

ES1: Introduction to Environmental Studies, Summer 2024

Section 51Z CRN 13365

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Zoom Office Hours: T.Th 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM <https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/91009841087>

This class is 100% online with no set lecture meeting time

Course Description

This class is an introductory study of environmental issues, their underlying causes, and potential solutions from an interdisciplinary perspective, considering science, history, culture, philosophy, and ethics, law and regulation, politics, economics, and management practices. Topics include current environmental issues related to nature/wildlife preservation, natural resource use and conservation, pollution control and prevention, and energy use and climate change. Students learn how their personal and career choices and actions can protect nature, conserve natural resources, prevent pollution, reduce energy demands and decrease climate change impacts for the benefits of current and future generations.

Although you will see some overlap, note that this Environmental Studies class is different from the Environmental Sciences class that some of you have taken with me in the past. Environmental Science is a component of environmental studies that deals with the scientific basis of environmental problems and using the tools of scientific approaches to draw objective results and conclusions that are independent of activism. Environmental Studies, on the other hand, will equip you with the necessary interdisciplinary tools for taking actions.

As we all know, the environmental problems we face today are extraordinarily complex. There are no easy explanations for how they emerged, or simple solutions for how to fix them. This does not mean that they are unsolvable. Consider this course as your invitation to be part of the solution to this complex issue. Through active learning that involves critical readings, discussions, role play, games, videos, and small individual and group projects, all carried out online, you will gain critical thinking skills regarding the current environmental issues we face. You will become familiar with our impacts on the environment and how the different components of the environment interconnect with each other. Most importantly, you will be equipped with the information that you need to decide on the actions you will take going forward to combat the degradation of your environment.

Course Materials

Zero Cost Textbook: You do not need to buy any textbook for this course. All reading materials are freely supplied electronically on canvas. Note that in this class, you are required to read the assigned reading materials **for each module** (more on this later).

Technology requirements: This course is 100% online using our college Canvas and the integrated Zoom application. Office hours are held through zoom meetings. It is important that you have the necessary system requirements for Canvas and Zoom to operate correctly. Students must have regular access to a Windows or Mac computer (not just a phone or a tablet) with a reliable Internet connection and access to the Web. Students will also need access to Microsoft Office (or the comparable free Google suite of products) and Adobe Reader.

Communication: I will communicate through class emails and canvas announcements. Please thoroughly read (NOT SKIM) these communications. I wouldn't have sent them unless they are important. Additionally, I might have the need to communicate with you individually. When needed, zoom meeting invitations will be emailed individually. Please check your inbox regularly, check your SPAM folder and make sure that you don't miss any of my communiques. Feel free to email me whenever you have a question or a concern. I respond to emails as soon as possible but given the volume of emails I receive daily; email turnaround should be expected within 24 hours on weekdays and 24-48 hours on the weekends. If you have not received a response from me within these set times, please re-send your email again with a "re-sending" mention on the subject line.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Examine, analyze, and demonstrate an understanding of the impact associated with human interaction with the environment based on interdisciplinary factors such as worldviews, cultures, politics, history, ethics, laws and regulations, economics, and management principles.
- 2) Demonstrate a coherent understanding of environmental issues, their underlying causes, and potential solutions from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Course Objectives

In this class, we will aim to:

- A. Examine environmental studies as an interdisciplinary field, considering science, history, culture, philosophy and ethics, law and regulation, politics, economics, and management practices.
- B. Assess and apply environmental and ecological concepts to modern life and a technologically based society
- C. Assess and explore the career opportunities in environmental studies field
- D. Analyze the history of human use and exploitation of the earth's natural resources
- E. Examine the relationship between resource degradation and the changing role of humans in society
- F. Compare and contrast the history of land use ethics in Western versus non-Western cultures
- G. Explore the impact of the industrial revolution and other technological advances on the human relationship with nature
- H. Evaluate the effects of the environmental movement in the United States and the world, including key individuals in environmental history.
- I. Assess the political system within the United States and its relationship to environmental degradation including federal and state regulatory agencies and environmental laws
- J. Analyze how ethics, politics and the current economic system within the United States has influenced environmental policies, laws, and regulations
- K. Assess the relationship between environmental degradation and poverty and how it potentially can be addressed
- L. Examine and describe the United States' natural resources including protected lands (parks, forests, and wildlife refuges)
- M. Assess and explore the current status of the world's natural resources and the impact on those resources due to human population growth.
- N. Examine the basic science of climate change/global warming

Important dates to know for this quarter *

Last day to drop with refund:	07/03/24
Last day to add:	07/08/24
Last day to drop without a 'W':	07/03/24
Last day to drop:	07/31/24

*Please make sure to verify these dates on your own.

