective that emerges from within the field of economics as you join humanity's efforts to find innovative, practical, and lasting solutions to environmental degradation.

- 52 total credits 27 Credits in addition to 25 Environmental Studies credits
- Required Courses
  - Economics 100 or 101, 102, 227 (or Mathematics 128 or 247), Economics 307, 308, and 477
  - One additional course in economics
  - One relevant Environmental Social Science Course (not in Economics) from the list above in the Environmental Studies social science foundation courses
- Other notes
  - Mathematics 125 is a prerequisite to 307 & 308
  - A minimum requirement of C is required in Economics 307 and 308.
  - No courses taken PDF (including Economics 493 and 494) may count toward major requirements
- Senior Requirements
  - Major Field Test (MFT)
  - Oral exam in economics
  - Those not writing a suitably interdisciplinary honors thesis, are required to complete an oral exam in environmental studies.
- Honors
  - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
  - The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day
  - For details
    - <https://www.whitman.edu/academics/departments-and-programs/economics/economics-major-programs/department-honors>

**History-Environmental Studies major:**

Environmental history studies the interactions between humans and the natural world in the past. Understanding environmental influences on human society and vice versa means using historical evidence from scientists that go beyond the written record (studies of ice cores, tree rings, animal behavior, chemical processes, etc.) This highly interdisciplinary field also draws on artistic and literary sources to delve into nature's cultural impact on human societies and illustrate changing attitudes towards the natural world both before and after the concepts of environmentalism and the anthropocene emerged. As an environmental historian, you will be able to better grasp the human condition as embedded in the broader environment through the ages. This leads to a deeper sense of the possibilities and limitations of humanity, how we have shaped our world and how the world has shaped us, from antiquity to our contemporary situation of environmental crisis.

- 57 total credits (32 credits in History in addition to 25 credits in Environmental Studies)
- Required Courses
  - History 299, 399, 401 and 402
  - 12 credits in Environmental History from the list below:
    - one of which must be History 231 or 232
  - 8 credits of non-Environmental History electives
- Other notes
  - Only two courses may be taken at the 100 level
  - Courses can be applied to multiple requirements
- Senior Requirements
  - History 401 and 402
  - Senior assessments in History
    - Substantive integrative essay (bringing together coursework across ES) or a substantive research essay (conducting further research on an environmental history topic including environmental humanities and environmental science aspects)
    - Oral exam based on this essay, touching on all three distribution areas within Environmental Studies
- Honors
  - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
  - Candidates will enroll in History 498 for three credits and Environmental Studies 498 for one credit
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
  - The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

Core Environmental History Courses: Three courses from the department's offerings in Environmental History, at least one of which must be either *History 231 Oceans Past and Future: Introduction to Marine Environmental History* or *History 232 Changing Landscapes*. Other Environmental History courses include *History 155 Animal, Vegetable, Mineral, History 205 East Asian Environmental History, History 206 European Environmental History, History 262 People, Nature, Technology, History 263 Farm to Fork, History 307 Beastly Modernity, and History 355 Pacific Whaling History*.

### **Politics-Environmental Studies**

Politics-Environmental Studies students critically engage with the complex nature of power in the world that we live especially as it relates to environmental institutions, ideas, and values. Students also explore how power plays a role in the ability of a society to make the essential decisions that affect our lives and the environment in ways both large and small.

- 57 total credits including 32 credits in Politics plus 25 in Environmental Studies.

- Required Courses
  - One introductory course from Politics 119, 124, 228, or 287
  - One political economy course: Economics 100 or Politics 363
  - One global politics course from the list below
  - 12 elective credits
    - eight credits at 300-400 level
  - Politics 490, 497 or 498
  - Environmental Studies 488 or 498
- Other notes
  - No more than eight credits earned in off-campus programs, transfer credits, and/or credits from cross-listed courses. These may be applied at the 100 and 200-level.
  - No PDF courses
- Senior Requirements
  - Politics 490, 497 or 498, and Environmental Studies 488 or 498
  - C- or above on thesis
  - One hour oral thesis defense
- Honors
  - Students submit a Honors in Major Study Application to their department
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course.
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - The department will submit the Honors applications to the Registrar's Office of students pursuing Honors by the specified deadline
  - The department submit "Senior Assessment/Major Study Certificate" to the Registrar's Office no later the Reading Day
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

Global Politics Courses: One course from the department's offerings in Global Politics from:

ISDC 140 ST: *Introduction to Global Politics*; Politics 147 *International Politics*; Politics 202 ST: *International Law*; Politics 232 *The Politics of Globalization*; Politics 331 *Politics of International Hierarchy*

### **Sociology-Environmental Studies**

Sociology-Environmental Studies majors analyze the social dimensions of natural and built environments. More specifically, students explore questions such as how do people's experiences of and knowledge about environmental issues differ by race, class, gender and nationality? How do those differences shape perspectives on environmental problems and ecological damage such as species decline, toxic contamination, air and water pollution, especially now that the rate of damage is increasing? The critical study of social factors that influence environmental issues such as population growth, globalization, climate change, environmental health and environmental justice, leads to a greater understanding of society's efforts to address such problems.

