

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Environmental Studies Program
Fall 2017

ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies
TTh 2:00-3:20pm, WPH 207

Instructor:

Dr. David Ginsburg
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Office hours: W-Th 3:30-5pm, CAS 116

Course Text & Reading:

- Friedland, Relyea, & Courard-Hauri. Environmental Science: Foundations and Applications. W.H. Freeman & Co., 2011 ISBN-13: 978-1429283311
- Readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available on Blackboard

Course Description:

This course will give you an overview of how the natural world works, the ways in which humans are perturbing the natural world, and the ways in which governments and society are (or are not) addressing environmental degradation

Course Learning Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the environment
- Understand issues facing the environment from a scientific and social perspective
- Explore how environmental issues affect humans, from multiple perspectives
- Discuss solutions to environmental degradation through law, policy, and human behavior
- Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

Course Requirements & Expectations:

- Come to class prepared and engage in discussions and group work
- Be respectful of the instructor and other students in class
- Leave cell phones outside the classroom or turned off
- If you have to miss class make sure you arrange to get notes and announcements.

Other Course Information:

This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and submitting assignments. An abbreviated set of lecture slides will be available after the lecture is given. Additional readings will be assigned periodically throughout the semester and will be announced either in class, posted on Blackboard, and/or via an email reminder sent to the entire class.

Graded Assignments & Point Values:

Midterm 1 (Sept 26)	100 pts
Midterm 2 (Oct 24)	100 pts
Final exam (Dec 7)	100 pts
Written assignment (Oct 10)	50 pts
Letter to congress (Nov 9)	25 pts
In class debate (Nov 28, 30)	40 pts
News article analysis (Aug 31, Oct 5, Nov 2)	15 pts

All three exams will cover the lecture and reading material immediately after the preceding exam (or starting on the first day of class for midterm 1). The final exam will carry the same weight as a midterm. During exams, students will NOT be allowed to have notes, books, cell phones, etc. Only pens, pencils and a calculator are required. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of “zero” for that particular exam.

Late Assignments & Make-Up Policy:

If there is a conflict with an exam, you must email the instructor *2 weeks in advance* to see if alternative 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 me before the exam if possible. Assignments will not be accepted late.

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism. Presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words, is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by USC. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides confidential support around the clock, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems:

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Statement on Religious Observation Accommodations:

USC policy grants students excused absences from class for observance of religious activities. Students may be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance. We are responsive to requests for an excused absence when made in advance. Please note that this applies only to religious activities that necessitate a student's absence from class and/or a conflict with a specific aspect of the course.

Course Schedule:

For the best learning experience, you are expected to have read assigned material by the date it is discussed in class. Chapter and article readings will be posted online. The readings and schedule of topics may be adjusted throughout the semester depending on the progress of the class.

Week 1	22 August 24 August	Introduction & course overview Chapter 1: What is the state of earth? What is science?
Week 2	29 August 31 August	Chapter 2: Earth systems Chapter 4: Climates and biomes News article analysis #1 on DDT due
Week 3	5 September 7 September	Chapter 5: Evolution and biodiversity Chapter 5-6: Population and community ecology
Week 4	12 September 14 September	Chapter 6-7: Population growth Chapter 7: Population growth
Week 5	19 September 21 September	Chapter 3: Ecosystem ecology <i>Endangered species assignment presented</i> Chapter 18: Biodiversity and conservation biology
Week 6	26 September 28 September	Midterm 1 Chapters 8-9: Natural resources

Week 7	3 October 5 October	Chapters 8-10: Land use Chapter 10-11: Agriculture and food News article analysis #2 on the BLM due
Week 8	10 October 12 October	Chapter 11: Agriculture and food (DG) Endangered species assignment due Chapter 11-12: Non-renewable energy
Week 9	17 October 19 October	Chapters 12-13: Energy Letter to congress assignment presented Chapters 12-13: Energy and biofuels
Week 10	24 October 26 October	Midterm 2 Chapter 14: Water pollution
Week 11	31 October 2 November	Air pollution guest lecture – TBA Debate topics presented Chapter 14-15: Air and water pollution News article analysis #3 TBA Debate topic preferences submitted
Week 12	7 November 9 November	Chapter 16: Waste and sustainability Debate topics assigned Campus waste/sustainability guest lecture – TBA Letter to congress due
Week 13	14 November 16 November	Chapter 19: Climate change (natural science) Chapter 19: Climate change (social science)
Week 14	21 November 23 November	Chapter 20: Sustainability THANKSGIVING
Week 15	28 November 30 November	Class review and catch-up/ Debates Debates
	7 December	FINAL EXAM (2-4PM), WPH 207