

SYLABUS ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies
Spring 2020 Tu/Thu 3:30-4:50 PM: WPH 106

Instructor: Dr. Julie Hopper

Email: juliehop@usc.edu **Office:** AHF 221

Office Hours: Mon 12:10-1 PM and Thurs 2:15 – 3:15 PM

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

Grade Breakdown	Points	% of Grade
Midterm 1	100	20%
Midterm 2	100	20%
Final	100	20%
Ecological Footprint	5	1%
News Disc. (10) & Analysis (15)	25	5%
Podcast/Media Reflections	40	8%
In-Class Activities/Discussions	40	8%
Endangered species research	25	5%
USC Sustainability Idea	10	2%
Letter to a Leader	25	5%
Debate	30	6%
Extra Credit	10	
TOTAL	500	

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>.

Overview on Exams: 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). **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.** Exam questions will be drawn from course readings, activities and lecture materials, and will include both multiple choice and essay questions. **No make-up exams or assignments will be allowed without explicit permission.** During exams, notes, books, cell phones, etc. are NOT allowed. Only pencils/pens and occasionally a calculator. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of "0" for that particular exam.

Policies on Assignments and Class Activities

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 cannot make it to a class, you will need to let me know prior to the start of a class. If it is an excused absence, then I will provide you with an alternative way to obtain the associated in-class activity points outside of class. **Instructions for all assignments are on Blackboard (BB)**

Overview of Assignments: All due by 3 PM via Turnitin (BB) on the date specified

Ecological Footprint Stats and Reflection: Due Jan. 16th by 3 PM

News/Magazine Article Discussion and Bias Analysis: Sign up for your **discussion date by Jan. 16th** & turn in your **News Bias Analysis by Jan. 21st**

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 (~5 min) and analyze the conclusions and any biases if applicable.

Part II. You will submit a ~1-2 page (single-spaced) analysis on media bias based on three articles. Guidelines for this assignment are provided on BlackBoard.

Podcast/Media Reflections: Throughout the course you will be exposed to **podcasts and documentaries**. Each media will be accompanied by a set of questions to focus on in your reflections. Instructions will be posted on BB. **Due Dates: Feb. 6th, Mar. 10th, Apr. 14th**

Endangered species research assignment: : 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. See Blackboard Instructions for more information. **Due Feb. 13th**, Upload to Blackboard turnitin

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.

USC Sustainability Idea: Involves researching current USC sustainability plans and goals, and formulating new ideas that either improve current projects or implement new projects to enhance sustainability on USC campus or that of affiliated USC organizations. **Due Apr. 7th**

Letter to a Leader: ~2 page letter to a member of congress or the CEO or head of sustainability at a company 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. **Due April 16th**. Extra credit (3 pts) will be given for actually sending your letter. **Extra Credit Proof** of submission **due by April 30th**.

Debates: Groups of ~6 students will pick specific environmental issues to research and then debate the issue in front of their peers at the end of the semester. **Summary due April 23rd**.

Zero-Waste Extra Credit Activity (7 pts): For one week, keep a written log of everything that you put in the trash, recycling and/or compost. During the course of the week, try to implement several of the zero-waste tips included in the instructions for this activity on BB.

Course Schedule (Lecture content subject to slight changes)

Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Jan. 14	L. 1. Introduction And Course Overview	Ch. 1	
Jan. 16	L. 2. What Is Science? Measures Of Env Health & Interpreting Data	Ch. 1	Ecological Footprint & Sign up deadline News Disc.
Jan. 21	L. 3. Earth As A System: Matter, Energy, And Change	Ch. 2	News-Bias Analysis
Jan. 23	L.4. Climate and Biomes, <i>News Analysis Disc</i>	Ch. 3	
Jan. 28	L.5. Ecosystem Ecology	Ch. 3	
Jan. 30	L.6. Genetics & Evolution.	Ch. 4	
Feb. 4	L.7. Population and Community Ecology	Ch. 4	
Feb. 6	L.8. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Ch. 4	“Trophy” Documentary or “Rhino-Hunter” podcast
Feb. 11	MIDTERM 1: (Preceding Lectures/readings)	Chs.1- 4	MIDTERM 1
Feb. 13	L.9. Threats to Biodiversity and Conservation	Ch. 13	Endangered species Assign
Feb. 18	L.10. Human Pop. Growth And Demographics:	Ch. 5	
Feb. 20	L.11. Cultures & the Environment: Past-Present		
Feb. 25	L.12. Land Resources and Agriculture	Chs. 6 & 7	Debate Sign Up
Feb. 27	L.13 Agroecology: <i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Wilson</i>	Ch. 7	
Mar.3	L.13. Freshwater and Marine Resources	Ch. 9	
Mar. 5	L.14. Freshwater and Marine Pollution	Ch. 9	
Mar. 10	L.15. Nonrenewable Energy	Ch.8	“Game Changer” podcast
Mar. 12	L.16. Renewable Energy	Ch.8	
	SPRING BREAK MARCH 16-22 ND		
Mar. 24	MIDTERM 2 (Lectures between Oct.9-Nov.1)	Ch. 5-9	MIDTERM 2
Mar. 26	L.17. Air Pollution and Solutions	Ch. 10	
Mar. 31	L.18 Noise and Light Pollution	Reading BB	
Apr.2	L.19. Waste Generation, Disposal & Recycling	Ch. 11	
Apr.7	L.20. Sustainability, <i>w/ Guest Speaker</i>	Ch. 11	USC Sustainability Assign.
Apr. 9	L.21 The Environment and Human Health Risks	Ch. 12	
Apr. 14	L.22. Climate Change	Ch.14	BBC Documentary Assign.
Apr. 16	L.22. Climate Change and Global Change	Ch.14	Letter to a Leader Assign.
Apr. 21	L.23. Global Change and Global Politics: <i>Guest</i>	Reading BB	
Apr. 23	L.24. Env. Justice, Research and Policy: <i>Guest</i>	Ch.15	Debate Summary/Ref sheet
Apr. 28	DEBATES		Debates
Apr. 30	DEBATES		Debates + Extra credit due
May 12	FINAL EXAM, WPH 106, Tues. 2:00 – 4:00 PM All Material, but Lectures and Readings after Midterm 2 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

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

The Office of Disability Services and Programs: Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. 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

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

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