- 59 total credits including 34 credits in sociology plus 25 Environmental Studies credits
- Required Courses
  - Sociology 117, 207, 229, 251, 490, 492 or 498
  - Environmental Studies 488 or 498
  - One course from Sociology 325, 329 or 353
  - One additional four-credit course in sociology
  - One relevant Environmental Social Science Course (not in Sociology) from the list above in the Environmental Studies social science foundation courses
- Senior Requirements
  - Sociology 492 or 498 and Environmental Studies 488 or 498
  - pass a senior assessment
    - oral comprehensive examination

- Honors
  - Students do not apply for admission to candidacy for honors
  - Students must submit a proposal for their thesis or project
    - Must be submitted within the first six weeks of the two-semester period in which student is eligible
  - Accumulated at least 87 credits
  - Completed two semesters of residency at Whitman.
  - Cumulative GPA of at least 3.300 on all credits earned at Whitman College
  - Major GPA of at least 3.500
  - Complete a written thesis or research project prepared exclusively for the satisfaction of this program
  - Earn a grade of at least A- on the honors thesis or project and the honors thesis course
  - Pass the senior assessment with distinction
  - Chair of the department will notify the Registrar of students attaining Honors no later than the beginning of week 12 of the semester.
  - An acceptable digital copy of the Honors Thesis must be submitted to Penrose Library no later than Reading Day

### **120 Introduction to Environmental Studies**

**Fall, Spring      Fall: Blavascunas, Altermann; Spring: Altermann, Thayne      4 credits**

An introduction to interdisciplinary themes in environmental studies, including perspectives from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Emphasis is placed on understanding local and regional environmental problems as well as issues of global environmental concern. Students enrolling in this course also will be required to enroll in Environmental Studies 120L *Environmental Studies Excursions*. The weekly afternoon excursions cover the length of the Walla Walla drainage basin, from the Umatilla National Forest to the Columbia River. Excursions may include the watershed, the water and wastewater treatment plants, energy producing facilities, a farm, a paper mill, different ecosystems, and the Johnston Wilderness Campus. This course is required of all environmental studies majors. All environmental studies majors must pass this course with a minimum grade of C (2.0). First-year students and sophomores only or consent of instructor.

### **200 Special Topics: Introductory Environmental Social Sciences**

**3-4 credits**

An introductory course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the social sciences. Any current offerings follow.

#### **200 ST: Domestic/Wild: Unruly Homes, Wild Biomes**

**Spring**

**Blavascunas**

**4 credits**

What are the histories of domestication and what forms has the wild taken? Are home and the wild antithetical ideas? What power is summoned or rejected by each concept in anthropological thought and practice? Topics include the archaeology of domestication, rewilding in North America and Europe, multi-species relations, social stratification and hierarchy, nature conservation and intimacy. Course will use both historical literature and ethnographic case studies to ask about the politics that are justified in the name of maintaining human homes and in liberating domesticated desires. May be elected as Anthropology 246. Distribution area: social sciences

### **201 Special Topics: Introductory Environmental Sciences**

**3-4 credits**

An introductory course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the sciences. Any current offerings follow.

### **202 Special Topics: Introductory Environmental Humanities**

**3-4 credits**

An introductory course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the humanities. Any current offerings follow.

### **203 Special Topics: Interdisciplinary Studies**

**3-4 credits**

An introductory course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. Any current offerings follow.

#### **203 ST: Politics of Salmon**

**Spring**

**Thayne**

**4 credits**

News stories forecast the imminent demise of Columbia River salmon. Yet Supreme Court interpretation of the 1855 treaties of Washington and Oregon territories holds the states accountable to ensure that there are enough salmon in the river to fulfill treaty obligations to the Indigenous peoples of the N'chi-Wana, "the Big River." In the Pacific Northwest, salmon are political. Dam removal, treaty rights, aquaculture, orcas, pollution, hatcheries, climate change, fish-ins, water, agriculture, the ESA, First Foods, intertribal politics... For better or worse, the lives of salmon are bound up with the lives of humans, and their future is largely up to our actions. Whitman College, located on the eastern edge of the Columbia River Basin, with the concrete-choked and salmon-bereft Mill Creek flowing through it, is a perfect place to engage the politics of salmon--politics which, whether we realize it or not, we are already a part of. May be elected as Politics 203, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 203 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. Distribution area: cultural pluralism or social sciences.

