

ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE AND POLICY (ECS)

ECS 111. Introduction to the Earth's Ecosystem. 3 Credit Hours.

Earth's ecosystems and the interactions of humans with them. Concepts in ecology, environmental science and policy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 112. Field Problems in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 2 Credit Hours.

Problem solving in ecology and environmental management. Class projects and case studies providing experience in identifying problems, quantifying scientific issues and considering management options and outcomes. Extensive field experience.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 113. Introduction to Environmental Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Theories and case studies from various fields, including anthropology, economics, ethics, geography, political science and psychology, will be used to explore the multiple perspectives that influence group and individual perceptions of environmental issues.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 114. Social research methods for Ecosystem Science and Policy. 2 Credit Hours.

This course introduces students to critical questions and research approaches to human-dimensions of environmental problems. Class projects and case studies introduce students to a range of data collection techniques including qualitative and quantitative approaches, and challenges students to consider the strengths of different methods and potential questions of ethics and power inherent in social research.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 195. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 196. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 197. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 198. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 199. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 201. Seminar Series in Contemporary Environmental Issues I. 1 Credit Hour.

Current environmental topics involving interaction of science and policy.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 202. Seminar Series in Contemporary Environmental Issues II. 1 Credit Hour.

Current environmental topics involving interaction of science and policy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 204. Environmental Statistics. 3 Credit Hours.

An overview of parametric and nonparametric statistics with an emphasis on applications in the analysis of environmental data.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 215. Introduction to Private Urban and Suburban Green Spaces. 1 Credit Hour.

Faculty supervised research & application projects in indoor, urban, and suburban green spaces. Topics of focus include green walls, roof gardening, edible gardening, permaculture, sustainable gardening, composting & vermiculture, gardening for wildlife, and backyard ecology. No previous ecology or gardening experience required.

Components: FLD.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 232. Ecological Principles and Environmental Applications. 3 Credit Hours.

Overview of the science of ecology and its basic principles. Covers aspects of organismal ecology (including population genetics, structure, growth and regulation; adaptations and responses to the physical environment and biological communities); community ecology; and ecosystems (including energy flow, biogeochemical cycles, and biomes). Students will learn to apply ecological principles to understand and solve environmental problems.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 272. Special Topics in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 295. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

For courses taken at other institutions that have no equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 296. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

For courses taken at other institutions that have no equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 297. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

For courses taken at other institutions that have no equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 298. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

For courses taken at other institutions that have no equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 299. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-5 Credit Hours.

For courses taken at other institutions that have no equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

ECS 301. Tools for Environmental Decision-Making: The Quantitative Perspective. 3 Credit Hours.

Quantitative decision-making techniques and methodologies.

Prerequisite: ECS 111 and ECS 112. or Requisite: Plan of ECS.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 302. Perspectives on Environmental Decision Making. 3 Credit Hours.

Techniques for assessing human impacts on the environment. Covers approaches from law, ethics, anthropology and includes cases involving local, regional and global environmental management issues.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 309. Microbes and the Environment. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is designed to provide students in geology, biology and environmental science a fundamental understanding of the role microbes play in shaping the Earth and its environments as well as the basic principles and approaches to studying these interactions in both modern and ancient settings. The metabolic diversity displayed by microbial communities makes them an integral component of global elemental cycles. In this regard, microorganisms have shaped our planet over the past 4 billion years and continue to do so in a very prominent way. The goal of this course is to learn about microbial diversity and metabolism, and the ability of microbes to shape and influence the environment.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 310. Sustainable Living. 3 Credit Hours.

Sustainable Living explores ways of living that can be sustained for thousands of years, without further damage to earth, ocean and atmosphere. Topics covered include renewable energy, agricultural practices, water issues, green building, low carbon transportation and healthy living/eating. Students advocate for sustainable practices of their choice in writing and in oral/visual presentations. Frequent field trips.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 312. Environment Assessment. 3 Credit Hours.

Execution of environmental due diligence in the context of property transactions and land and water pollution in a technical, regulatory, and legal framework, including how client advocacy and regulatory detail influence project design.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 323. Population, Sustainability, and the Media. 3 Credit Hours.

