

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION



"While studying the environment, I've been able to travel to places from New Zealand to Appalachia to learn about other people's diverse perspectives on, and relationships with, the world at large."

LUCAS DO

Centre Class of 2016

Double Major: Environmental Studies and Spanish

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES EXPLORES THE MANY WAYS HUMANS INFLUENCE, AND ARE INFLUENCED BY, OUR NON-HUMAN SURROUNDINGS. BY EXAMINING OUR DEPENDENCE AND OUR IMPACT ON OTHER SPECIES AND THE LAND, WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO FASHION WAYS OF LIVING EQUITABLY AND SUSTAINABLY ON THE EARTH.

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 major and minor in environmental studies draw on a wide array of fields, including anthropology, biology, chemistry, ecology, economics, English, history, philosophy, public policy, and religion. Centre students and faculty have a long history of interest and action in environmental issues and the minor has existed for a decade although the major is new. Environmental Studies (ENS) is inherently interdisciplinary and students may explore their interests either with the ENS major or a minor in ENS that aligns with a major in a related field. Because the major draws from so many fields, double-majoring is entirely feasible.

WHY MAJOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

The most direct reason for a major in environmental studies is that the field addresses critically important questions such as:

- What happens to ecosystems and economic systems when introduced species become invasive?
- How might a community respond to the environmental and demographic impact of a new manufacturing company?

- How can we observe and monitor the impact of human activity on the environment?

The major is particularly appropriate for students who want to incorporate an environmental dimension into a professional career such as law, public health, business, planning, or education, as well as for those who want to attend graduate school in environmental studies. Here is a list of just some recent graduates and their current careers:

- Jeri Howell '17 was awarded a Fulbright to Costa Rica.
- Christopher Brittain '16 is in a Master's program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs (University of Minnesota).
- Sarah Bialik '15 is pursuing a master's degree in environmental biology at Texas State.
- Sarah Green '14 is pursuing an M.P.A. at Indiana University School for Public and Environmental Affairs.
- Alex Hurley '14 is pursuing a master's degree in environmental studies at Ohio University.
- Greg Nicaise '14 works in environmental education in San Francisco at Education Outside.
- Libby Trevathan '14 is pursuing her master's in landscape architecture at the University of Colorado-Denver.

INTERNSHIPS, RESEARCH, AND RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Recent student internships include FoodChain (Lexington, Ky.), Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center (Mansfield, Ga.), and eco-friendly Hotel Kokoro (Alajuela, Costa Rica). Students did summer research on sustainable foods in Australia and New Zealand, on green monkey behavior in Barbados, researching rivers in Asia, and working with native bees (Mérida, Mexico). Past research projects include mapping of the Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge, and studying wild ginseng plant communities.

Students also took classes with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies (KIIS) trip to Ecuador to study tropical forest conservation. The Centre Environmental Association (CEA) is a student organization dedicated to promoting campus sustainability, environmental advocacy, and education.

WHAT KINDS OF COURSES WILL I TAKE?

The environmental studies major requires eleven courses arranged in four levels. It provides a solid background in the fundamental principles of environmental studies, promotes strong interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues, and allows significant flexibility in tailoring the program.

You should plan on taking the introductory course ENS 210 as soon as possible in your first or second year, since it will help you decide which of the tracks to follow. Be aware that some of the other courses listed have prerequisites, so taking those prerequisites early is also advisable. Details can be found at <http://centre.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2016-2017/Catalog/Programs-of-Study/Environmental-Studies>. The seminar is taken during your senior year, and it integrates your learning through a group focus on a particular environmental topic.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Devin Hester '17 — "Majoring in environmental studies has allowed me to expand my knowledge in fields from biology to philosophy, while also allowing me to travel to places such as England to gain a worldly perspective on climate change."

Hannah Spaulding '17 — "Studying the environment has given me the challenge to live a life more economically, socially, and culturally responsible and to draw connections between people, the land, and food."

Nathan Carrier '17 — "Pairing environmental studies with the politics major has provided me with a useful skill set. From spelunking to environmental policy analysis, I have been immersed in rich experiences that will allow me to be a much savvier and effective environmental advocate."

Harrison Kirby '17 — "I've been able to direct the path of my major, design my own projects, and connect my coursework with other subjects outside of the environmental studies major."

Mariah Harrod '17 — "Environmental studies has not only prepared me for a career in minimizing global suffering, but has also shaped my personal identity, helping me feel a sense of belonging within a culture that largely believes humans are separate from the remainder of nature."

FACULTY

DAVID A. ANDERSON, Blazer Professor of Economics (Ph.D., Duke University). Current professional interests include law and economics, sustainability, and environmental economics.

DANIEL KIRCHNER, Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Ph.D., Indiana University). Specializes in ethics and 19th-century philosophy and is currently researching a book manuscript entitled "*Eat Your Values*": *The Ethics of Food*.

MATT KLOOSTER, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies (Ph.D., University of Cincinnati). Current research interests are plant population and community ecology, evolutionary ecology, symbioses, phylogeography, population genetics, genomics, and conservation of rare and endangered species.

SARAH LASHLEY, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning (Ph.D., University of Michigan). Research interests include urban planning theory, environmental justice, and conflict management.

ANNE E. LUBBERS, Professor of Biology (Ph.D., Duke University). A plant ecologist, her specific interests include plant-pollinator and plant-herbivore interactions, and other factors that limit seed production in wild plant populations.

DANIEL MANHEIM, Stodghill Professor of English (Ph.D., Columbia University). Scholarly interests include Emily Dickinson and Henry Adams, and has written essays on Thoreau and on the literature of the urban environment.

PRESTON MILES, Walkup Professor of Chemistry (Ph.D., University of Kentucky). Research involves trace-level analysis on a variety of environmental and nutritional sample types.

A. ENDRE NYERGES, Professor of Anthropology (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania). Has done ethnological and ecological research in Africa and the Middle East. Current research concerns environmental change detection through remote sensing analysis.

BRETT WERNER, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies (Ph.D., University of Minnesota). Research focuses on science and policy of rivers, sustainable food/farming, and wetlands.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

Brett Werner, Program Chair
600 West Walnut Street
Danville, Kentucky 40422
859.238.6502
brett.werner@centre.edu

TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH A CENTRE STUDENT MAJORING IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, CONTACT:

Katherine Hagan
katherine.hagan@centre.edu

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