### **205 Women and Nature in the Ancient World**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

As mothers, witches, nymphs, and virgin-huntresses of the wild, women in the ancient world were depicted in roles that denoted a special relationship with nature. Likewise, the natural world was articulated through gendered imagery. In this course, we will explore the association of gender and nature in the ancient Greco-Roman world. We will give particular focus to the status of women as intermediaries to nature. We will examine a range of representations of the feminine in literature and art, as well as in ritual and social practice, studying the female role in negotiating society's interactions with nature. Works that we will read and discuss may include the *Homeric Hymns*, plays by Aeschylus and Euripides, and the novel, *The Golden Ass*, by Apuleius. May be elected as Classics 205. May be taken for credit toward the Gender Studies major. Formally Environmental Studies 309-may not be taken if previously completed 309.

### **207 Methods of Environmental Analysis**

**Fall, Spring**

**A. Molitor**

**3 credits**

An introduction to analytic methods and tools utilized to address environmental issues and problems. Building on a basic understanding of elementary concepts in statistics (variables, descriptive and inferential statistics, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, effect sizes, etc.), students will learn to read, interpret, and critically evaluate environmental data and literature. Additionally, students will become familiar with environmental analysis procedures and surveys such as environmental assessment (Environmental Impact Statements); environmental risk assessment; land, soil, water, wildlife, agricultural, and mineral surveys. Lastly, given the inherent spatial nature of environmental data, students will utilize Geographic Information Systems software to assess spatial relationships between variables. Two hours of lecture per week plus one three-hour laboratory. *Prerequisites:* Environmental Studies 120; declared environmental studies major and consent of instructor.

### **217 Classical Foundations of the Nature Writing Tradition**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

The Western nature writing tradition is deeply rooted in models from classical antiquity. In order to appreciate more fully the tradition we will explore the relationship between ancient literature and the natural environment. In our literary analysis of ancient works, we will examine approaches to natural description in several literary genres, which may include the poetic genres of epic, lyric, pastoral, and elegiac, as well as the prose genres of ethnographic history, natural history, and travel-writing. Authors may include Homer, Herodotus, Theocritus, Vergil, Ovid, and Pliny. We will consider how these ancient approaches influenced the development of natural description in the modern period and may read works by later authors such as Shakespeare, Milton, and Thoreau. May be elected as Classics 217.

### **220 Internship Project**

**Fall, Spring**

**A. Molitor**

**1-2 credits**

Engage in an internship with a college, local, regional, national, or international environmental organization. Prior to the beginning of the semester, students must present an internship proposal outlining specific goals, responsibilities, and time commitment. From this proposal, the internship coordinator, along with input from the student's internship supervisor, will determine the appropriate number of credit hours. In addition to the internship proposal, students are required to maintain an internship journal, submit a midterm and final internship report, and present their intern experience in a poster or oral presentation. May be repeated for a maximum of four credits. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

**226 Concepts of Nature in Greek and Roman Thought****Spring****Shea****4 credits**

The Greek term “physis” and the Latin word “natura” refer to what has come to be, as well as to the process of coming into being. This course will consider a broad range of texts which develop important concepts of Nature. Philosophic texts may include the pre-Socratics, Aristotle, the Stoics, and Lucretius. Literary texts may include Theocritus, Virgil, and the early-modern European pastoral tradition. In addition, we will encounter other texts in various genres that contribute some of the ideas, which inform the complex and changing concepts of Nature. May be elected as Classics 226.

**227 Concepts of Nature in Modern European Philosophy****Not offered 2021-22****4 credits**

This course explores a variety of philosophical conceptions of nature and the natural world in Modern European philosophy, from Francis Bacon to 20<sup>th</sup> century thinkers such as Heidegger. May be elected as Philosophy 227.

**230 The Cultural and Literary Life of Rivers****Fall****Shea****4 credits**

Sources of life-giving water, protectors of borders, images of change and oneness, rivers hold deep symbolic and cultural significance. In this course, we will explore the life of the river in the mythological, religious and literary traditions of several ancient and modern cultures. Using comparative approaches, we will examine the meaning and value major rivers hold for the people that live around them and their role in shaping cultural identity and religious practice. We will also read several major literary works that make rivers a central aspect of their narrative and will consider how the author writes about the river and its landscape in order to explore wider issues of the human experience.

**235 The Pastoral, the Wild, and the Commons****Fall****Snow****4 credits**

As Aldo Leopold plainly stated in *A Sand County Almanac*, Western societies, from antiquity to the present, have grappled with human-land relations. Recently, the American conservation and environmental movements have intensified these struggles in various efforts to designate public lands, conserve green space, protect family agriculture, and preserve wilderness, wildlife and scenic areas. In this course, we will examine various texts that bring life to life three concepts that lie at the foundations of most conservationist and preservationist action: the pastoral, the wild, and the commons. Theoretical texts by Leo Marx, Rousseau, Lewis Hyde, Roderick Nash, William Cronon and Kathryn Newfont will form cornerstones of the course. Literary readings may include works by Theocritus, Virgil, Gilbert White, Wordsworth, Frost, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Hurston, Marilynne Robinson, Fitzgerald, and Wendell Berry.

