

SYLABUS ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies
Fall 2020 Tu/Thu 8:00-9:20 AM: Lectures via Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Julie Hopper

Email: juliehop@usc.edu

Zoom Office Hours: by appointment via email

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:

Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

- Describe physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the environment
- Discuss issues facing the environment from a scientific and social perspective
- Examine how environmental issues affect humans, from multiple perspectives
- Examine solutions to environmental degradation through law, policy, science and technology, and human behavior

FREE Course Text & Readings:

- Miller and Spoolman, 2016. Environmental Science. Delmar Cengage Learning, 15th Ed. **FREE ONLINE through USC Libraries:**
 - <https://www-r2library-com.libproxy1.usc.edu/Resource/Title/1305090446>
 - Use your Proxy or VPN to log in to access the above free-access link
 - Also available as a paperback (\$\$) <https://www.cengage.com/c/environmental-science-15e-miller/9781305090446/>
- Additional readings will be assigned and available on Blackboard

Course Requirements & Expectations:

See expanded classroom ground rules at the end of this syllabus

- **Come to class prepared and engage in discussions, individual and group work***
 - Take pair work or small group work seriously.
 - Make an effort to get to know other students. Introduce yourself to students in breakout rooms.
 - Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.
 - Understand that others will come to these lectures and discussions with different experiences from yours.
 - You are encouraged to have your videos on during the zoom lectures and discussions, as well as in the breakout rooms.
- **Leave cell phones off during the lecture and stay engaged**
- **Be respectful of instructors and other students in class***
 - Listen respectfully
 - Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.
 - Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space.
 - Understand that your words have effects on others.
 - Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.
- **If you have to miss class make sure to notify the instructor as soon as possible and arrange to get notes and makeup activities.**

Zoom and Online Course Portal, Blackboard: I encourage all of you to email me with questions, or to set up an office hour by appointment as needed. Although Fall 2020 will be atypical, I will strive to engage each and everyone of you to the best of my abilities. Communication will be Key! **Please contact me with any issues that are impacting your ability to learn (such as internet connectivity, or other obstacles) and I will try to help or will refer you to someone that can.** Lectures will be via zoom, with links provided on blackboard. I will incorporate documentaries and activities, which will often occur during part of the lecture period. 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.* Typically lecture slides will be available before the lecture is given. In addition to the book, readings will be assigned periodically and posted on Blackboard.

Grade Breakdown	Points	% of Grade
Midterm	100	25%
Final	100	25%
News Discussion/Presentation	10	3%
Documentary Reflection	20	5%
Participation: Activities/Discussions	50	13%
Endangered Species Blog post	50	13%
USC Sustainability Idea	40	10%
Letter to a Leader	30	8%
Extra Credit	11	
TOTAL	400	

Grading 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: The midterm will take place via a timed Respondus test on Blackboard. The Final Exam will be a take home with short answers and essays- details will be released closer to the date. If there is a conflict with an exam, or if you have DSP time extensions, or if you are in a very different time zone, you **must** email the instructor *Two weeks in advance* to see if alternative arrangements can be made. **Make-up exams will be more difficult and will not be given except in extreme emergencies that you can produce concrete proof for.** If a student misses an exam without an excused reason, they will receive a zero. Exam questions will be draw from course readings, activities and lecture materials, and will include multiple choice, T/F, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and essay questions. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of “0”.

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)** Assignments will be graded and posted on blackboard within 7-14 days after the due date.

Overview of Assignments: All due by 7:50 AM (California Time) via Turnitin (BB)*

Each of the below assignments are described in more detail on blackboard.

Ecological Footprint Stats and Reflection: Due Aug. 20th

https://www.footprintcalculator.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0YD4BRD2ARIsAHwmKVlnn1g-BFx5LHSIqdJmF9lar3rv7vgo1xzIYu58W77ulCqgPY0kNNsaAu4yEALw_wcB

News/Magazine Article Discussion: Sign up for your **discussion date *by 11:59 PM on Aug. 20th**. 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. Further instructions and a power point template are on BlackBoard

Endangered Species Blog: : Involves researching an endangered species and its recovery plan. Culminates in a blog for use in an in-class discussion about choices in funding species recovery. See Blackboard Instructions for more information. **Due Sept. 15th**

Documentary Reflection: You will watch a BBC documentary “Climate Change by Numbers” that will expose you to the raw data and mathematical modeling involved in climate change science. This will be accompanied by a set of questions to focus on in your reflections. Instructions are on BlackBoard, **Due Nov. 5th**

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/reflections will need to be turned in by the end of the class via turnitin on blackboard.

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 organizations. **Due Oct. 29th**

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 Oct. 20th**. Extra credit (1 pt) will be given for actually sending your letter: Extra Credit Proof of submission due by Nov. 12th

Zero-Waste Extra Credit Activity (5 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.

iNaturalist Activity Extra Credit (5 pts) – For this activity, you will use the iNaturalist app to take and submit photos of ≥ 10 different wild organisms (plants or animals) & write a reflection based on the activity prompts on BB (**All Extra credit due Nov. 12th via BB**).

