

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	School of Liberal Arts
Programme:	Various
FHEQ Level:	3
Course Title:	Foundations in Environmental Studies
Course Code:	ENV 3125
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

A basic introduction to the major themes of Environmental Studies, this course covers basic ecology, environmental ethics, and environmental science. Well known environmental issues such as global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, pollution, and population issues are addressed from scientific, economic, politico-sociological and ethical standpoints. An awareness and appreciation of global, local, and personal environmental problems are developed, together with the implications of possible solutions. The concept of *interrelatedness* is a unifying theme throughout the course.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to expose students to an understanding of the natural and physical world around us through a basic grounding in the chemical, physical, biological and ecological principles that are needed to understand Environmental Science. These basic scientific principles will then be applied to the complex and interrelated nature of Environmental Studies. This course aims not merely to deal with the scientific side

of Environmental Studies, for the environment shows clearly that natural and physical science, political science, social science, ethics, and economics are all interconnected. Using the concept of interrelatedness, the course will explain that the people of the world may not realise they share a common history, but they are beginning to understand that they share a common future.

The course will provide students with the information and skills needed to be able to discuss the scientific, historic, economic, social, ethical, and political implications of Environmental Studies from a scientifically informed position, and to begin to evaluate their own environmental identity.

Programme Outcomes:

3A(i); 3B(i); 3C(i); 3D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

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

- a) Students should be thoroughly familiar with the basic chemical, physical, biological and ecological principles that underpin Environmental Studies and Environmental Science.
- b) Students should be able to apply the basic science learned in (a) towards an understanding of man's impact on the environment and begin to include ethical, economic, social and political implications.
- c) Students should be able to apply their knowledge from parts (a) and (b) towards the main themes of Environmental Studies.
- d) As a summary to the whole course, students should be able to begin to formulate educated opinions on the interrelatedness of the scientific, political, sociological, economic and historical issues that make up Environmental Issues, and demonstrate basic critical thinking within this.
- e) Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding their own environmental identity.

Indicative Content:

- Environmental Studies
- Environmental Science
- Basic ecology and associated natural and physical science concepts
- Basic environmental ethics
- Basic population and demography concepts
- Global warming, ozone depletion, acid rain, air and water pollution

- Environmental concepts of energy use (fossil fuel, nuclear, renewable)
- Introduction to the history of environmentalism and politics of the environment
- The environmental concept of 'interrelatedness'
- Environmental identity

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

- Formal lectures with PowerPoint and handouts.
- DVDs.
- Class discussion.
- Reading assignments.
- Small seminar groups/small group discussion

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

'Environment' 8th Edition, Peter H. Raven, Linda R. Berg, David M. Hassenzahl, 2013, Wiley.

Journals

Web Sites

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Removal of pre/co-requisite: MTH 3000 or Mathematics Assessment exemption	13-11-15 (School)	Y
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	