**247 The Literature of Nature****Not offered 2021-22****4 credits**

Students will examine the tradition of nature-writing and literary natural history. Readings will be drawn from classics in the field (Gilbert White, Darwin, Emerson and Thoreau, Burroughs and Muir, Leopold, Rachel Carson, Loren Eiseley, Mary Hunter Austin), and from the best contemporary nature-writers (Terry Tempest Williams, Ed Abbey, Annie Dillard, Ellen Meloy, Wendell Berry, David Quammen). Lectures and discussions will trace how nature-writing has mirrored the evolution of social, cultural, political, and scientific perspectives on nature.

**260 Regional Studies****1-3 credits**

A study of a specific geographical region using a multidisciplinary approach. Regions covered may include Alaska, western Canada, the northwest or southwest U.S., Hawaii, or Latin America. Lectures, readings, and discussions in various disciplines, concentrating mainly in the natural and social sciences, will precede a one- to three-week field trip. One or more examinations or papers will be required. May be repeated for credit with focus on a different region. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor. Any current offering follows.

**300 Special Topics: Environmental Social Sciences****3-4 credits**

An upper level course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the social sciences. Any current offerings follow.

**301 Special Topics: Environmental Sciences****3-4 credits**

An upper level course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the sciences. Any current offerings follow.

### **302 Special Topics: Environmental Humanities**

#### **3-4 credits**

An upper level course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics in the humanities. Any current offerings follow.

#### **302 ST: The Nature of Henry Thoreau**

**Spring**

**Snow**

**4 credits**

Through close readings of *Walden* and other texts, this course will examine relationships among five of Thoreau's principal interests: wild nature, abolition, Native Americans, human liberty, and the emerging commercial economy. Students will read and discuss Thoreau's chapters alongside several of his essays, entries from his journal of 1851, and historical and biographical texts which will help contextualize Thoreau's thinking. We will focus attention on his seminal role in the American environmental and civil rights movements and how his leading ideas grew from a primary vision of what Thoreau called "Nature." Distribution area: humanities.

### **303 Special Topics: Interdisciplinary Studies**

#### **3-4 credits**

An upper level course designed to investigate environmentally significant topics from an interdisciplinary perspective. Any current offerings follow.

### **305 Water in the West**

**Fall**

**Persico**

**4 credits**

A central narrative to the history of western North America is the pursuit of water. The climate is dry and droughts are common, yet some of the most productive agricultural lands in world reside here. Many of the defining features of the West: snowy mountains, raging rivers, large multiuse reservoirs, livestock grazing, potatoes, avocados, fine wine, and growing metropolises depend upon a continual supply of fresh water and cheap power. Technological innovations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century have brought more and more water to the people, which have allowed large population increases and expansion into formerly inhospitable terrain. Recent extreme droughts, however, are forcing a reevaluation of the western growth model, which is rooted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century concept of Manifest Destiny. Furthermore, the prospect of perpetual drought, driven by global climatic change, further questions capability of the West to sustain permanent growth. This course will cover the West's tangled history with water, climate, landscapes, and people. We will use a diverse suite of case studies to highlight western water issues including water resource management, power generation, water law, water economics, and climate change. Ultimately, this course will foster the exploration of human-landscape interactions and contemplate strategies for a sustainable path forward. *Prerequisite:* Environmental Studies 120.

### **306 Culture, Politics, Ecology**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

This seminar examines a range of approaches to the analysis of ecological and social processes, drawing on interpretations of different socio-ecological studies in anthropology and geography. Covers cultural ecology and political ecology. Topics include human/environment relations through the lens of gender, race, class, livelihoods, the topic of nature and nature conservation, local knowledge, resistance and resilience, environmental discourses, social movements and the connections between production and consumption. Students will gain an understanding of how hierarchies, privilege, status and power shape patterns of natural resource use; who and what causes environmental problems; and what the solutions might be. May be elected as Anthropology 306, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 306 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies.

### **307 Beastly Modernity: Animals in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Many people think that history has to be focused on humans. Furthermore, the modern era can seem like a period of minimal cohabitation with animals. However, many of the dramatic changes in the nineteenth-century world in the transition to modernity were irrevocably linked to the ways that humans interacted with, used, and thought about other animals. By investigating human history around the globe with an eye to the nonhuman actors within it, you will learn more about the different ways that humans relate to other animals and the importance of other living beings in human lives in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa. This course considers the factors that shaped some of the most important trends in modern history, including: more extensive and faster transportation networks, modern urban design, scientific research, how nature is used as a resource, and the global increase in mass extinctions and invasive species. Class will be discussion-based, including in-class debates and a presentation of your final research paper. May be elected as History 307 but must be elected as Environmental Studies 307 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies.



