

Spring 2024 Environmental Studies Courses

NOTE: “Category” indicates which type of requirement the given course meets, listed by “old” (pre-fall 2021) and “new” (from fall 2021 forward) degree rules.

- **Old categories:** REQ = required for graduation; NS = Natural Science; SS = Social Science; HU = Humanities
- **New categories:** C = Core (required for graduation); ID = Interdisciplinary; NS = Natural Science; SS = Social Science; HU = Humanities; AD = Applied Disciplines

Course number: ENST 1013/995 **CRN:** 45679 **Meeting time:** on-line
Course title: Consumption and the Environment **Instructor:** Dr. Rebecca Sherry
Gen-ed: Core Area III ‘Social Science’ **Old Category:** REQ **New Category:** ID
Note:

Description: In this introduction to the interdisciplinary aspects of human consumption and the environment, we discuss aspects of the production and consumption of food, energy, transportation, manufactured goods, and housing for their contributions to global climate change, air and water pollution, and habitat alteration, as well as other relevant topics regarding the environment. Students will learn how complex interactions between natural processes and human activities shape aspects of the global, regional, and local environment.

Course number: ENST 2203/001 **CRN:** 38455 **Meeting time:** TR, 3:00-4:15
Course title: Ecosystem Impacts of Climate Change **Instructor:** Dr. Rebecca Sherry
Gen-ed: Core Area II ‘Natural Science’ (non lab) **Old Category:** NS **New Category:** ID
Note: Can count for *either* physical or biological natural science for DFCAS gen ed. requirements

Description: Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide have direct effects on living creatures and the Earth’s climate system, but those direct effects also spawn many indirect changes in ecological systems. This non-majors course will cover the basics of why climate is changing, its effects on plant and animal physiology, phenology, and behavior, and its impacts on the ecosystems they live in. Along the way, we’ll learn major principles of ecological theory.

Course number: ENST 3243/995 **CRN:** 44628 **Meeting time:** On-line
Course title: Introduction to Water Law **Instructor:** Emily Remmel, Esq.
Gen-ed: **Old Category:** SS **New Category:** AD
Note:

Description: What’s not to love about water law? Litigation over water availability and water quality is predicted to become even more widespread as human populations surge and heightened demands pressure dwindling local and regional supplies. This class will provide an understanding of the fundamental tenets of water allocation in the United States. We will also dive into the Clean Water Act and its effect on resolving complex pollution issues. Students will gain an invaluable appreciation of the myriad of competing uses of water. Topics include: riparian doctrine, prior appropriation, the public trust doctrine, Clean Water Act permitting schemes, nonpoint source pollution, and oil spills and hydraulic fracturing.

Course number: ENST 3313/001 **CRN:** 42620 **Meeting time:** F, 1:30-4:10
Course title: Gardening, Community & Environment **Instructor:** Dr. Rebecca Sherry
Gen-ed: **Old Category:** NS **New Category:** AD
Note: This course is designated as a Service Learning (SERV) class; class will have scheduled visits to field sites

Description: Explores fundamental concepts and styles of gardening with an emphasis on edibles and organic methods. Class assignments help students connect gardening to environmental and community issues at the personal, local, regional, and global levels. A service-learning component promotes hand-on experiences and responsibility to the community.

Course number: ENST 3713/995 **CRN:** 45718 **Meeting time:** On-line
Course title: Nature in the City **Instructor:** Dr. Rebecca Sherry
Gen-ed: **Old Category:** SS **New Category:** ID
Note:

Description: In this class we will discuss and compare the biodiversity and ecosystem functioning of urban, suburban, rural residential and farm lands to learn to what degree human activities have impacted nature and if these areas have a role in the conservation, protection, and migration of wild species. Additionally, we will explore aspects of urban design that can promote ecosystem services.

Course number: ENST 3891/001 **CRN:** 42203 **Meeting time:** R, 4:30-5:45
Course title: Environmental Studies Learning Community **Instructor:** Ms. Tiffany Legg
Gen-ed: **Old Category:** N/A **New Category:** C
Note: Prerequisite: ENST 2813 (or concurrent enrollment); majors and minors only; should be repeated twice to gain 3 hours

Description: The Learning Community course gives Environmental Studies majors the opportunity to enrich their classroom experience, through a variety of activities including structured interactions with other students; presentations on academic and policy topics; workshops on career planning; and environmentally related service projects.

Course number: ENST 4893/900 **CRN:** 42205 **Meeting time:** T, 3:00-5:40
Course title: Environmental Studies Capstone **Instructor:** Ms. Carrie Leslie
Gen-ed: Core Area V 'Senior Capstone' (if needed) **Old Category:** N/A **New Category:** C
Note: Prerequisite: Majors only

Description: This course is the culmination of your Environmental Studies major. In your other classes, you learned how to integrate knowledge about environmental issues gained from a range of disciplines. Now you will apply that skill to an environmental problem affecting central Oklahoma. You will work on an interdisciplinary team to learn about a local environmental concern and collaborate with other members of the group to synthesize an interdisciplinary understanding of the issue. You will have the opportunity to help collect and analyze scientific data, work together to propose solutions to the issue, and write a report to present to local community members directly impacted by the issue.

Spring 2023 topic: We will continue our work with the John F. Kennedy Jr. Neighborhood Associate in Oklahoma City.

Summer 2023 Environmental Studies Courses

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Course number: ENST 3503/995

CRN: 22522

Meeting time: On-line; May 13 – July 5

Course title: Energy Use, Climate & the Environment

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Sherry

Gen-ed:

Old Category: NS

New Category: ID

Note:

Description: The way we live in the modern industrialized world is extremely energy intensive. Since most of our energy use is derived from fossil fuels, our energy use is a major contributor to the greenhouse gasses that contribute to global warming. We examine our energy use across all sectors, from the fuels used to generate the electricity to run your computer (mostly coal and some natural gas), to the energy we are most familiar with, that with which we fill up our cars, and the increasing alternative energy sources. After an academic introduction to our energy system, climate change, and the drawbacks and benefits of various energy sources, we will break up into groups each reading a different book. Book group choices represent a variety of viewpoints and writing styles, both right and left, political and practical, literary and scientific, environmentalist and not.

Course number: ENST 3743/995

CRN: 25813

Meeting time: On-line; June 10—August 12

Course title: Biological Invasions and Society

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Sherry

Gen-ed:

Old Category: NS

New Category: ID

Note:

Description: New species arrive on our shores daily; some of these species become so problematic that we label them "invasive." This course explores some of our views of invasive species, what makes a species invasive, how they spread, their impacts on human and natural systems, whether or not all invasive species are bad, and what can be done to control them.