

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

David R. Keller, Ph.D.
Chair, Environmental Studies Program
Utah Valley University

Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary discipline which explores the complex relations between nature and culture. Environmental Studies is premised on the idea that culture is linked to nature, and that nature is linked to culture.

Culture is linked to nature because nature provides the context within which humans create culture. Cultures persist or perish depending on whether customs and rituals conform and are sustainable within the particular natural environment of that culture.

Nature is linked to culture because humans modify nature through the economic activity necessary for civilization.

The scope of Environmental Studies extends from the local to the global, because social and natural systems are connected at each of these levels and every level in between. Since humans are integral parts of ecological systems, an understanding of the structure and function of the biosphere is crucial, as well as an understanding of the ways humans see nature through cultural lenses. Because environmental issues transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries, Environmental Studies encourages cross-disciplinary thinking.

Environmental Studies graduates have many educational and career opportunities. Environmental Studies is excellent preparation for graduate and professional school, such as law school, business school, post-secondary school in government. Environmental Studies is also good for landing jobs dealing with environmental policy. Hundreds of thousands of environmental professionals work for local, state, and federal government agencies. Tens of thousands of jobs become available annually in both the public and private sectors in such areas as land-use planning and zoning, agriculture, parks and recreation, water resource management, public health, community and economic development, energy development, consulting, scientific, sociological and anthropological research, marketing, environmental non-governmental agencies (NGOs), humanitarian organizations, fisheries management, and many other areas. Environmental Studies graduates work for public agencies such as the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency, and many private firms.

I. TEXT:

Classics in Environmental Studies. Nico Nelissen, Jan Van Der Straaten, and Leon Klinkers (eds.). International Books, 1997.

II. GRADING STANDARDS:

I do not grade on a curve; your work will be evaluated on its own merits.

A = Excellent work

B = Good work

C = Average work

D = Poor work

E = Failing work

A	= 94 - 100%	C	= 73 - <77%
A-	= 90 - <94%	C-	= 70 - <73%
B+	= 87 - <90%	D+	= 67 - <70%
B	= 83 - <87%	D	= 63 - <67%
B-	= 80 - <83%	D-	= 60 - <63%
C+	= 77 - <80%	E	= <60%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY: Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. Students are expected to adhere to the academic standards outlined in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code*, especially Article II, Section B. Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) disclosing or obtaining exam content information from other students, using notes during exams, signing another student's name or having another student sign your name, and all forms of plagiarism including downloading papers from the Internet (for example <http://1Millionpapers.com/>, <http://cheathouse.com/>, or <http://duenow.com/>). *Students guilty of academic dishonesty will receive grade E for the course.* In fairness to all students and to uphold the integrity of education at UVSC, there are no exceptions to this policy.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

ASSIGNMENT	# POINTS
Attendance and Participation	Required
Quizzes	100
Précis (3 @ 75 points each)	225
Exams (2 @ 125 points each)	250
Annotated Bibliography	50
Semester Paper	175
Presentation	50
Final Exam	150
TOTAL REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS	1,000
<u>Extra credit</u>	<u>20</u>
TOTAL POSSIBLE	1,020

A. *Attendance and Participation.* Attendance is required. Active participation is essential. Students are required to complete reading selections for the day they are assigned.

Outstanding attendance, preparation, and participation will be taken into consideration in grading borderline cases.

B. Ten *Quizzes* will occur throughout the semester, covering reading assignments and lectures. Quiz 1 will be on the grading standards and course requirements outlined in this syllabus. Each student is expected to sign Quiz 1 certifying that the student has read and understands the grading standards and course requirements.

Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

C. All *Writing Assignments* must conform to the guidelines outlined at the end of this syllabus.

Late penalty: Assignments turned in after they are collected at the beginning of class on the specified due date will be lowered ten percent per twenty-four hours.

1. A *Précis* is a concise summary of a daily reading assignment. Do not give your own subjective opinion on the theory or issue; simply describe the logic (argument) of the theory. Each précis is to be 300 words in length.

2. The *Annotated Bibliography* details the content of sources relevant to your semester paper. The Annotated Bibliography is to contain at least 10 sources.

3. The *Semester Paper Thesis Statement* is to be 150 words and should state in clear, concise terminology your intended term paper thesis, and outline in general terms your strategy for arguing your point.

4. The *Semester Paper* is to be 1500 words. The paper can be written in one of two ways: either (1) a pure theory paper about some aspect of the human/nature relationship in the Western intellectual tradition, or (2) a public policy paper on a contemporary environmental issue and a solution to that issue using course materials.

D. *Exams* are based on lectures and reading assignments. Exams are combinations of multiple choice questions, short paragraph-length identification questions, and short essay questions. The *Final Exam* is comprehensive and will be administered in our classroom on the assigned final exam day.

Please Note: Missed exams can only be made up for medical problems or personal crises, and are excused only by a letter from a licensed physician or the Dean of Students.

E. The *Presentation* is to be ten minutes long. In the presentation you should give a synopsis of your semester paper. As long as you give a presentation, you will receive full credit.