Explores opposing views of population growth and environmental sustainability through the media and cinema: contrasts "Doomsters" who believe population growth and resource consumption threaten human survival and pro-growth "Boomsters" who believe human ingenuity and technology will continue to allow humankind to prosper.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 324. You & Your Microbiome. 3 Credit Hours.

Recent advances in immunology, genetic manipulation and the microbiome; consequences on emerging notions of personalized health and medications; the creation of tailored therapies against cancer; implications for cost of healthcare and politics of medicine.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 325. Hazards and Disasters: The Nature-Society Interface. 3 Credit Hours.

Borrows from themes in Geography, Urban Planning, Anthropology and Policy Studies to explore how human-environmental interactions determine the distribution, causes and consequences of natural hazards and disasters.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 332. Ecology and Land Use in the Galapagos. 3 Credit Hours.

Fundamental principles of ecology manifested on Isla Isabela will be employed to evaluate land usages including subsistence and production agriculture, animal husbandry, fuel wood and timber, and conservation with ecotourism. Habitats, flora, and fauna from the vicinity of Puerto Villamil to the rim of Volcán Sierra Negra; analysis of agricultural practices and problems of the mist zone on this volcano's southeastern flank.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 335. Biodiversity in Peru. 3 Credit Hours.

The focus is on developing skills to analyze and value the components of biodiversity, identifying its potentials and the tools to make sustainable use and conservation possible.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 337. Latin America and the Environment. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical dimensions of current environmental challenges in Latin America and examines their ecological, social, economic, and political dimensions.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 342. Decision-Making and the Environment. 3 Credit Hours.

Provides a comprehensive overview of the art and science of decision modeling in natural resources policy management. Students learn to understand and develop basic decision models, interpret the results and communicate them to non-analytical decision makers.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 345. Economics of Natural Resources and the Environment. 3 Credit Hours.

A comprehensive overview of the economics of national, international, and global environmental problems. A unifying theme throughout is sustainable development defined as "maximizing the net benefits of economic development while maintaining the services and quality of natural resources over time". We will use economic reasoning to examine causes and consequences of environmental and resource problems, and measures for dealing with them.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 352. Environmental Ethics. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical and practical issues in the field of environmental ethics.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 357. Global Food: A Hands-On Approach. 3 Credit Hours.

Application of principles of permaculture via designing and creating a small "global farm" on campus to grow perennial food crops which are unique to the South Florida environment. We learn by doing, cultivating plants that hold the solution to world hunger problems.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 360. Readings in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Supervised readings on special topics. Offered by special arrangement with a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 361. Readings in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Supervised readings on special topics. Offered by special arrangement with a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 362. Readings in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Supervised readings on special topics. Offered by special arrangement with a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 363. Readings in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Supervised readings on special topics. Offered by special arrangement with a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 371. Readings in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-2 Credit Hours.

Supervised readings on special topics. Offered by special arrangement with a faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 372. Special Topics in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 373. Topics in Ecosystem Science. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 374. Topics in Environmental Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 375. Topics in Environment and the Humanities. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 376. Topics in Environmental Communication. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 377. Topics in Environmental Economics and Development. 3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 379. Special Topics in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1 Credit Hour.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 380. Field Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

Field course to various U.S. and international regions, focusing on current and historic interactions of humans with the local environment. Includes water, land, and mineral resources as well as impacts on local ecosystems. Emphasis on current management efforts and potential impacts of climate change.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 381. Field Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

Field course to various U.S. and international regions, focusing on current and historic interactions of humans with the local environment. Includes water, land, and mineral resources as well as impacts on local ecosystems. Emphasis on current management efforts and potential impacts of climate change.

Components: FLD.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 385. Civic Engagement in the Galapagos. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is part of the UGalapagos semester held in the Galapagos and is open only to students who have been accepted by the Department of Biology. This field course offers you a rare chance to examine human interactions in a highly politicized landscape of conservation. You will learn historical development and contemporary issues of Latin America from an interdisciplinary perspective, through the cultural, political and social lens of the Galapagos

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 391. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

(Not offered: transfer credit only) Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 392. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

(Not offered: transfer credit only) Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 393. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

(Not offered: transfer credit only) Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 394. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

(Not offered: transfer credit only) Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 395. Studies in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-4 Credit Hours.

