Environmental Studies

Website: Environmental Studies (https://new.sewanee.edu/programs-of-study/environmental-studies/)

The expansive curriculum of the environmental studies program—including natural and social sciences as well as the humanities and fine arts—offers students multiple pathways to appreciating the ecological complexity and wonder of the earth we inhabit. The program’s spread of curricular options enables majors to develop not only depth of exposure to certain fields and methodologies of study, but also cross-disciplinary breadth of understanding. This broad-gauged outlook is crucial for graduates looking to address the inherently interdisciplinary challenges of environmental study in today’s world.

A major asset of the Environmental Studies program at Sewanee is the unparalleled opportunity for field study available throughout the University’s 13,000-acre land-base, commonly known as “the Domain,” and its ‘living laboratory’ for inquiry. This extensive tract includes extensive woodlands, lakes, trails, caves, and bluffs that surround the central campus and encompass the residential village of Sewanee.

Faculty

Professors: Bachman, Brown, Dale, Durig, Evans, Haskell, Knoll (Chair), Kuers, Malde, McGrath, Michael, S. Miller, Peters, Pond, Ray, K. Smith, Torreano, Willis, Zigler

Associate Professors: Cecala, Elrod, Levine, Sherwood, Shibata

Assistant Professors: Carter, Turner

Majors

The College of Arts and Sciences offers three majors focused on the environment:

- Environmental Arts and Humanities (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/environmental-studies/environmental_arts_and_humanities_major/) (offered through the Environmental Studies Program)
- Environment and Sustainability (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/earth-environmental-systems/environment-sustainability-major/) (offered through the Department of Earth and Environmental Systems)
- Natural Resources and the Environment (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/earth-environmental-systems/natural-resources-environment-major/) (offered through the Department of Earth and Environmental Systems)

Minors

The College of Arts and Sciences offers two minors focused on the environment:

- Environmental Studies (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/earth-environmental-systems/environmental-studies-minor/) (offered through the Department of Earth and Environmental Systems)
- Religion and Environment (http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/departments-interdisciplinary-programs/environmental-studies/religion_and_environment_minor/) (offered through the Environmental Studies Program)

Certificate

The certificate of curricular study in watershed science is designed for students interested in gaining a better understanding of the interactions among the physical, chemical, and biological factors that affect our watersheds and wetlands. Students pursuing the certificate take a range of courses that focus on water resources and watershed science. In addition to hydrology, students take at least one half-course in applied watershed science, and choose additional watershed science courses from a list that contains offerings in a variety of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, forestry, geology, and environmental studies. Each student completes the certificate with the watershed science capstone course, a multidisciplinary, project oriented course in which students address issues related to two or more of the following topic areas: the interaction of biological processes and watershed function, chemical processes in streams and watersheds, the relationship between forested landscapes and hydrologic systems, or geological processes in terrestrial aquatic systems. The capstone project may be a semester project created solely for the capstone, or may begin as a watershed-related summer internship project that is further developed by the student during an academic semester.

Students who obtain the certificate will be better prepared to pursue graduate training in watershed science and other hydrologic disciplines, or to begin careers associated with watershed science and management.

Students deciding to pursue the certificate should contact one of the faculty members of the Watershed Science Certificate Organizing Committee to develop his or her study plan. The organizing committee is also available to help a student identify his or her area of
emphasis and primary faculty supervisor for the ESCI 430; together the student and primary supervisor identify the second discipline and arrange to work with a faculty member in that area.

**Requirements for the Certificate in Watershed Science**

The certificate of curricular study requires successful completion of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESCI 430</td>
<td>Watershed Science Capstone</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS/GEOL 314</td>
<td>Hydrology (Lab)</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCI 444</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORS 260</td>
<td>Forest Watershed Measurements</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOL 315</td>
<td>Watershed Contaminant Hydrology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 12 hours from the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 210</td>
<td>Ecology (Lab)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 237</td>
<td>Freshwater Biology (Lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENST 217</td>
<td>Fundamentals of GIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENST 235</td>
<td>Freshwater Conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENST 317</td>
<td>Advanced Applications of GIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCI 240</td>
<td>Island Ecology (Lab)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 215</td>
<td>Fisheries Ecology and Management (Lab)</td>
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<td>FORS 262</td>
<td>Forest and Watershed Restoration (Lab)</td>
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<td>FORS 270</td>
<td>Water Resource Policy and Law</td>
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<td>FORS 303</td>
<td>Soils (Lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORS 305</td>
<td>Forest Ecology (Lab)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOL 303</td>
<td>Soils (Lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Semester Hours</td>
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**Off-Campus Study**

