



Introduction to Environmental Studies

ENST 100 Summer 2019 (Section 33000)

Meets: MTuWTh 9:30-11:50AM (Units: 4.0)

ONLINE – Zoom meeting

Instructors:

Dr. Monalisa Chatterjee

Email: monalisc@usc.edu

Office hours: by appointment calendly.com/monalisa-chatterjee

Text: Miller and Spoolman, 2016. Environmental Science. Delmar Cengage Learning, 15th Ed. FREE ONLINE through USC Libraries (use your proxy server/VPN) • <https://www-r2library-com.libproxy1.usc.edu/Resource/Title/1305090446>

Supplemental readings: assigned periodically throughout semester, 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 Goals:

- Gain knowledge of the physical, chemical, 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

Broader Learning objectives:

- Understanding an interdisciplinary approach to complex environmental problems using basic tools of natural and social sciences;
- The ability to work effectively as a member of an interdisciplinary team on complex problems involving multiple competing stakeholders and agendas;
- The ability to critically evaluate the economic and policy ramifications of diverse energy portfolios on air and water quality, climate, weapons proliferation and societal stability;
- An experience-based understanding of economic policies in California including water and energy needs, air quality, marine and coastal issues;
- The ability to write effectively about complex environmental problems and do so for both specialist and general audiences with equal facility;

- And the ability to apply quantitative reasoning skills to environmental problems including basic calculations related to sustainability issues and the use of quantitative methods in data analysis and argumentation.

Please refer to <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/> for more information.

Ground rules for classroom -

- Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.
- 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.
- Take pair work or small group work seriously.
- Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from yours.
- Make an effort to get to know other students. Introduce yourself to students sitting near you.
- Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems

Class attendance and participation

Students located in time zones considered as reasonable learning hours (7:00am to 10:00pm in the student’s time zone) are expected to maintain normal attendance and participation. If the class falls outside those hours, accommodations will be extended but you must let me know at the beginning of the semester. Live sessions will be recorded and shared on blackboard for students who cannot attend these sessions and they must keep up with the lectures and the schedule of the class. Class dynamics are substantially compromised without the ability to see the people in class. It is expected in this class that students will have their cameras on during synchronous online sessions. Students are encouraged to use virtual backgrounds to eliminate privacy concerns, and earphones or headsets to improve audio quality. However, if required accommodations are available for the video-on policy. Email me. Students are expected to responsibly handle Zoom recordings, asynchronous activities, or other academic materials existing under SCampus policies. Students are not permitted to create their own class recordings or share recorded sessions and other material with anyone without the instructor’s permission. Violations of these policies will be met with the appropriate disciplinary sanction.

Other course information:

This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and turning in assignments. I will make lecture slides available after the lecture is given, as well as post and accept assignments there. Some additional readings will be assigned periodically throughout the semester, and these will be announced in class, posted on Blackboard. You are expected to check blackboard often for any updates/announcements.

Grading:

Midterm	60 pts
Final	60 pts
Home assignments	60 pts
Class activities	30 pts
Presentation	30 pts

Course grades (based on percent total points) will be determined using the following scale:

>93 = A	90-92 = A-	87-89 = B+
83-86 = B	80-82 = B-	77-79 = C+
73-76 = C	70-72 = C-	67-69 = D+

63-66 = D 60-62 = D- <59 = F

Note: This scale may be adjusted depending on progress of the class.

Both midterm and final exams will be non-cumulative and cover material immediately after the preceding exam (or beginning of class for midterm) up to the exam. Exams will focus on lecture and reading material, class activities, case studies, documentary, new items shared in class. Exams will be conducted online and some portions of the exam may be open book. More information will be provided close to the exam.

Late/make-up policy:

If there is a conflict with an exam, you must email the instructor *days in advance* to see if 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 but under unusual circumstances you can check with the instructor to submit with a late grade.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

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 a day, 7 days a 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.

Lecture Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

Date	Topic
Wednesday May 19 th	Introduction & course overview <i>DISCUSSION: What is a Wicked Problem? Why is sustainability wicked?</i>
Thursday, May 20 th	Matter, energy and change <i>Activity: Energy conversion</i>
Monday, May 24 th	Climates and biomes
Tuesday, May 25 th	Ecosystem ecology
Wednesday, May 26 th	Evolution, population ecology <i>Activity: Finches</i>
Thursday May 27 th	Community ecology and Biodiversity <i>Assignment 1: Endangered species blog</i>
May 31 st Holiday	
Tuesday June 1 st	Human population <i>Activity: Human population data</i>
Wednesday June 2 nd	Environmental hazards and health <i>Activity: TBD</i>
Thursday June 3 rd	Agriculture and food <i>Guest speaker: Jesse Tandler</i>
Monday June 7 th	Midterm
Tuesday June 8 th	Urbanization and sustainable design <i>Activity: Urban heat island</i>
Wednesday June 9 th	Earth systems and Land use <i>Activity: Neighborhood walk and mapping</i>
Thursday June 10 th	Nonrenewable energy <i>Activity: Documentary and discussion</i>
Monday June 14 th	Renewable energy <i>Guest Speaker: Kate Svyatets</i>
Tuesday June 15 th	Water resources and pollution
Wednesday June 16 th	Air pollution
Thursday June 17 th	Waste <i>Assignment 2: Letter to congressperson</i>
Monday June 21 st	Sustainability <i>Guest Speaker: Elias Bermeo</i>
Tuesday June 22 nd	Science of Climate change <i>Activity: Documentary and discussion</i>

Wednesday June 23 rd	Climate Change impacts and response
Thursday June 24 th	Conservation <i>Guest Speaker</i>
Monday June 28 th	<i>Debates/Presentations</i>
Tuesday June 29 th	Final