(Not offered: transfer credit only) Courses taken at other institutions but having no direct equivalents here.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 401. Internship. 3 Credit Hours.

Students selecting the internship will be required to spend a minimum of 120 contact hours working in an outside firm or agency whose mission is to address environmental issues where science and policy intersect.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 402. Thesis. 3 Credit Hours.

Individual, original research of independent study supervised by a UM faculty member and concluded by formal thesis preparation, public oral defense and submission of the thesis.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 403. Interdisciplinary Approaches. 3 Credit Hours.

Students with diverse disciplinary backgrounds will design an interdisciplinary study focused on an environmental problem with a major science component and significant societal implications. Students will apply quantitative methods, formulate usable policy, and communicate their results.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 405. Applied Research in Ecosystem Science and Policy. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Faculty-mentored applied research in environmental topics. Projects in natural ecosystems, sustainable design and business, and communication of environmental issues.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 415. Research in Private Urban and Suburban Green Spaces. 1 Credit Hour.

Faculty supervised research & application projects in indoor, urban, and suburban green spaces. Topics of focus include green walls, roof gardening, edible gardening, permaculture, sustainable gardening, composting & vermiculture, gardening for wildlife, and backyard ecology.

Requisite: ECS Major or ECS Minor or Prerequisite: ECS 215.

Components: FLD.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 432. Ecology in the Galapagos. 3 Credit Hours.

Organisms in relation to their environment, with a focus on interactive hands-on learning experiences that connect empirical nature with abstract thinking. Lectures, discussion and field work will help students begin to understand ecosystem ecology, plant dispersal and colonization, organisms' responses to spatial and temporal variability in their environments, plant/animal interactions. Origins and effects of invasive species and actions of bio-control agents.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 433. Conservation in Practice. 3 Credit Hours.

Intersection between economic development, science and conservation in one of the world's most pristine and fragile ecosystems. Exploration of how tourism offers an alternative to unsustainable fisheries that once drove the local economy, yet has created a new set of pressures on the people and the environment. Mitigation efforts, science, and international conservation mesh with an understanding of local politics, customs, and cultures.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 485. Political Ecology of the Galapagos. 3 Credit Hours.

This course is part of the UGalapagos semester held in the Galapagos and is open only to students who have been accepted by the Department of Biology. Throughout the term, you will engage in civic activities identified in consultation with the people, government and public health facilities of the small, rural village of Villamil, the sole habitation on Isla Isabella. A major aim is to nurture the mutual respect and understanding across the cultural divide that is necessary to make a difference in the civic life of a community.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 501. Interdisciplinary Environmental Theory. 3 Credit Hours.

Theoretical approaches in environmental and social science fields, including conservation biology, ecology, geography, economics, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and interdisciplinary approaches. Themes include human ecology, historical ecology, landscape ecology, environmental law and ethics, perception of risk and uncertainty, vulnerability and adaptation, and environmental valuation.

Requisite: Plan of Ecosystem Science and Policy.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 503. Interdisciplinary Environmental Methods. 3 Credit Hours.

Environmental methods related to core programmatic themes of Urban Ecology, Global Public Health, Climate and Society, Environment and the Media, Integrated Marine and Terrestrial Management, and Regulatory Regimes. The course focuses on the application of Interdisciplinary approaches and methods for addressing complex environmental problems. Students will learn to design and employ interdisciplinary approaches, using qualitative and quantitative methods and analysis, through lectures, reading assignments, discussion sessions, and assignments.

Requisite: Plan of Ecosystem Science and Policy.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 507. Interdisciplinary Environmental Decision Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.

Approaches to studying and interpreting human behavior related to a range of decision making at the level of individual, group, and firm. Multidisciplinary theories and methods informing work in the decision sciences will be covered from fields of psychology, business, economics, political science, and anthropology.

Requisite: Plan of Ecosystem Science and Policy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 515. Private Green Space Management. 3 Credit Hours.

