

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Environmental Studies Program
Fall 2018

ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies

Instructors:

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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 instructors 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	100 pts
Midterm 2	100 pts
Final exam	100 pts
Written assignment	50 pts
Letter to congress	25 pts
In class debate	40 pts
News article analysis (3 each)	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 (no smartphones!!). 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 us 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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. 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>.

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 me (or to TA) 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 for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu

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/department/departement-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.

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.

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. See the university's site on [Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness](#).

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	Introduction & course overview Chapter 1: What is the state of earth? What is science?
Week 2	Chapter 4: Climates and biomes Chapter 4: Climates and biomes News article analysis #1 on DDT due
Week 3	Chapter 5: Evolution and biodiversity Chapter 5-6: Population and community ecology
Week 4	Chapter 6-7: Population growth Chapter 7: Population growth
Week 5	Chapter 3: Ecosystem ecology <i>Endangered species assignment presented</i> Midterm 1
Week 6	Chapter 18: Biodiversity and conservation biology (class discussion on trophy hunting big game / thinning big game herds) Chapters 8-9: Natural resources
Week 7	Chapters 8-10: Land use News article analysis #2 on the BLM due Chapter 10-11: Agriculture and food
Week 8	Chapter 11: Agriculture and food Endangered species assignment due Chapter 11-12: Non-renewable energy
Week 9	Chapters 12-13: Energy <i>Letter to congress assignment presented</i> Chapters 12-13: Energy, biofuels
Week 10	Midterm 2 Chapter 14: Water pollution
Week 11	Air pollution guest lecture <i>Debate topics presented</i> Chapter 14-15: Air and water pollution News article analysis #3 on glyphosate due <i>Debate topic preferences submitted</i>

Week 12	Ch 16: Waste <i>Debate topics assigned</i> Campus waste/sustainability guest lecture Letter to congress due
Week 13	Chapter 19: Science of climate change THANKSGIVING
Week 14	Chapter 19: Social science of climate change Chapter 20: Sustainability
Week 15	Class review and catch-up/ Debates Debates FINAL EXAM