

College of Arts and Sciences – Interdisciplinary Programs

Environmental Studies (ENVR)

Hoffman (POL), director; Governance Committee: Degnan (PHIL), Evarts (BIOL), Hickson (GEOL), Ippoliti (CHEM), Kelley (GEOG), Lorah (GEOG), Neuzil (JOMC), Sathe (ACCT), Scott (PSY), Smith-Cunnien (SOC), Vincent (ECON), Werner (GEOG)

The Environmental Studies program provides students with a broad interdisciplinary background as well as a basis for career specialization and practical application and problem solving. The program is based upon an investigation both of the Earth's environment and the wide variety of human interactions with that environment. The program has three basic objectives:

1. to transmit an understanding of environmental problems and their complexities,
2. to motivate productive responses to those problems, both vocational and avocational, based on that understanding, and
3. to foster the development of critical, inquiring minds.

All students majoring in Environmental Studies are required to take 36 credits in core courses, another 24 credits in concentration-area courses, and four credits in an allied course. The core courses are designed to provide the student with a foundation in the physical, social and ethical dimensions of environmental issues. Students graduating with a major in environmental studies will demonstrate their ability to integrate their liberal arts and professionally-oriented education. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take additional courses in writing and computer applications, and should consult the chair of the Environmental Studies Committee for recommendations.

The concentration area consists of a minimum of an additional 24 credits beyond the core. These courses are meant to deepen the student's understanding of the origin and complexity of environmental issues while focusing attention on one particular area of study.

The student may

- a. choose to specialize in an existing area of study or
- b. may propose an individually designed concentration program.

In either case, students are required to submit a Concentration Area Proposal to the Governance Committee for approval. The proposal will identify the prospective concentration area, a set of learning objectives, and the concentration area's relationship to the student's environmental interests. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss the formation of their concentration area with the director of the program or another member of the Governance Committee. Committee members can assist students in constructing successful concentration area proposals. Students are required to identify their concentration area by the end of their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year.

Major in Environmental Studies: Concentration Area in the Natural Sciences

151 Humans and the Environment
212 Social Dynamics and the Environment
301 Environmental Ethics
351 Environmental Policy Formation
401 Field Seminar

Plus:

BLAW 351 Environmental Law
or ECON 252 *or* POL 205 (with approval of program director)
GEOL 115 Environmental Geology *or one of* GEOL 110, 111, 113, 114

Plus one of:

BIOL 102 Conservation Biology
BIOL 201 Diversity and Adaptation

Plus either:

CHEM 101 Environmental Chemistry
or
CHEM 111 General Chemistry I *and* 112 General Chemistry II

Plus one of:

MATH 303 Statistics for the Applied Sciences
QMCS 220 Statistics I

Plus:

Concentration area in one of the natural sciences

Major in Environmental Studies: Concentration Area in Social Science, Business, or Humanities

151 Humans and the Environment
212 Social Dynamics and the Environment
301 Environmental Ethics
351 Environmental Policy Formation
401 Field Seminar

Plus one of the three sequences below:

BIOL 102 Conservation Biology
 CHEM 101 Environmental Chemistry
 GEOL 115 Environmental Geology *or one of* GEOL 110, 111, 113, 114
 GEOL 252 Geomorphology

or

BIOL 201 Diversity and Adaptation
 BIOL 202 Genetics and Population Biology
 CHEM 101 Environmental Chemistry
 GEOL 115 Environmental Geology *or one of* GEOL 110, 111, 113, 114

or

BIOL 102 Conservation Biology
 CHEM 111 General Chemistry I
 CHEM 112 General Chemistry II
 GEOL 115 Environmental Geology *or one of* GEOL 110, 111, 113, 114

Plus one of:

MATH 303 Statistics for the Applied Sciences
 QMCS 220 Statistics I

Plus:

Concentration area in one of the social sciences, business, or humanities

Minor in Environmental Studies

151 Humans and the Environment
 212 Social Dynamics of the Environment
 301 Environmental Ethics
 351 Environmental Policy Formation

Plus:

BLAW 351 Environmental Law
or ECON 252 *or* POL 205 (with approval of program director)

151 Humans and the Environment

A study of the interaction of humans and the environment over time and space; a broad introduction that integrates a variety of social-science perspectives into an understanding of the environment and the relations between humans and nature. Specific topics include ecology, population, economic development, resources and sustainable development. This course fulfills the second-level Computer Competency requirement in the core curriculum.