Students plan and manage ongoing and proposed green space projects. Student managers work with supervising faculty; also organize and educate student volunteers and students concurrently enrolled in ECS 215 and 415.

Prerequisite: ECS 415.

Components: FLD.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 572. Special Topics in ECS. 0-3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 580. Field Studies. 1-4 Credit Hours.

This course will provide participants with the opportunity for intensive field research geared toward an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues and conservation concerns.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Offered by Announcement Only.

ECS 601. Interdisciplinary Environmental Research: Introduction to the Why and the How. 3 Credit Hours.

The why and the how of developing and implementing interdisciplinary environmental research; research objectives and design choices informed by philosophies of knowledge and policy relevance. Assignments include development of research questions, a preliminary literature review, a draft dissertation proposal, and oral communication of research. Course is structured around peer critique and discussion of work in progress.

Components: DIS.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 603. Interdisciplinary Environmental Methods. 3 Credit Hours.

Environmental methods related to core programmatic themes of Urban Ecology, Global Public Health, Climate and Society, Environment and the Media, Integrated Marine and Terrestrial Management, and Regulatory Regimes. The course focuses on the application of Interdisciplinary approaches and methods for addressing complex environmental problems. Students will learn to design and employ interdisciplinary approaches, using qualitative and quantitative methods and analysis, through lectures, reading assignments, discussion sessions, and assignments.

Requisite: Plan of Ecosystem Science and Policy.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 605. Interdisciplinary Environmental Law and Policy. 3 Credit Hours.

Analysis of science-based environmental decision-making and policy implementation at the federal and state levels in the United States, with comparative international perspectives, and an introduction to international institutions that fashion and carry out environmental policy. Case studies will cover authorization, appropriations and oversight functions of Congress and state legislatures; the role of the executive, federal and state, in initiating and implementing statutes by regulation and other means; and the role of negotiation, litigation, mediation and consensus-building in resolving disputes and advancing or thwarting environmental policy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 607. Interdisciplinary Environmental Decision Analysis. 3 Credit Hours.

Approaches to studying and interpreting human behavior related to a range of decision making at the level of individual, group, and firm.

Multidisciplinary theories and methods informing work in the decision sciences will be covered from fields of psychology, business, economics, political science, and anthropology.

Requisite: Plan of Ecosystem Science and Policy.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 608. Interdisciplinary ECS Seminar. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Seminar centering on research and case studies illustrating cutting edge human-environment research, and including both qualitative and quantitative methods. Intensive reading and writing related to relevant topics in the field.

Components: SEM.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 609. Contemporary Representations of the Environment. 3 Credit Hours.

This course will combine media studies, environmental studies, and critical theory to give students a broad introduction to ways in which screen media are used today to represent both the natural world and also environmental issues such as climate change, animal extinction, and natural resource use. From more conventional media such as feature fiction films (e.g. Wall-e, The Day After Tomorrow, Avatar), documentary films (e.g. An Inconvenient Truth, HBO's Gasland), and television news coverage, to more niche formats like Google Earth's global mapping and in-dash monitors that depict miles-per-gallon, screen technology has long been and is increasingly used to mediate our relationship with surrounding ecosystems. Students will look at mainstream television channels (e.g. Discover, National Geographic, and the Weather Channel) alongside the digital campaigns of agencies and institutions directly aimed at conservation efforts, including the ecotourism industry, non-profit environmental groups, and governmental bodies such as the National Parks Service. In addition, this course will investigate the increasing role of interactive media in museums and science centers, as well as the rising power of social media in disseminating news regarding environmental issues.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 610. Technology and Human Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.

This course will explore the social aspects of technology use and cultural adaptation through cross-cultural ethnographic research on science and traditional beliefs. From the adoption of chainsaws in Amazonian forestry to the use of smart watches in Japanese cities, technological choice will be examined through psychological theories of behavior, socio-cultural perspectives, and institutional and economic forces. Reflecting the rising social, cultural, scientific, and political importance of emerging digital culture (e.g. virtual reality, smart devices, artificial intelligence), a key focus of the second half of the course will focus on philosophical notions of post-human cyborgism. Students will be introduced to recent research on the cognitive issues of social media use and consumption, including social media addiction and other neurological impacts of chronic screen use. Coursework will connect historical understandings and larger social analysis of digital media use and encourage students to participate in an ongoing exploration of their own technological choices and media practices. Students will also be exposed to multidisciplinary theories and research on risk perception and the psychology and effectiveness of environmental messaging in order to address how various media technologies impact individual and collective thinking and action.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall.

