

Ted Toadvine, toadvine@uoregon.edu
Office: PLC 319, 346-5554 Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 MW

Course Description:

This course is the first segment of your year-long introduction to graduate environmental studies. The course has the following goals: (a) to deepen your understanding of the different disciplinary perspectives that contribute to environmental studies, including their research methods, vocabularies, and core concepts; (b) to engage you in thoughtful dialogue concerning the nature of interdisciplinarity, objectivity, and knowledge within the context of “environmental studies”; (c) to provide you with opportunities to interact with a wide range of faculty engaged in environmental research who may serve as formal or informal advisors to your ongoing studies; (d) to introduce you to professional aspects of academic work in environmental studies; and (e) to encourage significant background research toward the formulation of a concrete thesis or project proposal.

Required Texts:

Gary Paul Nabhan, *Cross-Pollinations: The Marriage of Science and Poetry* (Milkweed Editions, 2004).
Edward O. Wilson, *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge* (Alfred Knopf, 1998).
Wendell Berry, *Life Is a Miracle: An Essay Against Modern Superstition* (Counterpoint Press, 2001).
Various essays on online library reserve or available through Blackboard

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	10%
2. weekly reading questions for speakers	20%
3. two presentations & short papers on environmental concepts	30%
4. Presentation of possible thesis/project topic	10%
5. Seminar paper on possible thesis topic (10-12 pages)	30%

◦ **Class Participation/Attendance:** You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending all classes, reading all assigned material prior to class, and engaging productively in class discussion. **Missing THREE classes FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction.** An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the third. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class respectfully and professionally. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

◦ **Weekly Reading Questions for Speakers:** In advance of each speaker’s visit, prepare three questions that reflect familiarity with the assigned readings. You should expect to ask at least one of these questions during the class discussion. Your questions must be typed and will only be accepted during the class period of the speaker’s visit. The quality and thoughtfulness of your questions will be graded for 20% of your final grade.

◦ **Papers and presentations on environmental concepts:** You will complete short papers (3-4 pages with standard margins and fonts) explaining two environmental concepts and present your findings to the class in a 10-15 minute presentation for each concept. These are due on the date when your concept appears on the syllabus. Each presentation & paper combination is worth 15% of your final grade.

◦ **Thesis Topic Presentations:** During the last week of the term, each student will give a Powerpoint presentation of her or his current thoughts on potential thesis/project topics. Presentations should be around 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute question & answer period. Your presentation will be graded on content, delivery, response to questions, and professionalism, and will be worth 10% of your final grade.

◦ **Seminar Paper:** Your final seminar paper, 10-12 pages with standard font and margins, can be on any area of research relevant to your proposed thesis/project topic. Use a reference/citation system that is standard for your disciplinary area. Papers are due on the date of the final exam and are worth 30% of your final course grade.

PLEASE NOTE

- **Incompletes and extensions** will be given only in the event of documented medical emergencies.
- **Inclement Weather:** In case of inclement weather, we will plan to hold class as scheduled unless the University is officially closed. If I cannot make it to class, however, this will be announced on the Blackboard site for the course and announced by email (via Blackboard).
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Please review the university policy available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> for an explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty and how it will be dealt with in this course.
- **Disability Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability, please inform me as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Week 1	<p>September 25: Introduction to course & program</p> <p>September 27: Discuss theses, proposals, committees, defenses, course plans, posters, etc. 1:00: Visit with Juliana Kyrk, Office for the Protection of Human Subjects</p>
Week 2	<p>October 2: What is Interdisciplinarity? Reading: Nabhan, <i>Cross-Pollinations</i> Leiserowitz, "Theorizing Environmental Studies: Towards Interdisciplinarity" (blackboard)</p> <p>October 4 Reading: review recently completed master's theses Discussion (& pizza!) with current and former grad students</p>
Week 3	<p>October 9: What is Environmental Studies? Reading: Soulé & Press, "What is Environmental Studies?" (online reserve) Maniates & Whissel, "Environmental Studies: The Sky is not Falling" (online reserve) Foster, "What Price Interdisciplinarity?" (blackboard)</p> <p>October 11: The Problem of Advocacy Reading: Hale, "What is Activist Research?" (online reserve) "The Ecology-Policy Interface" (online reserve) Naess, "Intrinsic Value: Will the Defenders of Nature Please Rise?" (online reserve)</p>
Week 4	<p>October 16: Class Cancelled (work on concept presentations)</p> <p>October 18 Faculty guest: Adell Amos, Law Reading: Amos, "The Application of State Instream Flow Laws to Federal Lands" (blackboard)</p> <p>Faculty Guest: Matt Dennis, History Reading: Dennis, extract from <i>Cultivating a Landscape of Peace</i> (online reserve)</p>
Week 5	<p>October 23: The Interdependence of Facts and Values Reading: Stevenson, "Is Scientific Research Value-Neutral?" (online reserve) Woodward & Goldstein, "Conduct, Misconduct, and the Structure of Science" (online reserve) Concept presentations: ecocriticism, green building</p> <p>October 25 Faculty Guest: Louise "Molly" Westling, English Reading: Westling: "Darwin in Arcadia" (blackboard)</p> <p>Faculty Guest: Brook Muller, Architecture Reading: Muller, "Catalytic Infill Ecologies: Intensifications of Language and Habitat" (blackboard)</p>

Week 6	<p>October 30: Can Knowledge be Unified? Reading: Wilson, <i>Consilience</i>, 3-163 Concept presentations: biodiversity, political ecology</p> <p>November 1 Faculty Guest: Cassandra Moseley, Institute for a Sustainable Environment Reading: “Ethnic Differences in Job Quality among Contract Forest Workers on Six National Forests” (blackboard)</p> <p>Faculty Guest: Richard York, Sociology Reading: York et al, “Footprints on the Earth” (blackboard)</p>
Week 7	<p>November 6: Can Knowledge be Unified? Reading: Wilson, <i>Consilience</i>, 164-298 Concept presentations: ecosystem, ecofeminism</p> <p>November 8 Faculty Guest: Alan Dickman, Environmental Studies & Biology Reading: McShane, “Ecosystem Health” and Kolb et al, “Concepts of Forest Health” (online reserve)</p> <p>Faculty Guest: Josh Roering, Geological Science Reading: Dietrich et al, “Geomorphic transport laws for predicting landscape form and dynamics” (blackboard)</p>
Week 8	<p>November 13: Can Knowledge be Unified? Reading: Berry, <i>Life is a Miracle</i>, 3-91 Concept presentation: landscape architecture, environmental justice</p> <p>November 15 Status Report and Discussion: Thesis topics, advisors, proposals</p> <p>Faculty Guest: John Lysaker, Philosophy Reading: Heidegger, “Memorial Lecture” (online reserve)</p>
Week 9	<p>November 20: Can Knowledge be Unified? Reading: Berry, <i>Life is a Miracle</i>, 93-153</p> <p>November 22: Faculty Guest: Scott Bridgham, Biology & Environmental Studies Reading: TBA</p> <p>Faculty Guest: David Hulse, Landscape Architecture Reading: Hulse et al, “Envisioning Alternatives: Using Citizen Guidance to Map Future Land and Water Use” (blackboard)</p>
Week 10	<p>November 27: Thesis topic presentations</p> <p>November 29: Final discussion and course evaluations</p>
	<p>Friday, December 8: <i>Final seminar papers due in ENVS office by 5:00 pm</i></p>