### **308 (Re)Thinking Environment**

**Fall**

**Jones**

**4 credits**

Pairing post-nature, abstract, and non-traditional theories of space and place with pieces of literature that push the boundaries of our understanding of environment, this advanced course encourages students to reconsider environment beyond the natural. The course will engage at a high level with post-natural, toxic, post-industrial and gendered environments alongside a variety of human habitats including the urban, domestic, and transient. Authors may include Sloterdijk, Augé, Buell, Tuan, Jackson, Boym, Sebald, Döblin, Goethe, Handke, and others. Regular readings in both theory and literature will be accompanied by substantial analytical writing assignments and in-class discussion.

*Prerequisite:* at least one course in Environmental humanities or consent of instructor.

### **313 Communism, Socialism, and the Environment**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

In an age where many associate climate change and environmental destruction with capitalism, what can we learn from the history, ideology and practice of socialism and communism? Was communism uniformly destructive to the environment, marked by catastrophes like the Chernobyl meltdown or the nightmarish geoengineering of Three Gorges Dam in China? What are the unexpected environmental surprises or sustainable aspects of the communist experiment, inadvertent as well as purposeful? This course provides both political theory and case studies to examine what was state socialism, the Communist Party, the experience of living in a Communist country. The course will draw on materials from environmental history, post-socialist anthropology and political ecology to explore the lived realities and utopian projects of communism and socialism. Course draws examples from around the world, including Eastern Europe, China, Vietnam, Cuba, Brazil and Tanzania. May be elected as Anthropology 313, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 313 to satisfy the social sciences course requirement in environmental studies.

### **314 Art and the Anthropocene**

**Fall**

**Acuff**

**3 credits**

This course takes as its subject the tangled web of relations--aesthetic, ecologic, and political--at the center of the concept of the Anthropocene. An idea first pronounced by geologists but now embraced more broadly, the Anthropocene articulates the ways in which human activity (economic, material and behavioral), has achieved planetary scale and effect, resulting in changes to the earth and its climate. This course examines the methods, practices and discourses employed by artists to address this broad theme, and within it the following subjects: how climate change takes shape visually; how landscapes are culturally produced and ideologically situated; how representation of the natural world is situated vis-a-vis power relations. This is an advanced, studio art, practice-based seminar; all projects will be realized in various visual media, aligned with faculty areas of specialization and interest. This course is, at its heart, an interdisciplinary inquiry, using scientific understanding and cultural criticism to fuel artistic production. May be elected as Art 314, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 314 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisite:* Environmental Studies 120 and one 100-level Art course; or consent of instructor. *Fee:* \$150.

### **319 Landscape and Cityscape in Ancient Rome**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Despite Rome being one of the greatest cities in the ancient world, its identity was fundamentally rooted in its natural landscape. In this intensive 4-week course in Italy, we will study the ancient city of Rome and its supporting landscape, both through the lens of ancient literary accounts and directly through field trips to major archeological sites and museums. We will explore how the realms of urban, rural, and wild were articulated in Roman culture, conceptually and materially. We will investigate both how the Romans conceived of the relationship between the built environment of urban space and the natural environment that supported and surrounded it and how they dealt with the real ecological problems of urban life. Students will also actively participate in archeological excavation at a Roman coastal settlement. May be elected as Art History 226 or Classics 319.

### **322 The Anthropocene**

**Spring**

**Brick**

**4 credits**

This course is a discussion seminar on the implications of climate change for human societies, natural communities, and hybrid human/natures in the Anthropocene, the age of man. Discussions will focus on controversies surrounding the relatively new concept of the Anthropocene itself and how this concept unsettles understandings of nature, wildness, sustainability, democracy, citizenship, global capitalism, environmental justice, and environmental governance. Our approach will be interdisciplinary, drawing on readings in climate politics, sociology, anthropology, philosophy and critical climate studies. Although our focus will be on theoretical and conceptual debates, we will also explore proposed climate mitigation and adaptation strategies such as low carbon social and economic systems, geo-engineering, carbon

sequestration, and landscape-scale conservation efforts. A field trip and a longer research paper may be required. May be elected as Politics 322, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 322 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies.

### **327 Biodiversity**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Biodiversity conservation has been a pillar of the American environmental movement for decades. This course will critically evaluate the biodiversity conservation movement through examination of scientific and ethical debates as well as debates about conservation practices. The scientific debates start with the very definition of the term ‘biodiversity’ and extend through the measurement of biodiversity, the ecological factors that drive differences in biodiversity around the world, and whether we are actually entering the “sixth mass extinction” in the history of Earth. The ethical debates involve the value of biodiversity and our obligations for its conservation in the context of competing ethical obligations. Our debates about conservation practices will focus especially on the problems created when conservation policy promotes the interests of wealthy conservationists at the expense of impoverished and disenfranchised peoples living in biodiverse regions. We will explore these debates and conflicts as well as innovative ideas to understand biodiversity and promote ethical and effective conservation through reading and discussion of texts from science, philosophy, and social science. This is a discussion-based course in which students prepare for most class meetings with readings from the academic literature. *Prerequisites:* Environmental Studies 120 and 207.