ECS 611. Nature, the Anthropocene, and Visual Culture. 3 Credit Hours.

Different cultural and historical contexts have conceived of humanity's relationship to the natural world in vastly different ways, from 'sacred and part of' to 'separate from' and 'steward over.' A culture's techniques of representation, use of imagery, and ways of seeing are a key part of the shaping of its worldview and cognitive framework of shared ideas and beliefs. This course is an opportunity for students to use an anthropologist's eye to actively engage with the human production of knowledge about the natural world through visual culture. Rather than approaching visual anthropology with its usual divide between 'anthropological content' and 'aesthetic composition,' this course will foster both approaches as it examines human perceptions of the environment from prehistoric cave paintings to modern day street art. Key elements of visual anthropology will be introduced, including symbols and symbolism, reflexivity, visual data of everyday life, art analysis, ethics, society-as-text paradigm, urban visual data, and ways of conceiving systems of visual representation. Representations of Other will be analyzed through theories of the exotic, gender, race, post-colonialism, nationalism, and heritage studies.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 612. Environmental Justice & Storytelling. 3 Credit Hours.

This course includes 1. Surveying innovative and emerging storytelling methods about environmental justice issues and then 2. Producing different forms of creative storytelling from podcasts and participatory media to social media campaigns. Students will study the digital strategies employed by non-profits, research labs, museums, and other environmental organizations to learn what forms of storytelling are effective and why. Students will then design and produce their own stories and environmental campaign strategies through at least two types of content from the following list: interactive media design, a social media toolkit, podcast, Tik Tok Challenge, street art, community activist stunt or event that is part of a larger digital strategy, embeddable videos shorter than two minutes or a participatory media project. This course will also include an overview of the major findings of environmental communication and science communication studies of the last fifteen years.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring.

ECS 615. Environment, Culture, and Media Internship. 3-6 Credit Hours.

This course is for hands-on experience and research culminating in a final Master's internship report. Students will enroll in 3-6 credits while completing their internship and researching their final project for the ECM Masters of Professional Science.

Components: THI.

Grading: SUS.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 672. Special Topics in ECS. 0-3 Credit Hours.

Content varies by semester and is indicated in parentheses following course number and title in class schedule.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 680. Field Studies. 1-4 Credit Hours.

This course will provide participants with the opportunity for intensive field research geared toward an interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues and conservation concerns.

Components: LEC.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Spring & Summer.

ECS 790. Directed Readings. 1-3 Credit Hours.

Individually supervised readings on special topics. Offered by arrangement with the instructor. May be retaken for credit.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 814. Environment, Culture, and Media Thesis. 3-6 Credit Hours.

This course is for research culminating in a Master's thesis. Students will enroll in 3-6 credits while researching and writing their final project for the ECM Masters of Arts.

Components: THI.

Grading: SUS.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 820. Master's Research. 0-9 Credit Hours.

Individual study for students exiting the doctoral program without a successful dissertation proposal.

Components: THI.

Grading: SUS.

Typically Offered: Fall & Spring.

ECS 830. Pre-Candidacy Research. 1-9 Credit Hours.

Research for ECS Ph.D. students who have not attained candidacy.

Components: THI.

Grading: GRD.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 840. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-12 Credit Hours.

Required for all candidates for the Ph.D. The student will enroll for credit as determined by his/her advisor but not for less than a total of 13 credits total. No more than 12 hours of ECS 730 may be taken in a regular semester, nor more than six in a summer session.

Components: THI.

Grading: SUS.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.

ECS 850. Research in Residence. 1 Credit Hour.

Used to establish research in residence for the Ph.D., after the student has been enrolled for the permissible cumulative total in appropriate doctoral research. May be regarded as full-time residence as determined by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Components: THI.

Grading: SUS.

Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, & Summer.