ESF Course Proposal
Committee on Curriculum - ESF Faculty Governance
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

This course proposal form should be completed when introducing a new course or a revision of an existing course. The proposal will be reviewed by the Committee on Curriculum, or, in the case of minor revisions, will be approved administratively by the Associate Provost for Instruction.

This Course Proposal must be completed according to the guidelines provided in Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance. Please see the last page of Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance, for instructions on how this Course Proposal should be submitted to the Committee on Curriculum for review.

Date: 1/29/18

1. Course Information:

1.1 Course Prefix and Number: EST 133
Course Title: Introduction to Environmental Studies
(If a new or renumbered course, please check with the Registrar regarding the use or reuse of the course number)

1.2 ☑ This is a New Course.
OR
☐ This is a Major Course Revision
OR
☐ This is a Minor Course Revision

If this is a Course Revision, please see Course Proposal Form – Instructions and Guidance to determine if your revision is major or minor. Indicate below the reason(s) for the revision.

(Please check all that apply)

☐ Course Number/Division ☐ Learning Outcomes ☐ Institutional Resources
☐ Title ☐ Concepts, Content ☐ Semester Offered
☐ Credit hours ☐ Catalog Description ☐ Course Inactivation
☐ Pre- or Co-requisite(s) ☐ Instructional Methods ☐ Course Reactivation
☐ Format ☐ General Education

1.3 General Education knowledge and skills area (if applicable): If none, check here ☑

☐ American History ☐ Humanities ☐ Other World Civilizations
☐ The Arts ☐ Mathematics ☐ Social Sciences
☐ Basic Communication ☐ Natural Sciences ☐ Western Civilization
2. **Proposer Need Statement:**

2.1 Describe why this course (or course revision) is needed to meet current or proposed goals and outcomes of the program or College, and, if a revision, provide an explanation of and justification for the revision. We are repurposing the EST 132 course number for a new 1-credit orientation course. We suggest renumbering the course as EST 133. Content covered will remain the same.

2.2 List the pre-requisite or co-requisite courses (taught within the home department or taught by another department) and explain their relationship to the proposed course. None

2.3 Explain the impact of this course in meeting the goals and outcomes of other Departments/programs (if any). This course is already currently taught in our curriculum. This course addresses key elements of several of the “Classics” of environmental thought, describing their importance, and explaining how they contribute to the Environmental Studies major.

2.4 If the proposed course is designed to fulfill SUNY General Education Requirements, the Associate Provost for Instruction must review this proposal to ensure that General Education Requirements will be met for the specified knowledge area (See Instructions and Guidance). Please provide an explanation of how this course fulfills SUNY General Education Requirements. N/A

2.5 What are the staffing requirements (instructor, TA, Lab tech, etc.) for this course? If a new course, are there new staffing needs or are there adequate staff members already in place? If a revised course, are there additional staffing needs? No additional staffing needs.

2.6 What Department (or extra-Department) resources are or will be made available to support the course or course revision? None

2.7 Anticipated Enrollment (enter where applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester</td>
<td>45-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.8 Anticipated frequency of class meetings. 3 hours per week
3. DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

3.1 COURSE IDENTIFICATION AND FORMAT:

3.1.1 Course Prefix and Number: EST 133
3.1.2 Course Name: Introduction to Environmental Studies
3.1.3 Credit Hours: 3
3.1.4 Semester (check all that apply): Fall ☒ Spring ☐ Summer ☐
3.1.5 Format (check as appropriate): Lecture ☒ Online ☐ Lab ☐ Field ☐
   Other ☐ (explain)
3.1.6 Contact hours per week: 3
3.1.7 Prerequisite(s) – if none, please enter “None” (Be specific, as Upper Division courses and Graduate courses will likely have some prerequisite knowledge) None

3.2 SCOPE:

3.2.1 Level of Instruction (check one, or two if a shared resource course):
   Lower Division ☒ Upper Division ☐
   Beginning Graduate ☐ Advanced Graduate ☒

3.2.2 Relation to curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. Is this a required course? No ☐ Yes ☒.
      If Yes, please list the program(s) for which it is a requirement: Environmental Studies
   b. Is this an elective course within your department? No ☒ Yes ☐.
   c. Is enrollment in this course restricted? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, please explain:
   d. Are other ESF or SU courses similar or identical to this course? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, please identify the courses:
   e. Is this course a shared resource offering (i.e. is there a graduate or undergraduate concurrent offering)? No ☒ Yes ☐.
      If Yes, what is the course number of the concurrent offering?

3.3 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Identify the student learning outcomes associated with this course. After completing this course, students should be able to: (1) discuss key elements of several of the most influential writings in Environmental Studies; (2) describe their importance and explain how they contributed to an emerging understanding of environmental problems and solutions; (3) apply ES concepts to a specific ecosystem; (4) discuss the similarities and differences among alternate ways of understanding the relationship between human society and the natural world; and (5) describe the field of Environmental Studies, its concepts, origins, perspectives and contributions to solving environmental problems.

