



ENS 201:001

Environmental Studies I: Humanities and Social Sciences

**Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Fall, 2013**

Location TBA

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Office Hours: MW 3:30-5:30 p.m. TR 5:00-6:00; or by appointment

Office location: 221 Moloney Building, Bluegrass Community and Technical College
(north of Commonwealth Stadium)

Course Description:

This course exposes students to core ideas, theoretical concerns and practical approaches to environmental studies as framed within the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. In this course students will study human interactions with the environment, both natural and built, and inter-human relations insofar as these relations are conditioned by environmental factors and condition the local and global environment. Core ideas surveyed in this class include: the meaning of an environmental ethics, historical and cultural perspectives (Eastern/Western philosophies) of nature, the social construction of nature, environmental justice, environmental racism, local-global linkages, population, consumption and commodity chains, and political ecology. Students will obtain basic conceptual and historical understanding of the nature and value of their local, regional, and global environment. This understanding will form the basis by which the student will analyze many of the ills pertinent to human social reality.

Required Books (tentative):

- Sernau, Scott, 2012, *Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability*. Pearson, ISBN: 9780205841776
- Shiva, Vandana, 2005, *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*. South End Press, ISBN: 9780896087453
- Readings as assigned
- Blank journal

Grading Criteria

An A equals 90-100%, a B equals 80-89%, a C equals 70-79%, a D equals 60-69%, and an E equals less than 60% of points available. You must pass at least one test in order to pass the course, and earn at least 60% of the possible points.

Requirement/Assignment Descriptions: The points available are:

○ Mid-term test	250 points
○ Final test	250
○ Journal	200
○ Class participation, Attendance	175
○ Organic gardening experience	75
○ Class demonstration	50
○ Extra credit	30

Total points available = 1030 points

Course Requirements and Evaluation: The final grade is based upon the following:

- **Tests** (500 points total): Review quizzes, for each lecture, will be posted on Blackboard. Tests are typically comprised primarily of fill-in-the-blank and multiple choice questions, and may include map exercises, critical thinking essay questions, short answer questions, and matching. Make-up exams: Tests can be made up if you are granted an excused absence (see **Policy** section). About 1/3 of the questions on the final test will come verbatim from the mid-term test.
- **Journal** (200 points): After each class, I ask that you:
 - #1: Think about the “take away” from that day’s lecture and discussion. Write, in essay format, at least one paragraph articulating that “take away.” If you missed a class, you still need to do this, so you will need to talk with other students and/or look at the quiz posted on Blackboard.
 - #2: Conduct a couple of hours of research related to that class period. Sometimes I will assign the specific topic/question for you to research. On other occasions, the follow-up decision is yours to make: you may research something that intrigued you, or something that you questioned.

Follow this format (start with the September 5th class period), underlining the date and title and numbering parts 1 and 2 of the follow-up.

Date: Title of Lecture

1. Take away: (write at least one paragraph).

2. Research:

- **Class Participation** (175 points):

I expect you to come to class unless you are sick; there is a family emergency; or an unavoidable, critical situation has occurred. Should such a situation arise, I would appreciate a call or an e-mail message.

I expect you to stay for the duration of the class unless you speak with me prior to class and let me know why you must leave early. I will take attendance. I will ask you to participate in in-class exercises. You must be in class to participate. The in-class exercises cannot be made-up.

- **Organic gardening experience** (75 points):

The magnitude of the ecological problems facing humanity are overwhelming and it helps (at least a little) to realize there are actions we can take as individuals, families, and communities that contribute to solutions. One of these actions and, fortunately, a focus in Lexington, is local food production. There are a number of well-managed, organic community gardens and farms in our area. I want you to spend 3-4 hours at one of these gardens, learning about organic gardening by doing. After you have

completed your garden activity, write a one page, double-spaced (or longer) essay about your experience. What did you do? What did you learn? How does small-scale, organic farming compare to industrial agriculture? Deposit the essay in the dropbox on Blackboard.

If you have a health issue that precludes you from participating in this project, please talk to me about an alternative project.

- **Class Presentation/Demonstration (50 points):**

As part of a small team, students will present a case study to the class on one of the following: environmental ethics, environmental history, environmental perspectives, environmental justice, economic globalization's impact on environment, demography, political ecology.

- **Extra Credit (30 points possible):**

I will provide you with presentation opportunities. After you attend, write a one-page (double-spaced) essay about the experience. Please follow this format:

Your name:

Date of the presentation/service:

Title of the presentation/service:

Summary of the presentation/service:

Statement about how this presentation/service connects to ENS 201: 1-3 paragraphs

Deposit the essay in the dropbox on Boardboard.

Attendance Policy

I consider an absence to be excused if the student documents to the satisfaction of the instructor that the absence was clearly unpreventable. Excused absences include emergencies, such as documented: illness, death in the immediate family, attendance at events required by the college, and traffic accidents on the way to class. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you may not be excused from more than three classes.

If an absence is unexcused, the student is not allowed to make up a missed quiz or test. A maximum of three excused absences may be granted. The combination of excused and unexcused absences cannot exceed one-fifth of the class contact hours. If a student misses more than the maximum number, the instructor may suggest that the student withdraw to avoid a failing grade.

Late Work Policy

As the journal, gardening essay, and extra credit essay are not due until the end of the semester, there will be a 20% penalty for late submissions. No submissions will be accepted after the Wednesday of final exam week.

Course Outline: The schedule is tentative.

August 29: Introduction to ENS 201	October 24: Political Ecology (global scale)
September 3: Research methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities	October 29: Political Ecology (global scale)
September 5: IPAT (Environmental Impact is a function of Population, Affluence, and Technology) Carrying Capacity, Ecological Footprint, Precautionary Principle	October 31: Political Ecology (global scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
September 10: IPAT (continued), Carrying Capacity, Ecological Footprint, Precautionary Principle; Environmental Schools of Thought (different ways of seeing)	November 5: Political Ecology (global scale)
September 12: Environmental Schools of Thought	November 7: Political Ecology (national scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
September 17: Environmental Ethics	November 12: Political Ecology (national scale)
September 19: Environmental History	November 14: Political Ecology (national scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
September 24: Environmental History	November 19: Political Ecology (national scale)
September 26: Economic Globalization and Environment	November 21: Political Ecology (local scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
October 1: Economic Globalization and Environment	November 26: Political Ecology (local scale)
October 8: Economic Globalization and Environment	December 3: Political Ecology (local scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
October 10: Environmental Justice (injustice)	December 5: Political Ecology (individual scale)
October 15: Environmental Justice (injustice)	December 10: Political Ecology (individual scale) <i>Student presentations</i>
October 17: Environmental Justice (injustice)	December 12: course wrap-up; <u>Journal due; essays due (post on Blackboard)</u>
October 22: Mid-term test	December 16-20: Final test TBA