- Deadlines are posted on the Academic Calendar at deanza.edu/calendar
- Procedures for dropping a class are posted at deanza.edu/apply-and-register/register/add_drop
- Procedures for requesting Pass/No Pass are posted at deanza.edu/apply-and-register/register/passnopass
- Grade definitions and policies are posted at deanza.edu/policies/grades

You can reach out to Nazy Galoyan, Dean of Admissions and Records (A&R) at galoyannazy@fhda.edu if you have any specific A&R questions.

Course Management

This online class is using the De Anza College's Canvas system. You will need your De Anza My Portal's credentials to log in to the college's canvas system and access the course. Our canvas site for this quarter is called **Su24 ES D001 Intro Environ** and it is organized in modules. Start each module by reading the module overview that explains the module's objectives and the To-Do list for that module. It is also essential that you access our class canvas for announcements, assignments, discussions, and your grades. Please note that you will receive a failing grade "F" if my record shows that you have not accessed our class's Canvas for more than a week at any stage of the quarter without valid reasons communicated and discussed with me. You can (should) put the canvas app on your smartphones to keep up with Announcements and your grades. HOWEVER, please do not submit assignments via your phone. If you really must submit your assignments using your phone, it is important to double or even triple-check that canvas accepted your phone submission. Note that only assignments successfully submitted on canvas will be counted. Please do not email me your assignments. Contact me right away if you have any problems with submitting your work on canvas.

The college has put together a comprehensive orientation resources that will help you get acquainted with the distance learning tools we use at De Anza College. I will require that everyone complete this orientation by the end of the first week of class (Check the To Do List on the first Week Module on Canvas). The resource page is found at <https://deanza.instructure.com/courses/3382> Once you are in the resource page, make sure to view and read the "Canvas Student Guide", the "Zoom Guides" (I will use "Zoom outside of Canvas" for office hours in this class), the "Quest for online Success" and the "Online Education Center Orientation".

Essential information

Every aspiring environmentalist must possess strong teamwork skills. In this online class, you'll undergo training and assessment to enhance your ability to collaborate effectively. At the beginning of the semester, I'll assign you to a group. Your group members will be your collaborators throughout various activities, including discussions, presentations, quizzes, and study sessions aimed at exam preparation.

To facilitate collaboration, your group has been provided with a fully functional group canvas site within the class canvas platform. This site is dedicated to communication and collaboration, offering features like announcements, chats, and discussions tailored to your group's needs. Please note that I monitor your group page to gauge interaction and participation levels. I highly encourage your group to utilize the available collaboration tools for group projects, such as creating shared documents for collective input. Your contribution to group assignments constitutes approximately 40% of your overall class performance.

Additionally, regular access to canvas is essential, as it hosts lectures, videos, assignments, handouts, case studies, quizzes, and exams. The college recommends dedicating at least 3 hours per unit per week to any class, amounting to a minimum of 12 hours weekly for this 4-unit class. Active participation in online discussions and teamwork is obligatory.

The class follows a weekly module format, with new modules opening each Sunday at 12 am, accompanied by an announcement detailing the week's tasks. It's crucial to enable all notifications on canvas and check your email regularly for important updates. Please inform me promptly if you encounter any difficulties or require assistance.

My virtual lectures comprise various media, including texts, videos, PowerPoint slides, and shared screens with whiteboard features, all accessible on canvas. Some materials, including videos, are accessible through the De Anza College Library catalogue and may require your college credentials. Reach out to me or our College librarians for assistance with accessing these resources.

Assessments

In this online course, you will be required to accomplish meaningful activities and assignments, including watching videos, listening to podcasts, experiential learning in your own community, and more. **Assignments will fall into one of the following categories:**

1. **Information Literacy/Assignments:** You will be asked to write your reflections on background information sourced from videos, podcasts, assigned readings or news.

