

EST 132 – Fall 2009
Introduction to Environmental Studies
(The Gateway Course for all Environmental Studies Majors)
Professor Jack Manno, jpmanno@esf.edu
Teaching Assistant – Susana Del Granado, smdelgra@syr.edu
T – Th 9:30 – 10:50. Room 148 Baker

This course is the “Gateway” for ESF’s Environmental Studies program. It introduces students to Environmental Studies as a discipline, your curriculum options and our faculty. You will meet all the environmental studies faculty members and be introduced to their areas of interest and the courses they teach. We also focus on the “Classics” of environmental literature. We study these readings to discover why they were and are important, how they helped people to understand the environment, natural resources and the relationship between people and nature in new ways.

Environmental Studies: To address environmental issues, we must first understand the problems that underlie them. And because those issues and problems exist at the interface of complex human and natural systems, understanding them requires the right synthesis of scientific, social, and cultural knowledge. Addressing those problems also requires scientific, social and cultural skills. The Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Environmental Studies program at SUNY-ESF offers students learning and skill-development opportunities in the context of a well-rounded, yet substantial, education.

Our program has been carefully designed to provide students with as comprehensive an understanding of environmental affairs as is possible in an undergraduate education. That means learning about the scientific diagnosis of environmental issues and having enough scientific knowledge to work with scientists. It also means learning about the technological, social and cultural causes of those issues. And finally, it means understanding the diversity of approaches needed to treat the problems. In the pursuit of these objectives, we bring together philosophical, theoretical and practical perspectives on a wide range of environmental concerns. And in this way, our program prepares students with the knowledge, skills and experience to work for a more ecologically sustainable and socially just world.

Because the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies program is broadly multi-disciplinary as well as interdisciplinary, it provides students with a broad-based liberal education and asks them to be proficient across a breadth of scholarly and practical areas.

Guiding Principles

There are six principles that guide the design and implementation of the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies program:

- *holistic interdisciplinary education:* we seek to offer our students an education that demonstrates the interconnectedness and integration of the many disciplines and fields that intersect with environmental concerns.

You should expect me:

- to serve as a facilitator of learning for you collectively and individually,
- to come to class prepared,
- to be accessible during scheduled office hours, and to serve as an effective consultant for your learning,
- to assist you in finding additional resources when needed to reach the expected learning outcomes.

Textbook

Easton, T. E. 2009. Sources: Environmental Studies. Third Edition. *Available at the Orange Bookstore in Marshall Square Mall.*

Office Hours

Professor Manno's office hours are from 2:00-4:00 on Mondays and 9:30-10:30 on Wednesdays. His office is in Rm. 211A Marshall Hall. Office hours are times you can stop by without an appointment. You can also make an appointment via email for other times. Please do not come to the office outside of office hours without an appointment.

Ms. del Granado's office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Her office is in Rm. 301 Illick Hall (470-6812).

Grading

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Final exam: 30%
- Take-Home assignments and exams 55%

Assignments

There will be assignments for every set of readings. These must be brought to class and handed in at the end of class. Students will be selected at random to participate in discussions based on the readings. Assignments will be graded occasionally and randomly.

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment's due dates
Tu 12/01	Sharon Moran	
Th 12/03		
Tu 12/08		
Th 12/10	Course Summary	