

Syllabus: ENVS 101, Environmental Studies Introductory Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Kaye Savage (savageks@wofford.edu, x 4966)

MWF 1:00 – 1:50 PM, Black Science Annex Classroom 2

W 2:00 – 5:00 PM (continuous with Wednesday class meeting)

Office Hours: T 2:00 – 3:00; Th 9:00 – 10:00; & by appointment. Drop-ins welcome!

My office is located in Black Science Annex, in the corner nearest to the greenhouse

Course Overview

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Environmental Studies by examining how human populations affect our planetary environment, and how our planetary environment affects us. In the Environmental Studies program at Wofford, we focus on the complexity of particular issues within this framework, and explicitly recognize that there are many disciplinary perspectives as well as private opinions on any given topic. We group academic perspectives into humanities & arts, social sciences, and natural sciences (a “3-legged stool”), and ask you to think carefully about the different ways of learning, knowing, and communicating embodied in these approaches. We also ask you to skeptically examine the basis for your own opinions, and to respectfully explore differing personal views with one another.

We will engage with a variety of readings including scientific journal articles, excerpts from nonfiction, popular science books, classic environmental essays, and the news. Readings will cover a broad historical range, from the early environmental movement to today. Alongside each reading, guided reflective writings and discussions in class will ask students to connect course material to their personal histories, life experiences, and views of the world.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will develop knowledge of how the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences contribute to comprehending environmental situations and solving related environment problems.
2. Students will develop hands-on observation and analytical skills in field settings, with a focus on Wofford’s Goodall Center for Environmental Studies.
3. Students will become familiar with key questions that have arisen concerning human interactions with the environment.
4. Students will develop an appreciation and sense of connection to the Glendale Shoals Preserve and Spartanburg County’s environmental history.

Required Texts

Environment and Society, A Reader. (2017). C. Schlottmann, D. Jamieson, C. Jerolmack, and A. Rademacher. New York, NY: New York University Press.

Other assigned readings will be available through Wofford’s library or our Moodle page.

Semester Structure

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| I. Introduction to Environmental Studies | |
| II. Place: History, Policy, Values | IV. Global Change |
| III. Nature and Wilderness | V. Sustainability |

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 15, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Syllabus: ENVS 101, Environmental Studies Introductory Seminar

Class and lab time

Much class time will be devoted to discussion. It is very important that you come to class well prepared to discuss the assigned readings. To help you prepare, a reading response is due before most class periods (by 10 AM that day). You will find details about the reading responses on our Moodle website, where you will also submit your assignments.

This is a four-credit course. On Wednesdays, class and lab are continuous and we will frequently use this block of time to work off-campus or meet with guest speakers. Transportation will be provided. Because we will be traveling together, you **MUST** arrive on time, and dressed for the weather. Bring water as well as your notebook, and any other materials specified for each day. Please also bring any additional items you require, such as allergy medication, snack, etc.

Grade Basis

25%	Reading responses (most class periods)
45%	Unit assignments
5%	Participation – includes attendance, attention, and contributions in class and lab
5%	ENVS events (lecture, book reading, field trip, etc.) - you must attend 2
10%	Culminating Essay
10%	Final Exam

Reading responses – you will complete these online; they are due at 10 AM the day of each class. They will be assigned a grade of 0-5. Late work will be graded down one point. Work turned in more than one week late will not be accepted (grade 0). Grades will be posted on moodle.

- 5 Response shows thoughtful engagement with the topic and clearly demonstrates you have read and understood the assigned texts. Refers specifically to the texts to support ideas.
- 4 Response summarizes the assigned texts and/or shows limited thought (or: worth 5, but late).
- 3 Response is vague and/or does not demonstrate that you read and understood the texts. (or: worth 4, but late).
- 2 Response is minimal (or: worth 3, but late).
- 1 Response is minimal, and late.

Unit assignments – there will be one additional, substantial assignment for each unit. The format will be different for each assignment, reflecting different disciplinary approaches for communication.

Participation – Participation reflects your contributions to discussion in class, class citizenship (on time, attentive, respectful of your classmates during discussions that may bring out a variety of different viewpoints, etc), and engagement in lab activities.

ENVS Events - Over the course of the semester you need to attend 2 ENVS sponsored events (lecture, field trip, book readings) and submit a response paper summarizing the elements of the event that resonated most deeply with you. A list of approved events, and a place to post your responses, will be posted on Moodle. If there is an event that is not on the list that you think should qualify, please let me know so I can share the event with others.

Culminating Essay – You will submit an essay, due at the final exam time, reflecting on your learning throughout the course – your perspective on the content of the course, your progress towards learning outcomes, and your growth as a student over the course of the semester.

Final exam – The in-class exam will ask you to identify key people and readings from the semester, and to respond thoughtfully to ideas we will have discussed. The final exam will not be offered early. Please make your summer travel arrangements accordingly.

Syllabus: ENVS 101, Environmental Studies Introductory Seminar

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Wofford's Honor Code is an important expression of our community values, including academic honesty. Assignments will be explained so that you understand when collaboration is appropriate and expected, and when you must work independently. You always need to provide information about the resources you use, whether they are from the internet, library, or other people. Please ask if you are ever unsure of the requirements for a particular assignment!

As in all courses at Wofford College, you are expected to adhere to the honor code and to consult me if you have any questions about permissible actions.

You may find the code in its entirety online:

http://www.wofford.edu/uploadedfiles/studentlife/honor%20code_rightsresp.pdf

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend **all** class and lab meetings unless prevented by illness, emergency, or athletic commitment. Please contact me as soon as you know you will be absent on a particular day. After 2 unexcused absences, an attendance warning will be issued and your grade will be impacted by a percentage point for each additional absence. Any unexcused lab absences will reduce your final grade by one full letter.

Electronics Policy

No electronic devices (laptops, tablets, or cell phones) are permitted during class time except as required by class activities. Be prepared to take notes without the aid of electronics unless you have a disability accommodation that specifies otherwise. You will occasionally use laptops in class or lab for research or data analysis. Texting, gaming, or using electronic media for any purpose other than following class instructions is strictly prohibited.

Title IX and Racial Bias Policies

All students, faculty and staff are both protected by and subject to Wofford's Title IX policy, and Wofford's racial bias policy. Faculty are considered "Responsible Employees of the College," which means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I am obligated to share that information with Wofford's Title IX Coordinator. If you tell me about a situation involving racially motivated bias, harassment, or assault, I am obligated to share that information with Wofford's Bias Incident Response Team. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you should contact one of our counselors in the Wellness Center or our college chaplain.

Wellness

If you are struggling, either academically or emotionally, friends and professional counselors can both be a great help. Wofford Counseling Services is available to help you navigate difficult situations, as is our Chaplain. Please, seek support if you need it, or if you are concerned about how friends are coping with stress or other issues.

<http://www.wofford.edu/wellnessCenter/counselingFAQ/>
