



# Introduction to Environmental Studies

**Instructors:** Dr. Jill Sohm  
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Office hours: TBA, SOS B15

**Sections:** 33000R (TTh 9:30-10:50AM)

**Units:** 4.0

**Room:** WPH 205

**Prerequisites:** none

**Text:** Friedland, Relyea, & Courard-Hauri. Environmental Science: Foundations and Applications. W.H. Freeman & Co., 2011 ISBN-13: 978-1-4292+4029-1

**Course goals:**

- Gain background knowledge in the geology, chemistry, and biology of the environment
- Understand issues facing the environment from a scientific perspective
- Explore how environmental issues affect humans around the globe from multiple perspectives
- Discuss solutions to environmental degradation through law, policy, and changing human behavior

**Course requirements and expectations:**

- Come to class prepared
- Be respectful of me and other students in class
- Please leave cell phones outside the classroom or turned off
- If you have to miss class make sure you arrange to get notes and announcements.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

### **Late/make-up policy**

If there is a conflict with an exam, you must email the instructors *2 weeks in advance* to see if arrangements can be made (under reasonable circumstances). Otherwise, make-up exams will not be given except in extreme emergencies. Make-up exams will also be more difficult, so it is in your best interest to take the exam on the day it is scheduled. If you have an emergency on exam day, you must get in touch with us before the exam if possible. Assignments will not be accepted late.

### **Grading**

Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final exam	25%
Letter to congress	5%
Written assignment	10%
In class debate	10%

### **Grading scale: A = 89.5-100%**

<b>B = 79.5-89.4%</b>
<b>C = 69.5-79.4%</b>
<b>D = 59.5-69.4%</b>
<b>F = &lt;59.5%</b>

All three exams will cover material immediately after the preceding exam (or beginning of class for midterm 1) up to the exam. The final exam will be a midterm. Exams will focus on lecture and reading material. During exams, students will NOT be allowed to have notes, books, cell phones or any other electronic device. Only scantrons and pencils are required. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of “0” for that particular exam.

### **Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP:

[http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html), (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

### **Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis**

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

### **Lecture Schedule (may be modified)**

25 August Introduction  
27 August Chapters 1, 2: Studying the state of our earth & Matter, energy and change

1 September Chapter 4: Global climates and biomes  
3 September Chapter 3: Ecosystem ecology

8 September Chapter 5: Evolution and biodiversity  
10 September Chapter 6: Population and community ecology

15 September Chapter 7: Population growth  
17 September Chapter 18: Biodiversity & walk-through example of written assignment

22 September Ecology case study: coral reefs  
24 September **Midterm 1**

29 September Chapter 14: Water pollution  
1 October Chapters 14, 15: Water and air pollution

6 October Chapter 15: Air pollution  
8 October Chapters 8, 9: Natural resources

13 October Chapters 8,9: Natural resources (social science perspective)  
15 October Chapter 10: Land use

20 October Chapter 10, 11: Land use & Agriculture and food (Letter to congressman due)  
22 October Chapter 11: Agriculture and food

27 October **Midterm 2**  
29 October Chapters 12 and 13: Energy

3 November Chapters 12 and 13: Energy (written assignment due)  
5 November Chapter 16: Waste

10 November Chapter 20: Sustainability  
12 November Environmental economics (supplemental reading)

17 November Solutions (supplemental reading)  
19 November Chapter 19: Science of climate change

24 November Chapter 19: Social science of climate change  
26 November **THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**

1 December Catch up class/debates  
3 December Debates

Week of Dec 9