### **329 Environmental Health**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Environmental health issues are inherently interdisciplinary. This seminar-style course will examine how the natural, built, and social environments impact human and environmental health outcomes. The course will draw on research articles, theoretical discussions, and empirical examples from fields including toxicology, exposure science, environmental chemistry, epidemiology, sociology, history, policy studies, and fiction. Particular attention will be paid to the use of science to develop regulation, the role of social movements in identifying environmental health problems, and inequalities associated with environmental exposures. This course will be reading, discussion, and writing intensive. May be elected as Sociology 329, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 329 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisites:* Environmental Studies 120 and 207.

### **335 Romantic Nature**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Why does nature inspire us? Where did our understanding of nature come from? We have inherited our interactions with nature from a variety of sources: The Enlightenment was marked by political, intellectual, and scientific revolution and attempted to explain the world through science. The Romantics, on the other hand, reacted by trying to restore some mystery to Nature and to acknowledge its sublime power. This Nature ideal spread throughout Europe and then on to America, where European Romanticism inspired writers like Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, and their contemporaries’ nature writing, which continues to exert influence on the American understanding of the natural world. This course will look at where American Transcendentalists and Romantics found inspiration. Students will read key literary and philosophical texts of the Romantic period, focusing on Germany, England, and America and explore echoes of these movements in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: How do the Romantics continue to influence the discourse of environmentalism in America and around the world? Is the Romantic impulse at work in the establishment of the national parks system? Can we see echoes of the Romantic Nature ideal in narratives of toxic, post-industrial landscapes? Course taught in English. May be elected as German Studies 335 for students with advanced German language skills. Students electing to take the German Studies section will complete some reading in the original German and may complete some writing, and discussion assignments in German.

### **339 Writing Environmental Disasters**

**Spring**

**Jones**

**4 credits**

From natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, storms) to man-made ecological catastrophe (nuclear accidents, oil spills, the thinning ozone layer), environmental disaster inspires fear, rage, and action. This course will focus on fiction and non-fiction that meditates on these events and our reactions to them. We will examine the ways in which literature and the other arts depict disaster, how natural disaster descriptions differ from those of man-made environmental crisis, whether humans can coexist peacefully with nature or are continually pitted against it, and how literature’s depiction of nature changes with the advent of the toxic, post-industrial environment. Authors discussed may include Kleist, Goethe, Atwood, Ozeki, Carson, Sebald, and others. Course taught in English. May be elected as German Studies 339 for students with advanced

German language skills. Students electing to take the German Studies section will complete some reading in the original German and may complete some writing, and discussion assignments in German.

### **340 Environmental Radicals in Literature**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

Much contemporary environmental thought provides a radical critique of industrial and postindustrial society, but in earlier times, the first true environmental thinkers challenged systems of agriculture, market economics, land ownership, and urbanism. What was once radical moved toward the center. In this course, students will examine the radical tradition of environmental thought as it has been expressed in literary and other texts. Bioregionalism, ecofeminism, agrarian communalism, Luddism, Deep Ecology, eco-centrism, and other radical environmental expressions will be examined critically. Works by Hawthorne, Thoreau, Ed Abbey, Kirk Sale, Gary Snyder, Susan Griffin, Paul Shepard, David Abram, and others may be included. Offered in alternate years.

### **345 The Cultural Worlds of Mountains**

**Spring**

**Pribilsky**

**4 credits**

“What are men to rocks and mountains?” asks Jane Austen’s heroine Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*. This class takes up this question and extends it to address a variety of cross-cultural, historical, and comparative entanglements between mountains and humans. Beginning with the comparative study of mountain ecologies, we’ll look at similarities in deep time adaptation to mountainscapes (e.g., the Andes and Himalayas) focusing on ways the environment shapes biological and cultural formations. Additionally, the impact of various contemporary environmental concerns (including climate change, deglaciation, and mining) will be understood in the context of adaptation, resistance and activism. We’ll supplement work in anthropology and related fields with the meanings of mountains found in literature, poetry, film, and philosophy. From definitions of the sublime to endless pursuits to reach ever higher and more elusive summits, this course will explore the many ways mountains have shaped and been shaped by human imagination. The class will be run as a reading seminar and writing workshop. In addition to short analytic papers, over the course of the semester students will craft their own “mountain essay” using ethnographic and creative nonfiction writing approaches. May be elected as Anthropology 345, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 345 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisites:* Environmental Studies 120 and 207.