2. **Discussions:** Discussions are the place where you all can engage with one another. Engaging with one another in meaningful discussions are necessary for success in this class. It is also an opportunity where you built a community, which is important for your success, for this class and for the world at large.
3. **Team Projects:** We will do team projects that will culminate in recorded video presentations and peer review to engage in academic discourse around selected topics. These are fun activities where your group will explore an assigned topic, become an expert, and educate the whole class on the importance of your topic.
4. **Final Assessment as a Class Project:** At the end of the quarter, you will complete a project-based assignment to exhibit your understanding of the course concepts, in lieu of a traditional Final exam. Throughout the quarter, you will explore some of the environmental issues we are currently faced with, so that you can educate others about them. In your final assessment in this class, you will complete a project-based assignment that will be in a creative sharable format of your choice (e.g. poster/video/podcast/StoryMap, etc) to educate the general public. It will not be an essay since essays can hardly reach the general public, unfortunately. More guidance and check ins on the Final Assessment will be carried out each new week but you can already start thinking about some topics or activities that you would be interested in exploring more, become an expert of and educate the general public on. There is a copy of the class project instructions posted under the orientation module to get you started. Note that **You cannot pass the course without completing the final Assessment. This assignment is an individual assignment, not a group assignment.**
5. **Ecological Footprint Assignment:** This assignment (25 points) is designed to challenge you to look at your own personal use of our planet's resources and the resulting impact you have on the environment. Here is the website that will get you started with this activity <https://www.footprintcalculator.org>. This assignment will form the basis of your journal entries. Further details will be given in class.
6. **Environmental Journal:** You will be required to keep track of an environmental journal in this class. You will do a total of six weekly entries this quarter. There are two major sections needed for each journal entry. The first section is where you keep track of your "life change" goal(s) based on your ecological footprint. The second section of each journal entry is the part where you follow the weekly change of a living plant of your choice. The "**Life Change**" part of your journal entry should include at least three paragraphs. The first paragraph is a description of your goal(s) for that week. The second paragraph should discuss and reflect on the activities you did to achieve your goal(s). The last paragraph should be a detailed description of your plan for next week. The second section of your journal is called "**Plant Phenology**". In this activity, you will choose a plant and keep track of its weekly changes. You will record if it has more leaves, flowers, fruits, changed in color or in general appearance. In addition to the description of changes, you also need to include weekly pictures of your plant. Additional instructions regarding your environmental journal will be given in class (see detailed schedule on canvas). Example journal entries from former students are also posted on canvas to give you some ideas on the format and content of the journal entries.
7. **Extra Credit Opportunities:** I am offering extra credits for a variety of activities that you may want to get involved with. This includes volunteering work that you do with the college, the Kirsch Center, the ESA (Environmental Study Area), or with your community (most community volunteering work done during the quarter will count but please discuss with me what's needed to make your community volunteering hours qualify for extra credits). Taking any tutoring or workshops offered by the Student Success Center will also qualify for extra credits. See the end of this document for more information about the Student Success Center. It is crucial that you still consider any health or social distancing policies when completing the extra credit works.

The following table recapitulates the assignments that you will need to complete this quarter. Detailed information and instructions on each of them will be given on canvas, including the deadlines.

Item	Occurrence	Points	Total	Logistics
Class Project (Final Assessment)	1	200	200	Project-based -Online delivery
Ecological Footprint	1	50	50	Read description above and on canvas. https://www.footprintcalculator.org .
Environmental. Journal Entries	6	25	150	Weekly. Read description above and on canvas.
Group InQuizitives	5	40	200	Questions are posted on canvas
Information Literacy	5	40	200	Chapter Reading/Videos/Podcast Questions
Quizzes	5	20	100	More details given on canvas.

Team Assignments	4	50	200	More details given on canvas.
Individual Final Project	1	100	100	More details given on canvas.
TOTAL			1000	

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER!

- All work must be submitted via Canvas to receive credits. **Please don't email me your assignments.**
- Double check your canvas submissions, especially if you used your phone or tablets.
- I will accept late work for partial credits. However, the final Assessment's deadline is non-negotiable because it is set by the college.
- Assignments may be excused with verifiable and documented circumstances such as doctor's notes or obituaries. You need to discuss your circumstances with me to see what documentations are needed and what options will be available for you depending on your circumstances.

GRADE	PERCENT %
A+	98.5 - 100 %
A	94.5 - 98.49%
A-	90.0 - 94.49%
B+	87.1 - 89.99%
B	83.1 - 87.0 %
B-	80.0 - 83.0%
C+	77.1 - 79.99 %
C	70.0 - 77.0 %
D+	67.1 - 69.99 %
D	63.1 - 67.0 %
D-	60.0 - 63.0 %
F	Below 60 %

Class Policies

Withdrawing: If you wish to withdraw from the course, it is **your responsibility** to do so by the withdrawal deadline. (Note: If you stop coming to class but fail to **officially withdraw**, you will still be enrolled at the end of the quarter when grades are assigned and will receive an F grade.)

Late assignments: An assignment is penalized with 10% points off each day it is late, so please submit your work on time. You can always submit late work but keep in mind that assignments that are more than 3 days late will be graded out of 70% its original worth. Non submission will receive a zero unless excused. Please discuss with me your circumstances if you are not able to submit your work on time, preferably before the due date. **For record keeping, only assignments submitted on canvas will count. Please do not email me your assignments.**

Re-grades: Quizzes, exams, homework, or any other assignment may be submitted for re- grading (e.g., if an error

was made in grading or scoring, after you received my feedback or if you need clarification or just don't agree with me) up to **one week** after the assignment is graded. Although I am always happy to discuss your work with you at any time during the quarter, once that initial week has passed, there will be no changes made in grades.

