



## ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies

Units: 4

Fall 2020, MW 8:30-9:50

Location: Online via Zoom/Blackboard

Instructor: Dr. Scott Applebaum (*he/him/his*)

Office: Online via Zoom

Office Hours: Tues 1-2 PM or by apmt.

Email: [sappleba@usc.edu](mailto:sappleba@usc.edu)

Phone: 213-740-8287 (office)

### Course Description:

This course will give you an overview of how the natural world works, the ways in which humans are perturbing the environmental processes, and the ways in which the challenges of environmental degradation are (or are not) being addressed by society and government through science, technology, policy, and behavior.

### Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Through this course students will be able to:

- Describe the fundamental physical, chemical, and biological system functions of the environment
- Interpret issues facing the environment from a scientific and social perspective
- Analyze how arts, literature, and other media (outside of academic/professional natural and social science research) influences progress towards environmental sustainability objectives
- Explore how environmental issues affect humans, from multiple perspectives
- Discuss solutions to environmental issues through law, policy, science and technology, and social behaviors
- Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program:

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

### Required Reading and Supplementary Materials

- Miller and Spoolman, 2016. *Environmental Science*. Delmar Cengage Learning, 15<sup>th</sup> 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
  - Available for purchase as a paperback <https://www.cengage.com/c/environmental-science-15e-miller/9781305090446/>
- Additional readings will be distributed via Blackboard

### Communication and Course Technology

- **Blackboard web portal:** Course communications including announcements, course materials, lecture notes, assignments, grade postings, discussions, instructions and submission of completed assignments will be conducted via **Blackboard** (<https://blackboard.usc.edu>). Students are responsible for checking the course website regularly. **Please notify the instructor in the event of any mistakes or difficulties accessing materials.**
- **Zoom teleconferencing:** Scheduled synchronous lectures activities (including office hours) will occur via **Zoom**.
- **Email:** If you have questions or need to schedule an appointment (if you are unable to visit during scheduled office hours) please contact the instructor via email. The clearer and more professional your email inquiry, the easier it is for us to address your needs. **Therefore, please read and recheck your message for clarity before sending.** We try our best to respond to emails within 24 hrs. However, if you do not receive a response within that time you may send a follow up inquiry. **Note:** *Please consult the provided course resources before your email (Blackboard, syllabus, assignment instructions, announcements, etc.) as these resources can answer many of your questions. Nevertheless, do not hesitate to contact me if you still need assistance!*

- **USC technology support:**
  - [Zoom information for students](#)
  - [Blackboard help for students](#)
  - [Software available to USC Campus](#)

### Assignments & Point Values:

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Exam 1	100	28.6
Exam 2	100	28.6
News presentation/discussion	20	5.7
Endangered species profile	40	11.4
Nature reading reflection	30	8.6
Documentary reflection	30	8.6
In class/take-home activities	30	8.6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>350</b>	

Final grades will be determined on the following scale (*may be adjusted based upon class progress*):

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

### Academic Conduct:

#### **Course Community and Discussion Conduct:**

- 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/group work seriously.
- Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from your own.
- Make an effort to get to know other students.
- Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.

**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](http://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](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### Description and Assessment of Assignments

**Positive Environmental News Sharing:** Sign up for a presentation date during the semester. Work with a partner to identify and briefly overview (<4 min presentation) an article/news story or even that emphasizes positive progress in an environmentally related subject.

**Endangered Species Profile:** You will select and research a species protected under the US Endangered Species act and create a blog-style profile of the species status and the approach to conservation in its' recovery plan.

**Nature-reading reflection:** You will read several short Nature/Environmental essays and write a brief reflection (less than one page). You will share your reflection with a partner in class and compete a short interview.

**Documentary reflection:** View an assigned documentary on climate issues then respond to questions, and write a brief reflection statement.

#### In class/take-home activity assignments

We will conduct a number of interactive activities. In some instances, these require you to review short videos, podcasts, or reading materials before class (these will be available through Blackboard) in order for you to complete in-class portion. If you are not able to attend, it is your responsibility to contact the professor for an alternate, asynchronous activity to fulfill the assignment.

### **Course-specific Policies**

**Attendance and participation:** Students are strongly encouraged to attend scheduled synchronous course activities (Zoom meetings). Active participation in class is necessary. However, synchronous sessions will be recorded and available through Blackboard. Students who miss Zoom meetings are responsible for finding out about any in-class announcements and activities, and must contact the instructor for alternate assignments.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments must be uploaded to Blackboard/TurnItIn (as specified for each assignment or activity). Unless otherwise specified late assignments incur a 10% starting 15 minutes after the deadline, and 10% additional for each 24 hrs late.