**Island Ecology Program**

The Island Ecology Program is an interdisciplinary summer field school in the sciences. Following a seminar during the Easter (spring) semester, students study geological, biological, and broadly ecological topics for five weeks on St. Catherines Island, an undeveloped barrier island off the coast of Georgia. The experience emphasizes the interdependence of these disciplines by exploring how the fragile ecosystem of the island functions. The program is limited to ten Sewanee students but is open to non-science as well as science majors. Four faculty members from two departments teach in the program each spring and summer.

**Courses**

**Environmental Science Courses**

Courses with the ESCI designation are interdisciplinary in nature, focus on environmental sciences, and do not otherwise fit into one of Sewanee’s traditional science disciplines. ESCI courses differ from Environmental Studies courses (ENST) in that the major focus is on environmental science and scientific methodology. Interdisciplinary non-science aspects of the environment, which are often central to ENST courses, play a more minor role in ESCI courses.

**ESCI 205   ** Landscape Ecology (4)

This interdisciplinary field course combines the study of geology, oceanography, marine biology, botany, and wildlife behavior in a single coastal island ecosystem. **Prerequisite: Only open to students who have completed ENST 140 and been admitted to the Island Ecology program.**

**ESCI 240   ** Island Ecology (Lab) (8)

**ESCI 310   ** Oceanography (4)

A multi-disciplinary exploration of the ocean’s diversity of dynamics, habitats, and organisms, with an emphasis on the complex processes that connect them. Foundational principles, methods and technology, and the latest progress in the marine sciences are covered. **Prerequisite: ENST 209.**
ENST 209  Ecosystems of the Ocean  (4)
As an introduction to the geologic, physical, chemical, and biological processes of the world’s ocean, this course emphasizes its complex relationships with human cultures. Students in this course engage with a mix of readings from scientific journals, textbooks, and classic literature while conducting their own scientific reviews to pursue questions at the frontiers of ocean sciences.

ENST 207  Introduction to Modeling for Sustainability  (4)
This course explores the role of models in addressing the challenge of sustainability. Models allow us to describe and predict the behavior of people and ecosystems, to understand complex social-ecological systems, and to make informed decisions in light of uncertainty. In this class, students explore multiple types of models and how they are applied to sustainability topics through peer reviewed literature. Students learn to use multiple mental models to better understand complex systems, and are introduced to quantitative modeling in the programming platform R.

ENST 205  Environmental Writing in Digital Media  (4)
As an introduction to the geologic, physical, chemical, and biological processes of the world’s ocean, this course emphasizes its complex relationships with human cultures. Students in this course engage with a mix of readings from scientific journals, textbooks, and classic literature while conducting their own scientific reviews to pursue questions at the frontiers of ocean sciences.
ENST 211 Sustainability and Global Environmental Change Seminar (2)
This seminar-style course exposes students to literature on a variety of issues related to climate change and other examples of our dynamic global environment including natural resource use and natural hazards. Prerequisite: Only open to students who have been admitted to the Global Environmental Change Field Studies Program.

ENST 212 Sustainability and Global Environmental Change Field Studies (2)
This course is an interdisciplinary field immersion into a selected location that provides tangible experience of the concepts introduced in ENST 211. Students travel throughout the field site, exploring real-world examples of sustainability efforts in the context of our changing global environment. Concepts of sustainability, climate change, natural resource use, and natural hazards will be explored in the field context. Field sites may change from year to year. Prerequisite: Only open to students who have been admitted to the Global Environmental Change Field Studies Program.