Pass/No Pass: If you wish to take this course Pass/No Pass (P/NP), you must fill out the proper forms at the Admissions Office before the posted deadline.

Disability Support Services (DSS) (<http://www.deanza.edu/dss/>) are available upon request for students with disabilities. If you have a disability-related need, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make sure that your needs are met, and you get the services you are entitled to.

Academic integrity: Please read De Anza's Academic Integrity Policy (<http://www.deanza.edu/policies/academicintegrity.html>) Each student in this course is expected to work entirely on her/his own while taking any exam/quiz, completing any assignments, and completing any work for any points in this course, unless directed otherwise by the instructor.

Students are also expected to abide by all College and Department policies regarding academic integrity and academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is not limited to simply cheating on an exam or assignment. You are responsible for understanding the policy, so please ask questions if there is any doubt!! **Students caught cheating on an assignment or exam will receive zero points for that assignment or exam.** Penalties for academic dishonesty (this includes both cheating and plagiarism) are at the **discretion of the instructor** and may include (but are not limited to): receiving a **zero** on the assignment/exam, a lowered grade in the course, being reported to the Dean of Student Affairs and, for repeated offenses, possible suspension/expulsion from the college. **Don't do it!**

Undocumented Students: I support you! De Anza College is dedicated to providing education and a safe environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status. While there is a great deal of uncertainty and concern about U.S. government policy, De Anza is reaffirming its commitment to treat all students with equity and respect. Please visit <http://www.deanza.edu/students/undoc-students.html> for up-to-date information or please feel free to reach out to me personally for support.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE:

This course will require a great deal of time management, hard work and organization. This will also be a fun and instructive class. Here are some of the important points you need to consider if you want to succeed in this course:

1. Read the text chapters assigned and watch the virtual lecture online. Take good notes. Participate and learn to work well as a team.
2. Do the study questions, quizzes and activities posted for each week and come to office hours with any questions you may have
3. Turn in assignments on time. Follow the directions.
4. Ask for help when you need it. Don't let yourself get behind. My goal is primarily to make sure that you receive a high-quality education and to help you succeed in this class. Come talk to me if you have any concerns or questions. Remember that there is no such thing as a dumb question.

Need more help with this course (or any course you take at De Anza)? Student Success Center peer tutors are also available for you!

- **Tutoring:** Go to the [SSC homepage](#) and click on the yellow link to join *SSC Resources Canvas*. Once there, click on Modules, then the SSC area for your course to see SSC Zoom tutoring links and schedules.
- **Workshops, group tutoring and group study:** See SSC Resources for current schedules and links. Most people learn better with others...give it a try!

- **Support for online learning:** Speak with a friendly peer tutor or SSC staff member about motivation and organization strategies for online classes. We get it and are going through the same things, so let's support each other!
- **Need after-hours or weekend tutoring?** See the [Online Tutoring](#) page for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking (via MyPortal).

Please note that my job is to help you to learn as much as you can. The ultimate responsibility for learning, however, is yours! So.....come to our virtual class, ask questions, be involved, read, study, and most of all.....(try to) HAVE FUN!

Lecture and Assignment Schedules (subject to change, current as of 06/23/23)

Week (Module #)	Date	Topic	Assignments Due (See exact due date and detailed instructions on Canvas)
#1	01 Jul – 07 Jul	Introduction to ES1, The big picture: Ecological Footprint, History of Environmentalism, Interconnectedness of the environment	Quiz 1 Group Inquizitive 1 Ecological Footprint Reflection
#2	08 Jul - 14 Jul	Climate Change: A Burning Question Video : Propaganda, Denial, Misconception, Misinformation, and the Science behind Climate change	Quiz 2 Group Inquizitive 2 First Journal Entry Class Project Check in #1
#3	15 Jul - 21 Jul	Natural Resources: Agriculture and Land, Air and Water Pollution, Biodiversity, Human Population and Habitat Destruction	Quiz 3 Group Inquizitive 3 Second Journal Entry Environmental Issues Presentations Class Project Check in #2
#4	22 Jul - 28 Jul	Energy and Civilization: Non-renewable and renewable energy.	Quiz 4 Group Inquizitive 4 Third Journal Entry Class Project Check in #3
#5	29 Jul - 04 Aug	Environmental Law and Environmental Justice	Quiz 5 Group Inquizitive 5 Fourth Journal Entry Energy Literacy Presentations Class Project Check in #4 & Peer Review
#6	05 Aug- 09 Aug	The way forward: Tomorrow's World and Activism. Wrap up and Final Assessment	Final Journal Entry Final Class Project Due Final Assessment