### **347 The Nature Essay**

**Spring**

**Snow**

**4 credits**

The class will be conducted as a nonfiction prose writing workshop in which students read and comment on each other’s writing. After examining published works chosen as models, students will write essays in the nature-writing tradition, selecting approaches from a broad menu. Nature-writing includes literary natural history; “science translation writing”; essays on current environmental issues; personal essays based on engagement with land, water, wildlife, wilderness; travel or excursion writing with a focus on nature; “the ramble”; and other approaches. Students will learn how contemporary nature-writers combine elements of fiction, scientific descriptions, personal experience, reporting, and exposition into satisfying compositions. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

### **349 Regional Literatures of Place: The West and the South**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

The literatures of both the American West and the American South often reflect political struggles. Issues of federalism and states’ rights, economic dependency on the land, the rapid and radical transformation of an indigenous economy and ecology, and the stain of history stand in the foreground. This seminar will examine literary regionalism by focusing on southern and western writers whose works emanate from and reinforce the ethic and spirit of place. Several of the “Southern Agrarians” may be included along with William Faulkner, Eudora Welty and Flannery O’Connor. Western writers may include Bernard DeVoto, Wallace Stegner, Cormac McCarthy, and James Welch. In addition, films may be used to illustrate the peculiar burden of the contemporary western writer. Offered in alternate years.

### **353 Environmental Justice**

**Spring**

**Cordner**

**4 credits**

How are environmental problems experienced differently according to race, gender, class and nationality? What do we learn about the meaning of gender, race, class, and nationality by studying the patterns of environmental exposure of different groups? Environmental justice is one of the most important and active sites of environmental scholarship and activism in our country today. This course integrates perspectives and questions from sciences, humanities, and social sciences through the examination of a series of case studies of environmental injustice in the United States and worldwide. Biology and chemistry figure centrally in links between environmental contaminants and human health. Systematic

inequalities in exposure and access to resources and decision-making raise moral and ethical questions. Legal and policy lessons emerge as we examine the mechanisms social actors employ in contesting their circumstances. This course will be reading, discussion, and research intensive. May be elected as Sociology 353, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 353 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies. *Prerequisite:* at least two credits of prior work in sociology or consent of instructor.

### **358 Ecocriticism**

**Fall**

**Snow**

**4 credits**

This course explores the emergence of ecocriticism in the 1990s and its subsequent evolution as a recognizable school of literary and social criticism. Students will analyze foundational texts underpinning ecocritical theory, beginning with Joseph Meeker's *The Comedy of Survival*, then move on to more recent texts that seek to expand ecocriticism beyond the boundaries of nature-writing. Students will discuss, present, and write ecocritical analyses of various literary works. Offered in alternate years.

### **360 Environmental Writing and the American West**

**Fall**

**Brick**

**4 credits**

This course explores how writers and others conceptualize and portray various aspects of the American West. Emphasis is placed on the analysis of a variety of genres, including nature writing, political journalism, creative writing, poetry, and writing for interdisciplinary journals in environmental studies. We will write daily, and we will often read aloud to one another from our work. Goals include developing a voice adaptable to multiple audiences and objectives, understanding modes of argument and effectiveness of style, learning to meet deadlines, sending dispatches, reading aloud, and moving writing from the classroom to public venues. The course will be sequentially team-taught in the eastern Sierra Nevada region of California and southeastern Utah. Required of, and open only to, students accepted to Semester in the West. This course can be used by environmental studies majors to satisfy environmental studies-humanities credits within the major. *Prerequisite:* acceptance into the Semester in the West Program.

### **362 Food, Culture, and Politics**

**Fall**

**Bobrow-Strain**

**4 credits**

Eating is a relational act linking people and environments in complex webs of power. Across time and geography, food has united and divided, underpinned political systems, provided the material and symbolic basis for conceptions of society, and played key roles in forging gender, race, class, and status. This interdisciplinary class draws on texts from history, anthropology, political theory, literature, art, religion, and political economy to explore the cultural politics of food, diet, and eating. It focuses primarily on the development and dynamics of capitalist global food systems from the 18th Century to the present. May be elected as Politics 362, but must be elected as Environmental Studies 362 to satisfy the interdisciplinary course requirement in environmental studies.

### **365 Other Earths: Environmental Change and Speculative Fiction**

**Not offered 2021-22**

**4 credits**

As scientists in the recently-christened Anthropocene contemplate solutions to the crises of climate change, growing energy needs, species extinction, and population growth, the language of science grows ever closer to that of science fiction. In literary and artistic representations of these crises, some find conventional, non-speculative fictions lacking, focusing primarily on the present and the past. Speculative fiction, however, provides us with a language to think about the future. This course will engage seriously with works of science fiction ranging from H. G. Wells and Kurt Vonnegut to Ursula K. Le Guin and Kim Stanley Robinson, exploring ways in which these works use the language of science and speculative futures to explore that which is most human. We will study literary representations of climate change and its possible solutions, non-humans and post-humans, future Earths and other worlds in order to understand how it is that we as humans interpret, react to, and struggle against the emergent conditions which challenge our very survival. Students will practice a variety of approaches to literary analysis. This course will also explore the role of artistic representations of the environment in shaping our understanding of the environment and of environmental crisis.