**Missed exams:** UNPLANNED ABSENCES: You may be excused from an exam only in the event of a documented illness or emergency as outlined by university policy, with notification to the instructor within 48 hours. An invalid excuse, or the excuse turned in late, will result in a score of zero for the activity missed. If you miss the final examination and have provided a valid medical excuse within 72 hours of the examination time, a final course grade of incomplete (IN) will be recorded, and you will be permitted to take a make-up final examination during the following semester. If you have an emergency on exam day, please contact the instructor as soon as you are able (preferably, before the exam).

PLANNED ABSENCES: Students that miss an examination or graded activity for observance of a religious holy day should be aware of the University's policy on such absences, published at: <http://orl.usc.edu/religiouslife/holydays/absences.html>. If the absence is approved as determined by the USC Office of Religious Life, a reasonable accommodation will be provided. If you have any anticipated exam date conflicts due to athletic schedules or religious holidays, you **must** email the instructors *two 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 (see above).

**Policy on Re-grades:** Assignments will be graded in the context of expectations set by an initial evaluation of all student responses. If you feel that an error was made in the grading of an examination or lab activity, you must: 1) Prepare a printed statement explaining why you feel your grade was incorrect, and 2) submit this and your original examination to your instructor within one week of the time the examination or assignment was returned to you. Your entire exam or assignment may be re-graded and, as a result, your grade may increase or decrease from a requested re-grade. No frivolous reasons will be accepted for requesting grade changes.

### **Online Learning Experience**

Current conditions have added new challenges to the semester. Although Fall 2020 will be atypical, I will work to engage each and every one of you to the best of my abilities! However, you should take steps to make the experience as beneficial for you as possible. If you have logistical or technology related issues that are impacting your learning experience and ability engage with the class (such as internet connectivity, or other obstacles) you can contact me and I will try to help or will refer you to someone that may assist you.

### **Zoom/online live meeting etiquette**

A few reminders for getting the best experience in online lecture/discussion:

- PLEASE NOTE: synchronous session will be recorded and distributed on Blackboard
- Please mute your microphone when not speaking
- Use of webcam is encouraged and preferred. Please dress appropriately for a classroom environment

- You can use virtual backgrounds if you prefer to keep your home background environment private
- Headphones with a microphone are effective in minimizing interference from background noise
- You can use the Zoom chat or hand raise functions for questions/comments during sessions
- Come to synchronous meetings prepared

### Synchronous session recording notice

Synchronous sessions will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously via Blackboard.

### Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

*Reminder:* USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment:

#### SCampus Section 11.12(B)

*Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).*

### Course Schedule:

The schedule may be adjusted throughout the semester depending on the progress of the class.

Week of:	Topics	Readings	Exam and Assignment Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> Aug 17	Introduction & course overview Science and the assessment of enviro. health	Ch. 1	<b>Sign up for news article presentation this week!</b>
<b>Week 2</b> Aug 24	Matter, energy and change Climates and biomes	2 7	
<b>Week 3</b> Aug 31	Ecosystem ecology Biodiversity and Evolution	3 4	<b>Nature writings reflection</b> <b>In-class interview: Wed. Sep 2</b> <b>Bb submission: Fri. Sep 4, 5PM</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Sep 7	<b>Monday, Sep. 7:</b> Labor Day Holiday, No class Population and community ecology	5	
<b>Week 5</b> Sep 14	Biodiversity Conservation	8 BB links	
<b>Week 6</b> Sep 21	Human population and demographics	6	
<b>Week 7</b> Sep 28	Environmental Justice Policy and Economics	Ch 17 9 and 12	<b>Exam 1: Monday, Sep. 28</b>
<b>Week 8</b> Oct 5	Food production (land and sea)	10	<b>Endangered Species Blog</b> <b>Due Fri. Oct 2, 5PM</b>
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 12	Water pollution	11	
<b>Week 10</b> Oct 19	Non-renewable energy Renewable energy	13	
<b>Week 11</b> Oct 26	Air pollution	15.1-15.3	
<b>Week 12</b> Nov 2	Climate and global change Waste Generation, Disposal & Recycling	15.4-15.7 16	<b>Documentary questions/reflection</b> <b>due by Wed. Nov. 4, 5PM</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 9	Catch up-review		
Nov 18	<b>Finals Week</b>		<b>Exam 2: Wed Nov. 18, 8 AM</b>

## Academic and Student Support Systems

*Counseling and Mental Health* - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call; [studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://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.symplcity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplcity.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu)  
Non-emergency assistance or information.