Course Schedule (subject to slight changes)

Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Aug. 18	L. 1. Introduction And Course Overview	Ch. 1	
Aug. 20	L. 2. What Is Science? Measures Of Env Health & Interpreting Data	Ch. 1	Ecological Footprint Disc. Sign up for your News Disc.
Aug. 25	L. 3. Earth As A System: Matter, Energy, And Change	Ch. 2	News-Bias Analysis Disc. News Discussions start
Aug. 27	L.4. Climate and Biomes	Ch. 7	
Sept. 1	L.5. Ecosystem Ecology	Ch. 3	
Sept. 3	L.6. Population and Community Ecology	Ch. 5	
Sept. 8	L.7. Genetics & Evolution	Ch. 4	
Sept. 10	L.8. Biodiversity	Ch. 4	“Trophy” Documentary or “Rhino-Hunter” Disc.
Sept. 15	L.9 Conservation and Endangered species	Ch. 8	Endangered Species Blog Assign.
Sept. 17	L.10. Human Pop. Growth And Demographics	Ch. 6	<i>Group & Class Vote Endang. Species Recovery</i>
Sept. 22	L.11. Cultures & the Environment: Past-Present	BB Reading	+In-class documentary
Sept. 24	L.12. Land Resources	Ch. 9 & 12	
Sept. 29	MIDTERM (via Blackboard respondus) Covers Lectures 1 -12 + Readings		Timed MIDTERM via BB, starts at 8 AM PDT*
Oct. 1	L.13 Agriculture and Agroecology	Ch. 10	
Oct. 6	L.14. Freshwater and Marine Resources	Ch. 11	
Oct. 8	L.15. Freshwater and Marine Pollution	Ch. 11	
Oct. 13	L.16. Nonrenewable Energy	Ch. 13	Game Changer Disc.
Oct. 15	L.17. Renewable Energy	Ch. 13	
Oct. 20	L.18. Air Pollution and Solutions	Ch.15.1-15.3	Letter to a Leader Assign.
Oct. 22	L.19 Noise and Light Pollution	BB Reading	
Oct. 27	L.20. Waste Generation, Disposal & Recycling	Ch. 16	
Oct. 29	L.21. Sustainability and USC	Ch. 17	USC Sustainability Assign.
Nov. 3	L.22 The Environment and Human Health Risks	Ch. 14	Time Zone = PST now!
Nov.5	L.23. Climate Change	Ch.15.4-15.7	BBC Documentary Assign.
Nov. 10	L.24. Climate Change and Global Change	BB Reading	
Nov. 12	L.25. Env. Justice, Research and Policy	BB Reading	Extra Credit due
Nov. 24	Take Home FINAL EXAM Due @ 7:50 AM PST via turnitin on Blackboard		

IT, Academic and Student Support Systems

For Zoom or general IT USC Support: Phone: (24/7): 213-740-5555; Email consult@usc.edu

For Blackboard Support: Phone: 213-740-5555 (option 2, assistance 24/7) blackboard@usc.edu

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/>

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298 usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776 dsp.usc.edu Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710 campussupport.usc.edu
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101 diversity.usc.edu Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC) ombuds.usc.edu
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will

Expanded ENST classroom ground rules

(source: <http://crlt.umich.edu/examples-discussion-guidelines>)

- **Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.** If you tend to have a lot to say, make sure you leave sufficient space to hear from others. If you tend to stay quiet in group discussions, challenge yourself to contribute so others can learn from you.
- **Listen respectfully.** Don't interrupt, turn to technology, or engage in private conversations while others are speaking. Use attentive, courteous body language. Comments that you make (whether asking for clarification, sharing critiques, or expanding on a point) should reflect that you have paid attention to the previous speakers' comments.
- **Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.** Try to explore new ideas and possibilities. Think critically about the factors that have shaped your perspectives. Seriously consider points-of-view that differ from your current thinking.
- **Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space, as anyone does when approaching complex tasks or learning new skills.** Strive to see your mistakes and others' as valuable elements of the learning process.
- **Understand that your words have effects on others.** Speak with care. If you learn that something you've said was experienced as disrespectful or marginalizing, listen carefully and try to understand that perspective. Learn how you can do better in the future.
- **Take pair work or small group work seriously.** Remember that your peers' learning is partly dependent upon your engagement.
- **Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from yours.** Be careful about assumptions and generalizations you make based only on your own experience. Be open to hearing and learning from other perspectives.
- **Make an effort to get to know other students.** Introduce yourself to students sitting near you. Refer to classmates by name and make eye contact with other students.
- **Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.** If you are uncertain about someone else's approach, ask a question to explore areas of uncertainty. Listen respectfully to how and why the approach could work.