### **367, 368 Special Topics**

**1-4 credits**

An investigation of environmentally significant issues centered on a common theme. The course may include lectures by off-campus professionals, discussions, student presentations, and field trips. Any current offerings follow.

**390 Independent Study****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-4 credits**

A series of readings or a program of individual research of approved environmental topics. *Prerequisite:* consent of instructor.

**408 SW Western Epiphanies: Integrated Project****Fall****Brick****4 credits**

In this course students will be responsible for developing a final project based on Semester in the West experiences with the objective of integrating knowledge from courses in politics, ecology, and writing. Each student will produce a final project that sheds light on a substantive issue addressed on Semester in the West. Students must also present their project in a public forum and publish it as an audiovisual podcast on the Semester in the West website. Required of, and open only to students accepted to Semester in the West. *Prerequisite:* acceptance into the Semester in the West Program.

**459 Interdisciplinary Fieldwork****4 credits**

Students may earn credit for interdisciplinary fieldwork conducted on programs approved by the Environmental Studies Committee. Fieldwork must integrate knowledge from at least two areas of liberal learning, including the sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. This course may be used to satisfy the interdisciplinary coursework requirement for environmental studies majors. *Prerequisite:* admission to field program approved by the Environmental Studies Committee for interdisciplinary credit. Any current offerings follow.

**479 Environmental Citizenship and Leadership****Fall, Spring****Fall: Persico; Spring: Blavascunas****2 credits**

An intensive course in environmental problem-solving, with an emphasis on developing skills necessary for effective environmental citizenship and leadership. Students will first engage in readings and discussions to enhance their understanding of environmental decision-making processes and institutions. Then they will work individually and in teams to study active environmental disputes, with the ultimate aim of recommending formal solutions. This course is required of, and open only to, environmental studies majors in their senior year. Field trips and guest presentations may be included.

**488 Senior Project****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-3 credits**

The student will investigate an environmental issue of his or her own choice and prepare a major paper. The topic shall be related to the student's major field of study and must be approved by both major advisors.

**498 Honors Project****Fall, Spring****Staff****1-3 credits**

An opportunity for qualified environmental studies senior majors to complete a senior project of honors quality. Requires the student to adhere to application procedures following the guidelines for honors in major study. Students enrolled in this course must also participate in and meet all requirements of the Environmental Studies 488 course.

The following are course titles of required and/or recommended environmental studies courses. See detailed descriptions under the relevant departmental heading in this catalog.

Biology 115 *Natural History and Ecology*  
 Biology 118 *Agroecology*  
 Biology 122 *Plant Biology*  
 Biology 125 *Genes and Genetic Engineering*  
 Biology 127 *Nutrition*  
 Biology 130 *Conservation Biology*  
 Biology 215 *Plant Ecology*  
 Biology 277 *Ecology*  
 Biology 327 *Biology of Amphibians and Reptiles*  
 Biology 350 *Evolutionary Biology*  
 Chemistry 100 *Introduction to Environmental Chemistry and Science*  
 Chemistry 388 *Environmental Chemistry and Engineering*

Economics 100 *Principles of Microeconomics and the Environment*  
 Economics 277 *Global Environmental and Resource Issues*  
 Economics 477 *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*  
 Geology 125 *Environmental Geology*  
 Geology 130 *Weather and Climate*  
 Geology 250 *Late Cenozoic Geology and Climate Change*  
 Geology 301 *Hydrology*  
 History 150 *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral*  
 History 232 *Changing Landscapes*  
 History 205 *East Asian Environmental History*

History 262 *People, Nature, Technology: Built and  
Natural Environments in U.S. History*  
History 231 *Oceans Past and Future: Introduction to  
Marine Environmental History*  
History 355 *Pacific Whaling History*  
Philosophy 120 *Environmental Ethics*  
Philosophy 127 *Ethics*  
Philosophy 262 *Animals and Philosophy*  
Physics 105 *Energy and the Environment*  
Politics 119 *Whitman in the Global Food System*  
Politics 124 *Introduction to Politics and the  
Environment*  
Politics 147 *International Politics*  
Politics 287 *Natural Resource Policy and Management*  
Politics 309 *Environment and Politics in the American  
West*  
Politics 339 *Nature, Culture, Politics*  
Religion 227 *Christian Ethics*  
Sociology 229 *Environmental Sociology*  
Sociology 353 *Environmental Justice*

