

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Dr. Andrew B. Kirkpatrick , Director

McMurran Hall 359D

(757) 594-7269

andrew.kirkpatrick@cnu.edu

Mission Statement

Departments from each of the University's three colleges are committed to providing effective responses to contemporary environmental challenges. This is a complex undertaking precisely because these challenges operate at the intersection of physical, biological and cultural systems. Impactful solutions require an interdisciplinary understanding of phenomena operating across these systems.

Overview

The environmental studies major is designed to integrate diverse perspectives in the liberal arts and sciences curriculum in order to provide the academic breadth necessary for an enhanced and detailed understanding of the environmental issues that are profoundly altering biotic and social systems across the planet. All environmental studies majors will be equipped to critically analyze policy statements and public discourse regarding the environment. In addition, research methodologies and environmental theory will form the basis for student investigations. Students graduating with a major in environmental studies will be well placed for employment in the public or private sectors, or, alternatively, possess an integrated foundation which will serve them well in graduate school. Environmental studies majors will leave CNU with an expertise that is becoming more crucial to civic engagement as we progress through the current millennium.

Program Objectives:

1. To provide an opportunity for students to understand and access the complexity of environmental challenges from an interdisciplinary perspective and to design and implement solutions to these challenges.
2. To provide courses and course-project activities that are oriented toward offering policy options and other potential solutions to decision makers at the university, community, state, federal and international levels.
3. To offer a program that will document the student's sustained commitment to the interdisciplinary study of the environment.

Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Environmental Studies Major

Environmental studies majors are required to complete courses across numerous disciplines. In addition to successfully completing the liberal learning curriculum, the following courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher:

1. BIOL 212/212L
2. CHEM 103 OR 121
3. CHEM 111L
4. ECON 203
5. EVST 220
6. LDSP 250
7. MATH 125
8. ENGL 393
9. GOVT 371W
10. PHIL 376
11. Select four courses (12 credits) from the designated list of approved electives, with no more than six credits from the same discipline. Special topics and other courses may be approved by the director.
12. IDST 490, including successful completion and presentation of a research project that has been approved in advance by the director.

The Minor Program in Environmental Studies (23 credits)

The environmental studies minor is designed to integrate diverse perspectives in the liberal arts and sciences curriculum in order to provide the academic breadth necessary for an understanding of the issues that are profoundly altering biotic systems across the planet.

The minor in environmental studies requires the following courses be completed with a grade of C or higher:

1. CHEM 103 or 121
2. CHEM 111L
3. BIOL 115* or 212;
4. BIOL 109L or 212L;
5. EVST 220;
6. ECON 203;
7. ENGL 313;
8. GOVT 371W;
9. PHIL 376.

*BIOL 115 is offered as Topics in Ecology course with a focus that is dependent on the instructor each term. Permission from the environmental studies director is required prior to registering for this course.

THE CURRICULUM IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

EVST 220. Introduction to Environmental Studies (3-3-0) [formerly IDST 220, equivalent]

Spring.

This course offers an introduction to environmental issues and challenges as seen from the perspective of the arts and humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. Through study of a variety of topics and problems related to the natural environment and our relationship to it, students will gain an interdisciplinary overview of the field that will serve as a foundation for further coursework in the field. Examples of topics may include natural resources, ecology, and sustainability; environmental politics, economics and law; global climate change; and social, literary, and cultural influences on environmental thought.

EVST 395. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: EVST 220.

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty. A maximum of 12 credits in topics courses may be presented for graduation.

EVST 495. Special Topics (3-3-0)

Prerequisite: EVST 220.

Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty. A maximum of 12 credits in topics courses may be presented for graduation.

The following course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog. No more than six credits from any one discipline may be presented for the major.

Electives

ANTH 325	Food and Culture
ANTH 331	Environment, Culture and Society
CHEM 104/L	Introductory Chemistry II and lab
ECON 301	Environmental Economics
EVST 395	Topics in Environmental Studies
EVST 495	Topics in Environmental Studies
GEOG 308	Our Urban Experience
GOVT 391	International Environmental Politics
HIST 342	American Environmental History
RSTD 337	Religion and Ecology
RSTD 338	Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail
PHYS 142	Energy: Principles, Problems and Societal Impact