ENST 217 Fundamentals of GIS (4)
An introduction to the basic concepts and applications of geographic information systems (GIS). Topics include geographic data acquisition, data management, cartography, and methods of geospatial analysis. Laboratory exercises and projects focus on applications of GIS in understanding and managing the environment. Laboratory course.

ENST 230 Native Americans and Land Use (4)
An introduction to the past and current distribution of Native American tribes in the Americas, with a particular emphasis on North America. This course will focus on the current literature regarding past land use as well as the hunting practices of the various tribes and how those practices have changed today.

ENST 235 Freshwater Conservation (4)
A survey of existing and emerging threats to wetland ecosystems and the consequences for animal and human populations. This course discusses causes, consequences, and solutions for issues of international and local concern based on an understanding of freshwater ecology and function. Also considers multiple perspectives on water use and attempts to reconcile these differences so as to identify and publicize potential conservation solutions. Prerequisite: BIOL 130 or ENST 101 or FORS 121.

ENST 241 Sustain Leaders Seminar I (2)
In the first of two seminars for Sustain Leaders, students prepare for the Sustain Leaders program by developing their chosen projects and practicing the skills necessary to serve as effective, principled leaders in sustainability. Discussion focuses on topics related to student projects in the context of the current sustainability environment with an emphasis on real-world developments, issues, and outcomes. The course also examines leading best practices and leadership strategies in the field of sustainability. Students will practice effective planning, project management, and presentation skills as well as verbal and written communication skills through independent and collaborative work on their projects. Prerequisite: Only open to students admitted to the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability’s Sustain Leaders Program.

ENST 242 Sustain Leaders Seminar II (2)
This seminar is designed to complement ENST 241. Students will continue the development and finalization of proposed projects that were initiated in ENST 241 and continue exploring sustainability studies topics related to project development. Prerequisite: ENST 241.

ENST 250 Environmental and Biological Non-Fiction (4)
An examination of contemporary intersections among literature, journalism, biological science, and the study of the environment, supplemented by readings of nineteenth- and twentieth-century antecedents. Assignments allow students to develop their own writing abilities in these areas. Consideration is also given to the relationships among non-fiction, fiction, and other forms of creative expression.

ENST 252 Writing for the Earth Sciences (4)
Science doesn’t exist in a bubble! This course aims to make students more comfortable writing about scientific topics for a wide range of target audiences. Topics will include: the anatomy of a scientific paper, understanding peer review, the effective use of statistics and visual aids, writing at the intersection of science and policy, effective scientific outreach and its impact on scientific literacy, communication in the digital age, and effectively describing research experiences in the context of applying to jobs and/or graduate programs.

ENST 263 Photography for Environmental and Social Impact (4)
This course explores the ways in which environmental and social issues influence the economic, political, and cultural aspects of communities. Through interdisciplinary approaches with photography, students consider how an understanding of environmental and social relationships can lead to resilient, innovative communities and to community-based action. Prerequisite or Corequisite: ART 263 or ART 363.

ENST 304 Community Development and Place in Rural Appalachia (4)
Focusing on the rural counties of the Cumberland Plateau near Sewanee, this course explores environmental, cultural, historical, and political narratives that define the people and places of rural Appalachia. Economic and community development are examined not only through the literature on these topics but also through hands-on, applied learning in partnership with local communities, organizations, institutions, and leaders.
ENST 305  Ecological Integrity in Agriculture (4)
This course develops a critique of problems and solutions relating to agricultural technology, policy, and practice with a specific focus on ecology and ecological integrity. The course begins with a brief survey of agricultural history, through the era of modern food systems, with emphasis on the development of industrial agriculture. After evaluating the environmental impact of modern agriculture, the course addresses the foundations of sustainability, with specific reference to the ecology of sustainable agriculture. Field opportunities are provided for students to interact with local producers on their farms and to engage directly the ecological processes involved in food production on the Domain. Prerequisite: BIOL 130.

ENST 306  Ecosystem Services (4)
This course explores the myriad benefits that people derive from nature from an interdisciplinary perspective drawing on the natural and social sciences. In this course, students learn about the theory and measurement of ecosystem services through the peer-reviewed literature. Students will apply theory and skills in ecosystem service quantification to an engagement project with a community partner. Prerequisite: BIOL 130 or ENST 101 or ECON 101 or PHIL 230.

