

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Environmental Studies (EVST 100)
COURSE NUMBER: ECON 198 / PHIL 198
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MWF 11:00
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dorothea K Herreiner + Dr. Brian Treanor

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This class serves, along with NTLS 101, as an introduction and prerequisite for other classes in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Minor. While NTLS 101 covers fundamental issues in environmental studies from the perspective of the natural sciences, Environmental Studies 100 covers these issues from the perspective of the humanities (philosophy, history, etc.) and social sciences (economics, political science, etc.).

Topics covered include: the nature and scope of moral and ethical consideration; various ethical systems that can be applied to environmental issues; the history of the human relationship to the non-human world; the role and impact of institutions (local, national, and international) on environmental issues; collective and economic decision making; and various “case studies” in environmental studies.

Together with NTLS 101, Environmental Studies 100 prepares the student for further studies in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Minor, including elective classes and the capstone course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Successful students will:

- Come to appreciate the interplay of scientific facts with ethical and moral values, and with practical issues (e.g., the political will required to implement change).
- Understand various moral and ethical systems, including their application to environmental problems.
- Become familiar with the institutional bodies (local, regional, national, and international) that have a stake in issues of environmental concern, as well as the challenges of collective decision making associated with any such institution.
- Explore individual decision making from an economics point of view and analyze benefits and costs of environmental policies.
- Assess “case studies” through the different lenses considered in this class.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

NTLS 101

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course reader and ERes documents.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Participation (including regular reading and preparation for discussion)

Two exams

One major paper