

## **ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies**

**Fall 2019, Tu/Thu 11 am-12:20 pm, WPH 102**

**Instructor:** Dr. Julie Hopper

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**Office Hours:** Tu @ 12:30 & Wed @ 3:30

### **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 the challenges of environmental degradation are (or are not) being addressed by society and government.

### **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, science and technology, 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 Text & Reading:**

- *Friedland & Relyea, Essentials of Environmental Science Second Edition (2016) W.H. Freeman & Co., 2011 ISBN-13: 978-1319065669*
- Additional readings will be assigned and available on Blackboard

### **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.

### **Online Course Portal, Blackboard:**

This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and submitting assignments. You are responsible for all notifications and assignments posted online via BlackBoard. *Let Dr. Hopper know by the first lecture if you have trouble accessing BlackBoard.* 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. Sometimes computers will be used in class to work with real life data in excel and run simple simulations – students will be notified when computers are needed. This course involves a lot of in depth reading and critical analysis outside of lecture, as it is a four-unit course.

<b>Grade Breakdown</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>% of grade</b>
Midterm 1	100	22.2%
Midterm 2	100	22.2%
Final	100	22.2%
Ecological Footprint	5	1.1%
News Disc. (5) & Analysis (10)	15	3.3%
Podcast Assignments (2 x 5)	10	2.2%
Environ. Perspectives Essay/Disc.	20	4.4%
In-Class Activities/Discussions	20	4.4%
Endangered species research	25	5.6%
Letter to elected official	25	5.6%
Debate	30	6.7%
Extra Credit (send letter to official)	5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:** Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

**Statement on 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/scientificmisconduct>.

**Policies on Exams and Assignments:** 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**. If you have an emergency on exam day, you must get in touch with us before the exam if possible. If a student misses an exam and/or assignment without an excused reason, they will receive a zero for that portion of the course. **Make-up exams will also be more difficult. Late Assignments will have 20% deducted each 24 hours, with the first 24 hour deduction starting 5 min after the deadline. Regarding in-class activities:** if you have an **excused absence** from class, I will provide you with an alternative

## Description of Exams and Assignments

**Exam questions:** Questions will be drawn from course readings and lecture materials, and will include both multiple choice and essay questions. The final exam will carry the same weight as a midterm. *No make-up exams or assignments will be allowed without explicit permission.* 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 “0” for that particular exam.

**News/Magazine Article Discussion and Bias Analysis:** Sign up for your **discussion date by Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>** and turn in your **News Bias Analysis to BB by 10:50 am on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Part I.** We will start the class off with a brief discussion on current local, national or global environmental news. Each student will be required to participate and select a date to review and discuss an article (2-5 min) and analyze whether the article may have been biased.

**Part II.** You will submit a ~1-2 page analysis on media bias based on three articles on the Trump Administration’s recent changes to the Endangered Species Act. Guidelines for this assignment on the brief discussion and written analysis are provided on BlackBoard.

**Podcast Assignments:** Throughout the course you will be exposed to **two podcasts “Rhino Hunter” (Due Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>)** and **“Game Changer” (Due Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>)**. Each podcast will be accompanied by a worksheet that you will need to fill out and **turn in by 10:50 am on the day it is due via BB.** Further guidelines are on BB.

**Environmental Perspectives Essay: Due Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> by 10:50 am (upload on BB)**

You will write a reflective response to one essay (out of two options on BlackBoard). These essays present perspectives on nature, environmental justice and environmentalism. See the guidelines on Blackboard for more details.

**Endangered species research assignment: Due Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> by 10:50 am (upload on BB)**

Involves researching an endangered species and its recovery plan, culminating in a summary report outline of your research for use in an in-class discussion about choices in funding species recovery. Your research should cover the cause of your species endangerment, the details and cost of the recovery plan, the potential for recovery, and whether or not you think the cost is worth it. This research should be annotated with references for all information, and will be graded on the completeness of the content.

**In-Class Activities and Discussions (Participation Points Essentially!):**

Throughout the course you will be exposed to media or data based activities and in-depth discussions in class. Points are awarded via question worksheets, and/or participation in discussions. In-class activity worksheets will need to be turned in by the end of the class.

