American Public University System
American Military University | American Public University

EVSP498

Course Summary

Course : EVSP498 **Title :** Senior Seminar in Environmental Science
Length of Course : 8 **Faculty :**
Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description:

Analyses of specific issues will be conducted that will include a review of federal environmental organizations, regulations, and their integration with policy making and decision-making. Students will review and analyze the environmental problem solving process with consideration for the economic, social, and security implications of these decisions on national and global scales. This capstone course will provide students with the opportunity to complete an approved academic research exercise that demonstrates their knowledge of their selected field of study. This is a capstone course to be taken after all other Environmental Studies courses have been satisfactorily completed.

Course Scope:

This course will serve as the culmination of the concepts learned throughout the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science program. The issues presented, discussed, and analyzed will be those most students will encounter as they enter their respective fields and careers. Students will utilize critical thinking skills, formal writing skills, and presentation skills to express their scientifically-based arguments through research, discussion forums, and assignments.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-2 Examine the role of environmental activism and its relationship to environmental policy at the national and global levels.

LO-3 Explain the evolution of nonprofit and stakeholder participation and litigation as means to effect change in the field of environmental science.

LO-4 Analyze political influences on environmental policy and law.

LO-5 Formulate strategies to address contemporary issues in environmental science.

LO-6 Interpret current scientific literature.

LO-7 Demonstrate proficiency in conducting on-line research.

Outline

Week 1: Chemicals in the Environment

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-2 Examine the role of environmental activism and its relationship to environmental policy at the national and global levels.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 1

Book Selection

Week 2: Climate Change

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-4 Analyze political influences on environmental policy and law.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 2

Getting Started with the Critical Review Project

Week 3: Economics & Ecosystem Services

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-3 Explain the evolution of nonprofit and stakeholder participation and litigation as means to effect change in the field of environmental science.

LO-6 Interpret current scientific literature.

LO-7 Demonstrate proficiency in conducting on-line research.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 3

Annotated Bibliography

Week 4: Biodiversity & Restoration

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-5 Formulate strategies to address contemporary issues in environmental science.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 4

Outline

Week 5: Fossil Fuels

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-4 Analyze political influences on environmental policy and law.

LO-6 Interpret current scientific literature.

LO-7 Demonstrate proficiency in conducting on-line research.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 5

Week 6: Alternative Energy

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-4 Analyze political influences on environmental policy and law.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 6

Presentation

Week 7: Conservation & Management

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-5 Formulate strategies to address contemporary issues in environmental science.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 7

Professional Interview

Week 8: Emerging Topics

Learning Outcomes

LO-1 Analyze fundamental theories and philosophies of environmental science and policy.

LO-6 Interpret current scientific literature.

LO-7 Demonstrate proficiency in conducting on-line research.

Weekly Readings
Assignments

Forum 8

Final Critical Review

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forums	24.00 %
Forum 1	3.00 %
Forum 2	3.00 %
Forum 3	3.00 %
Forum 4	3.00 %
Forum 5	3.00 %
Forum 6	3.00 %
Forum 7	3.00 %
Forum 8	3.00 %
CriticalReview	50.00 %
Book Selection	2.50 %
Getting Started with the Critical Review Project	5.00 %
Annotated Bibliography	10.00 %
Outline	12.50 %
Final Critical Review	20.00 %
ProfessionalInterview	13.00 %
Professional Interview	13.00 %
Presentation	13.00 %
Presentation	13.00 %

Materials

Book Title: Silent Spring - e-book available in the APUS Online Library

Author: Carson, Rachel

Publication Info: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

ISBN: 9780618249060

Book Title: To find the library e-book(s) req'd for your course, please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php to locate the eReserve by course #. You must be logged in to eCampus first to access the links.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Required Readings

See the Lessons section of the classroom for additional readings and weekly lecture notes

Additional Resources: Please go to the program guides in the APUS Library for additional resources:

- Environmental Science: http://apus.libguides.com/environmental_science

Software Requirements

- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint) - American Public University System provides Microsoft Office 365 to AMU/APU students and faculty at no cost
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to

exceed 5 days.

- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.