

Environmental Studies

at Centre College

Environmental studies explores the many ways we humans influence—and are influenced by—our non-human surroundings. By examining our dependence and our impact on other species, we will be better able to fashion ways of living equitably and sustainably within our natural environment.

Environmental studies at Centre

As a practical goal, environmental studies develops effective solutions to environmental problems. To do so requires an understanding of the scientific, societal, and ethical dimensions of the problems. Consequently, the minor in environmental studies draws on a wide array of fields, including anthropology, biology, chemistry, ecology, economics, history, philosophy, psychology, public policy, and religion. Centre students and faculty have a long history of interest and action in environmental issues, although the formal academic minor in environmental studies is recently new. The Centre courses and programs in this area will continue to develop in the future in response to the experiences of our students. The minor combines well with any Centre major.

The college has recently initiated a construction project that will lead to a major expansion of both laboratory and research space in Young Hall.

Why minor in environmental studies?

The most direct reason for a minor in environmental studies is that the field addresses such critically important questions as: "What happens to ecosystems and economic systems when introduced species become invasive?" or "How might a community respond to the environmental and demographic impact of a new manufacturing company?"

In addition, a minor in environmental studies can help you prepare for graduate study and careers in a wide range of interesting fields. The minor is particularly appropriate for students who want to incorporate an environmental dimension into a professional career such as law, public health, business, or education, as

well as for those who want to attend graduate school in environmental studies.

Related Opportunities at Centre

ECCO (Environmentally Conscious Centre Organization) is a campus group devoted to a range of educational and service activities both at Centre and in the local community. As a member of the Associated Colleges of the South (ACS), Centre College participates in Environmental Citizenship for the 21st Century, a program that provides internship and study opportunities.

Internships

Due to the broad nature of this program, there are many internship opportunities. Students have worked as environmental lobbyist interns at the Community Farm Alliance, as well as with conservationist and environmental organizations.

What courses will I take?

The environmental studies minor requires seven courses arranged in three levels. It provides a solid background in the fundamental principles of environmental studies, allows some flexibility in tailoring the program, and enables you to synthesize these concepts with your major program(s).

You should plan on taking the introductory course ENS 210 as soon as possible following your freshman year, since it will help you decide which of the emphases to follow. Be aware that some of the other courses listed have prerequisites, so taking those prerequisites early is



Philip Crain
Centre Class of 2008
Environmental Studies Minor, Biology Major

"To succeed in our ever-growing global world, a person must be able to think outside the realm of only one discipline, and that is the essence of the ENS minor. Plus, the minor gives students the power to create a personal educational experience and the initiative to change their world."

Fundamental Background	ENS 210 Introduction to Environmental Studies HIS 362 American Environmental History (or ECO 355 Environmental Economics) BIO 370 Principles of Ecology	
Focus	Total of three courses, at least one from each area	
	Social/Political Analysis	Scientific/Technological Analysis
	ANT 321 Anthropology of Development ANT 350 Ecological Anthropology ECO 355 Environmental Economics ECO 350 Tourism & Sustainable Development (recent venues include Mexico and South Pacific) ENS 252 Sustainability HIS 361 American Environmental History REL 453 World Hunger & the Environment	ANT 360 GIS & the Environment BIO 245 Freshwater Biology BIO 260 Tropical Ecology BIO 375 Conservation Biology CHE 454 Green Chemistry NSC 140 Environmental Geology NSC 250 Natural Disasters PYB 330 Animal Behavior
Capstone	Senior Project—Either internship or independent study with an environmental emphasis. Subject to approval of ENS program committee.	

also advisable. Details concerning course prerequisites and academic terms when these courses are offered are provided on the environmental studies Web page at web.centre.edu/regist/catalog/enscc.html. The capstone independent study is done during your senior year, and typically will be coordinated between the environmental studies program and your major program(s). All of the other courses, however, may be taken in any order.

Beyond Centre

Students with an environmental studies minor will find careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors; local and state agencies; federal government; corporations; consulting firms; international and intergovernmental organizations; and nongovernmental and community-based organizations.

Faculty

DAVID A. ANDERSON, Blazer Associate Professor of Economics (Ph.D., Duke University). His current professional interests include law and economics, econometrics, and environmental economics.

ANNE E. LUBBERS, (chair) Professor of Biology (B.S., University of Wisconsin-Green Bay; Ph.D., Duke University). A plant ecologist, her research focuses on factors limiting seed production in populations.

DANIEL MANHEIM, Stodghill Professor of English (B.A., Amherst; M.A., M. Phil., Ph.D., Columbia). He teaches upper-level courses in U.S. literature, including environmental literature. His scholarly interests include Emily Dickinson, Henry Adams, and he has written essays on the literature of the urban environment and on the genre of the eco-thriller.

PRESTON MILES, Walkup Professor of Chemistry (B.A., Centre College; Ph.D., University of Kentucky). His research involves trace-level analysis on a variety of environmental and nutritional sample types.

A. ENDRE NYERGES, Professor of Anthropology (B.A., Earlham College; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania). He has done ethnological and ecological research in Africa and the Middle East.

ELIZABETH A. PERKINS, Davidson Associate Professor of History (B.A., Centre College; M.A., University of Kentucky; Ph.D., Northwestern University). Her concentration on American social and cultural history includes environmental history.

CONRAD F. SHIBA, Associate Professor of Chemistry (B.S., Michigan State University; M.S., The Ohio State University; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University). His interests include organometallic chemistry, volcanology, and environmental geology focusing on geological and meteorological natural disasters.

ROB ZIEMBA, Assistant Professor of Biology (B.A., Boston University; Ph.D., Arizona State University). He teaches introductory biology, ecology, evolutionary genetics, conservation biology, entomology, and natural science.



For further information about environmental studies at Centre, write, call, or e-mail

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Environmental studies Web page

www.centre.edu/web/academic/majors/environmental.html

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