F. *Extra Credit* can be earned by attending various on-campus lectures and events relating to ethics occurring throughout the semester. Each event counts as 5 points; up to 4 events may be attended for extra credit.

For a complete schedule of possible extra credit events, see <http://ethicscenter.info/>.

ATTENTION STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have any disability which may impair your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Accessibility Services Department (room WB-145). Academic accommodations are granted for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the Accessibility Services Department.

IV. COURSE CALENDAR:

(N.B. Page numbers of required text are shown in parentheses)

R	Course introduction; Review of syllabus
T	What is Environmental Studies?
R	Dualistic Metaphysics: Plato, Allegory of the Cave [reserve] The Great Chain of Being (lecture, no reading assignment); The Advent of Modernity (lecture, no reading assignment)
T	The Mechanical View of Nature: Descartes, Excerpts from <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> [reserve]
R	<u>Précis #1 due;</u> The Creation of Private Property: Locke, Excerpts from <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> [reserve]
T	Nature and Normativity: Mill, “Nature” [reserve]
R	Carry Capacity and Population: Malthus, Excerpts from <i>An Essay on the Principle of Population</i> (29-38)
T	Biological Evolution: Darwin, Excerpts from <i>On the Origin of Species</i> (39-46)
R	Economics and Environmental Issues: Pigou, Excerpts from <i>The Economics of Welfare</i> (47-56)
T	The Land Ethics: Leopold, Excerpts from <i>A Sand County Almanac</i> [reserve]
R	<u>Précis #2 due;</u> Ecology and Sociology: Reid, Excerpts from <i>The Sociology of Nature</i> (57-67)
T	Exam #1 Review
R	<u>Exam #1</u>
T	The Failure of the Mechanical View of Nature: Carson, Excerpts from <i>Silent Spring</i> (68-73)
R	The Problem of Externalities: Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (101-114)
T	Overpopulation: Ehrlich and Ehrlich, Excerpts from <i>The Population Bomb</i> (115-124)
R	Ecosystem Ecology: Odum, “The Strategy of Ecosystem Development” (125-142)

T	Christianity and the Environment: White, “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis” (143-152)
R	<u>Précis #3 due</u> ; Nonhumans and the Law: Stone, “Should Trees Have Standing?” (153-162)
T	Ecology and Free-Market Economics: Commoner, Excerpts from <i>The Closing Circle</i> (189-194)
R	No class—Spring Break
T	Biospherical Holism: Lovelock, Excerpts from <i>Gaia</i> (243-251)
R	<u>Annotated Bibliography due</u> ; Feminism and Globalization: Shiva, Excerpts from <i>Staying Alive</i> (285-295)
T	Exam #2 Review
R	<u>Exam #2</u>
T	Sustainability: Schmidheiny, Excerpts from <i>Changing Course</i> (394-405)
R	Case Study: Keller, The Goshute Nuclear Waste Storage Plan [reserve]
T	<u>Paper thesis statement due</u> ; Presentations
R	Presentations
T	<u>Semester Paper due</u> ; Presentations
R	<u>Course evaluation</u> (counts as one quiz); Final Exam Review
T	<u>Final Exam</u>

Please note: Assignments not retrieved within two weeks after the end of the semester will be donated to the paper recycling bin.

Written Assignment Guidelines

- (1) All writing assignments should be written in conventional, correct American English, and should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- (2) Written assignment submissions: I do not have the time or resources to translate and print assignments submitted electronically. Thus, in order to avoid translation problems and to be fair to all students, *absolutely no electronic submissions* (e-mail or fax) *will be accepted*. To avoid being late, all writing assignments must be submitted hardcopy at the beginning of class on the due date.
- (3) Header: Your name, the assignment, the course title and number, my name, the date, and the word count (text only—not the header or title) should be placed in the *upper left corner* of the first page. For example:

Susan Q. Smart
Précis #3
Introduction to Environmental Studies (ENST 3000)
Dr. David R. Keller
March 28 1, 2008
Words: 304

- (4) Formatting: All writing assignments are to be typed using 12-point font, double-spaced, have numbered pages, with 1.25 inch side margins and 1 inch top and bottom margins. Do not use right justification. It is not necessary to have a page number on the first page.
- (5) Citations: The semester paper must include a bibliography (works cited page) following the citation guidelines outlined in *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Internet citations: If a website is referenced, the author, the author's credentials, and the original publication must be included. If the author, the author's credentials, and the original publication are not reported, *then the citation is incomplete*.

- (6) Binding: Multiple-page assignments should be stapled once in the upper left-hand corner. Do not use paper clips or plastic binders and covers of any sort.

An excellent resource for help with citations can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

- (7) Binding: Multiple-page assignments should be stapled once in the upper left-hand corner. Do not use plastic binders or covers of any sort.

- (8) Instructors' comments follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*, Fifteenth Edition, proofreading notation (§3.20-3.36, pp. 97-102).
- (9) Plagiarism, the cardinal academic sin, will result in an E grade for the course. Plagiarism is the act of using and passing off the ideas or writings of another as one's own. *It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.* If you do not feel that you understand what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult the Writing Center (LA 201) and read http://www.uvsc.edu/engl/studentresource/avoiding_plagiarism.html.