ENST 317  Advanced Applications of GIS (4)
This course uses spatial analysis methods for environmental analysis and management. Topics include remote sensing and image analysis, surface analysis, spatial statistics, internet mapping, visualization of geographic data, and other advanced GIS methods. Prerequisite: ENST 217.

ENST 320  Environment and Sustainability Colloquium (4)
This required course for junior environment and sustainability majors addresses some topical themes from an interdisciplinary perspective and with focus on the connections between science and policy. Colloquium themes vary from year to year, and students present relevant research articles and lead discussions with emphasis on developing skill in public speaking. Students also work with course instructors and faculty mentor(s) to propose a research project to be completed as part of their senior environment and sustainability capstone. Open only to juniors pursuing majors in environment and sustainability. Prerequisite: ENST 101 and completion of the foundational science requirement in major.

ENST 325  Environmental Arts and Humanities Seminar (4)
Required for junior Environmental Arts and Humanities majors, this course introduces students to noteworthy contemporary works in the fields of environmental arts and humanities, with a special emphasis on interdisciplinary sources. Students work on in-depth projects of their own in collaboration with environmental arts and humanities faculty, complete a proposal for their senior capstone project, and engage in substantive peer evaluation and critique. Open only to juniors pursuing majors in Environmental Arts and Humanities. Open only to juniors pursuing majors in environmental arts and humanities. Prerequisite: ENST 101.

ENST 334  Environmental Policy and Law (4)
This course combines the study of public policy with the study of major environmental problems. Students will explore public policy concepts and the instruments used in environmental regulation. Topics will include air and water quality issues, hazardous waste and risk management, natural resources and biological diversity. The course will also discuss the impact of environmental groups and citizen activism on this highly complex area of public policy. Not open for credit to students who have completed POLS 334. Prerequisite: ENST 101 or ENST 200.

ENST 336  Environmental Land-Use Policy (4)
This course examines the complex systems and values influencing land-use decision-making in both rural and urban settings throughout the U.S. and abroad. Students learn how government agencies and local citizens often conflict in their attitudes and values regarding the costs and benefits of growth and development. Particular attention is paid to forest conversion issues on the South Cumberland Plateau. Students attend local planning sessions and meetings with local officials. Prerequisite: ENST 101 or ENST 200.

ENST 350  ’Nature’ Writing (4)
An exploration of the literature of ’nature.’ Students interrogate ideas of nature and investigate literary responses to these ideas. Readings for the class include works from multiple cultural perspectives, including texts by writers for whom the idea of nature is alien or oppressive.

ENST 351  Field Studies in ’Nature’ Writing (4)
Students conduct experiments in writing and critique, informed by contemplative engagement with the community of life on the University’s land. Prerequisite: ENST 350.

ENST 399  Special Topics (4)
A seminar on a topic related to environmental studies. This course may be repeated for credit when the topic differs.

ENST 400  Environmental Arts and Humanities Capstone (4)
A capstone experience for Environmental Arts and Humanities majors. An examination of selected environmental issues from a variety of perspectives in the natural and social sciences and humanities. Special emphasis on student research on the Domain and in the region. Open only to seniors.

ENST 421  Environment and Sustainability Capstone (4)
This course provides a capstone experience for the Environment and Sustainability major. Major components include independent student research projects and an examination of selected environmental issues from a variety of perspectives in the natural and social sciences. Open only to seniors pursuing majors in environment and sustainability. Prerequisite: ENST 320.
ENST 431  Practicum in Religion and Environment (2)
This course, which calls for involvement in some faith-based or otherwise engaged form of appropriate activity or service, offers students a capstone opportunity to examine their spiritual experiences and religious beliefs in the context of active engagement with environmental issues in a variety of ways. Reflection on the engagement experience, expressed both in written form and through oral presentation, is required. Open only to juniors or seniors pursuing minors in religion and the environment. Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.

ENST 444  Independent Study (2 or 4)
An opportunity for students to explore a topic of interest in an independent or directed manner. Prerequisite: Instructor prerequisite override required.