**Letter to an Elected Official: Due Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> by 11:59 pm (upload on BB)**

~2 page letter to a member of congress expressing your views on a current environmental issue. The letter will be formatted as a formal letter, (with letterhead) and should be as persuasive as possible. Use evidence to support your plea. Extra credit will be given for actually sending your letter. **Extra credit proof due to Blackboard by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 11:59 pm.**

**Debates: Summary/Ref Sheet: Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> by 10:50 AM, Debates on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> or Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>**

Groups of 6-8 students will be assigned to research specific environmental issues that we did not cover in class and then debate the issue in front of their peers. **Students will select their debate topic by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> (11:59 PM)** or will be assigned a topic thereafter.

**Course Schedule:** For the best learning experience (and grades!): Read assigned material by the dates in the syllabus. All materials beyond the book will be posted on **BlackBoard (BB)**.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Deliverable/ Due Dates</b>
Aug 27	L. 1. Introduction And Course Overview	Ch. 1	
Aug 29	L. 2. What Is Science? Measures Of Env Health & Interpreting Data	Ch. 1	<b>Ecological Footprint &amp; Sign up deadline News Disc.</b>
Sep 3	L. 3. Earth As A System: Matter, Energy, And Change	Ch. 2	<b>Debate Topic Sign Up</b> (by 11:59 PM BB)
Sep 5	L.4. Climate and Biomes	Ch. 3	
Sep 10	L.5. Ecosystem Ecology	Ch. 3	
Sep 12	L.6. Genetics & Evolution <i>News Analysis Disc.</i>	Ch. 4	<b>News-Bias Analysis</b>
Sep 17	L.7. Population and Community Ecology	Ch. 4	
Sep 19	L.8. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Ch. 4	<b>“Rhino-Hunter” podcast</b>
Sep 24	L.9. Human Pop. Growth And Demographics: <i>Discussions of Essay Reflections</i>	Ch. 5	<b>Environmental Perspective Essay Reflection</b>
Sep 26	L.10. Cultures & the Environment: Past-Present		
Oct. 1	L.11. Threats to Biodiversity and Conservation <i>In Class Discussion-Endangered Species Assign.</i>	Ch.13	<b>Endangered species Assign.</b>
Oct 3	L.12. Land Resources And Agriculture	Chs. 6 & 7	
<b>Oct 8</b>	<b>MIDTERM 1: (Preceding Lectures/readings)</b>	<b>Chs.1-7, 13</b>	<b>MIDTERM 1</b>
Oct 10	L.13. Freshwater and Marine Resources	Ch. 9	
Oct 15	L.14. Freshwater and Marine Pollution	Ch. 9	
Oct 17	<b>NO CLASS: FALL RECESS!</b>		
Oct 22	L.15. Nonrenewable Energy	Ch.8	<b>“Game Changer” podcast</b>
Oct 24	L.16. Renewable Energy	Ch.8	
Oct 29	L.17. Air Pollution and Solutions	Ch. 10	
Oct 31	L.18 Noise and Light Pollution	Reading BB	
<b>Nov 5</b>	<b>MIDTERM 2 (Lectures between Oct.9-Nov.1)</b>	<b>Ch. 6-10</b>	<b>MIDTERM 2</b>
Nov 7	L.19. Waste Generation, Disposal & Recycling	Ch. 11	
Nov 12	L.20. Sustainability, w/ <i>Guest Speaker:</i> Ellen Dux (Office of Sustainability, USC)	Ch. 11	
Nov 14	L.21 The Environment and Human Health Risks	Ch. 12	
Nov 19	L.22. Climate Change	Ch.14	<b>Letter to elected official</b>
Nov 21	L.23. Global Change And Solutions	Reading BB	
Nov 26	L.24. Env. Justice, Research and Policy: <b>Guest Lecture by Dr. Manuel Pastor (USC)</b>	Ch.15	<b>Debate Summary/Ref sheet</b> Due by 10:50 AM on BB
<b>Nov 28</b>	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>		
<b>Dec 3</b>	<b>DEBATES</b>		<b>Debates</b>
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>DEBATES</b>		<b>Debates + Extra credit due</b>
<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM, WPH 102, Tues. 8-10 AM</b> All Materials and Lectures are fair game <b>BUT:</b> Lectures after Midterm 2 and Chapters. 10-12, 14, 15 will be emphasized		

## Academic and Student Support Systems

*Research Support:* Need to do research but don't know where to start? Not sure how to cite a source in your bibliography? Ask a librarian! <http://libguides.usc.edu/>

*General Academic Support:* The **Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity** provides customized support services to help students transition into college and achieve their academic goals. <https://kortschakcenter.usc.edu/>

*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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs:* Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

*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](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

*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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu)

*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](http://diversity.usc.edu)