3.4 MAJOR CONCEPTS, PROCESSES or TOOLS:

Identify the course content and themes (e.g. Table of Contents) consistent with the learning domains and outcomes. This course is the “Gateway” for ESF’s Environmental Studies program. It introduces students to the discipline of Environmental Studies; it’s curriculum options
and faculty. We read selections of important and influential environmental analysis and advocacy focusing on those that have introduced a new way of understanding human/nature relations and interdependence. Environmental Studies is a discipline of complex relations among people (social, cultural and economic relations) and between human communities and the ecosystems on which we all depend (ecological relations). It requires foremost the skills of observation, analysis, communication, organization and inspiration. Of most value are methods for discovering the key variables pertinent to the environmental problem you are studying, the system dynamics that have generated the problem, the key actions required to solve the problem and the best tools for communicating the problem and its solutions.

3.5 INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:

Identify the methods used to meet the course outcomes, as well as the principal instructional methods. Each week this course will involve 3 hours of in-class activities including lecture, critical thinking, discussion, analyses, case-study review, and small-group interactions on relevant topics. Reading, writing, and other assignments are to be completed by students outside of class. Field trips may be scheduled.

3.6 CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Provide the course description using the precise format to be included in the ESF catalog (i.e. course number and title; format; brief description; semester(s) offered; and pre-/co-requisites). Please do not exceed 1000 characters.

EST 133 Introduction to Environmental Studies (3)

Three hours of lecture, discussion and analytical activities per week. Gateway course for EST majors. Introduction to the study of environmental problems in the social sciences and humanities. Topics: pollution, conservation, preservation, human health, ecosystem health, limits to growth, sustainability, ecosystems, population, energy, risk and traditional knowledge. Fall.

3.7 COURSE HISTORY:

Provide the dates of prior approval of this course, and its revision history. This course was approved in spring 2007. The course was offered starting fall 2007.

3.7.1 Relationship to current ESF courses

This course is replacing a current ESF course ☐ YES ☒ NO

If NO, then proceed to section 4 below.

If YES, then provide below the number and name of the course to be deactivated and removed from the catalog once this course proposal has been approved:

Course Number (of the course to be replaced)
Course Name (of the course to be replaced)
If the course to be replaced is used by departments other than the department sponsoring this proposal, please indicate below which departments are affected and the date they were notified about the course replacement.

Department:          Date of Notification:
Department:          Date of Notification:
Department:          Date of Notification:
Department:          Date of Notification:
4. Institutional Impacts:

This section pertains to forecasting institutional resource needs to support the course or course revision. Provide clear statements regarding the needs and current availability (or absence) of resources. Note that, if this is a course revision, only the impacts of the revision should be included.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing needs:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classroom resources (e.g. physical facilities in a laboratory, lecture hall, flexible space, academic computing):</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Resources:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing Resources (software licensing, hardware, access):</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Resources (subscriptions, services):</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Requirements (budget, fees, fleet vehicles):</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Properties or Field Practicum Facilities:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Health and Safety Considerations:

Will any of the conditions or situations outlined below be present in association with the course?  

Yes / No

5.1. Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction: flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury?  

☐ / ☒

5.2. Will any physical hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.).

☐ / ☒

5.3. Will any biological hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., handling animals (rabies or hantavirus); cultures or stocks of infectious agents (fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.).

☐ / ☒

5.4. Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction? (e.g., radioisotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.).

☐ / ☒

5.5. Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction? (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location.).

☐ / ☒

5.6. Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class? (e.g., due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.).

☐ / ☒

5.7. Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?

☐ / ☒

5.8. Will any type of personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises? (e.g., hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.)

☐ / ☒

If the answer was “Yes” to any of the HEALTH AND SAFETY questions, please explain:

For lab and field courses to which all answers are “no”, you should explain that here, also. Normally, we would expect some safety precautions for such courses. N/A
6. Coordination and Consultation

Emails/letters, as noted below and attached to this proposal, or signatures below, indicate that the affected departments, programs or units have been notified of this proposal and have had an opportunity to assess the impact of the proposal on their respective units.

Affected Academic Department(s) or Program(s) – other than the sponsoring department:

Environmental Studies

Department/Program 1

Chair Signature

Name of Chair/Program Director

Date

Or letter attached □

[if more than three Departments/Programs, please continue on a separate page]

Other Units:

Associate Provost for Instruction & Dean of the Graduate School (for Gen Ed courses only)

Date

Or letter attached □

Registrar

Date

Or letter attached □

Library Director

Date

Or letter attached □

Computing and Network Services

Date

Or letter attached □

Physical Plant

Date

Or letter attached □

Forest Properties

Date

Or letter attached □

Environmental Health and Safety

Date

Or letter attached □
7. Proposer Information and Sponsoring Department Chair Affirmation:

Contact Person:

Name: ___________________________________  Department: _________________________

Email: _________________________________  Phone: _______________________________

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the sponsoring Department. Affected departments have been notified and given the opportunity to provide feedback. Department resources are or will be made available to support the course, or a plan is in place to meet the resource needs as identified in the Institutional Impacts section of this proposal (see Section 4, above).

Name: _______________________________________  Date: ______

Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)

Signature: ___________________________________  Or letter attached □

Department Chair (or designated curriculum representative)

8. Approvals:

________________________________________________________________________  _______________________
Curriculum Committee  Date

________________________________________________________________________  _______________________
Faculty Governance  Date

________________________________________________________________________  _______________________
Provost  Date