212 Social Dynamics and the Environment

An emphasis on the ways in which people have created, and attempted to solve, environmental problems in different cultural and historical contexts. Examines the roles of the entire spectrum of actors and human communities, including individuals, families, groups and formal organizations, neighborhoods, cities and nations. Students examine how individual dynamics (such as altruism and economic self-interest) and collective dynamics (such as competition, cohesion, social definitional processes and global interdependence) direct humans in their interactions with the environment.

Prerequisite: 151

295, 296 Topics

2 credits

297, 298 Topics

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available at www.stthomas.edu/registrar/onlineschedule.html.

301 Environmental Ethics (PHIL 358)

Consideration of the ethical issues arising from human interaction with the environment, including population pressure, pollution, conservation and preservation. Focus on the grounds of our obligation to resolve such issues; the question of what persons and things are worthy of moral consideration; and the respective roles of individuals, organizations and government in addressing environmental problems. Case studies will be used to trace the implications of various ethical and political theories.

Prerequisite: 151 and PHIL 214

351 Environmental Policy Formation (POL 316)

An examination of environmental policy outcomes generated by institutions and organizations, including legislation, court decisions and administrative decisions. Additional focus on decision-making processes commonly used to assess environment-related legislation, including those rooted in economics and policy analysis.

Prerequisite: 212

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401 Field Seminar

A capstone course that combines field experience with classroom seminar. Student teams will conduct collaborative, broadly interdisciplinary analyses of selected environmental problems. Field-based projects are chosen by the students in consultation with course instructor. Classroom seminars are used for exchange of information between teams and for discussion of readings pertinent to individual research projects or, more broadly, to the interdisciplinary character of environmental problem-solving. Each team produces a major paper that examines ethical and natural- and social-science aspects of the selected problems.

Prerequisite: 301 and 351 or permission of the instructor

475, 476 Experiential Learning 2 credits

477, 478 Experiential Learning

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the “Curricula” section of this catalog.

483, 484 Seminar 2 credits

485, 486 Seminar

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the “Curricula” section of this catalog.

487, 488 Topics 2 credits

489, 490 Topics

The subject matter of these courses will vary from year to year, but will not duplicate existing courses. Descriptions of these courses are available at www.stthomas.edu/registrar/onlineschedule.html.

491, 492 Research 2 credits

493, 494 Research

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the “Curricula” section of this catalog.

495, 496 Individual Study 2 credits

497, 498 Individual Study

See the description of these courses at the beginning of the “Curricula” section of this catalog.

Family Studies (FAST)

Grochowski (H&HP), director

Family Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study in which the family is the primary unit of analysis. The purpose of this minor is to enable students to critically examine the family using a variety of theories and methods. Family Studies scholars can develop understanding of business and communication dynamics, health and social concerns, and psychological and theological matters affecting families and their members. A family studies minor is flexible and multidisciplinary, providing for both broad exposure and disciplinary integration. This minor provides preparation for advanced study in family studies and the allied fields, as well as professional work in organizations focusing on families.

No more than eight credits may be taken from a single major field. Students interested in a minor in Family Studies should meet with the director.

Minor in Family Studies

400 Family Studies Seminar

Plus one of:

PSY 288 Psychology of Marriage and the Family

SOC 321 Marriage and the Family

Plus three of:

COMM 425 Family Communication

ENTR 349 Family Business Management

FAST 495, 496 Individual Study (2 credits)

FAST 497, 498 Individual Study

HIST 345 Family and Women in Chinese History

HLTH 462 Human Sexuality Education

PSY 200 Psychology of Infancy and Childhood

PSY 203 Psychology of Adolescence

PSY 204 The Psychology of Adulthood and Aging

PSY 288 Psychology of Marriage and the Family

SOWK 210 Relationship, Intimacy, and Sexuality

SOC 303 Aging and the Lifecourse

SOC 304 Adolescence in Society

SOC 321 Marriage and the Family

THEO 315 Christian Marriage