Environmental Studies Minor

Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary field that explores the interconnection between humans and the natural environment. Modern environmental issues reflect the complex interactions of natural and social systems at global and local scales, and the resulting impacts on the Earth have led many to ask whether humankind has entered into a new epoch in the planet's history, one in which humans are now a key driver in the change of Earth systems. The Environmental Studies program fosters the critical, integrative thinking required to better understand the complexities of this human-nature relationship and the resultant scales of impact, and to assess and develop solutions that meet intergenerational human needs without compromising the natural systems upon which humans depend.

The Environmental Studies minor was specifically created to provide undergraduates from a broad range of academic backgrounds with a cohesive program offering foundational literacy in the social, cultural, and scientific dimensions of environmental issues, and a cross-disciplinary holistic understanding of the challenges and solutions for creating a sustainable world. Students completing the minor will be able to synthesize frameworks, tools, and perspectives from multiple disciplines; master sustainability terminology; understand major environmental issues from multiple perspectives; develop and assess environmental solutions in an informed and logical manner; and convey knowledge and insights about environmental issues in multiple formats.

**Course Requirements for a Minor in Environmental Studies**

**Core Courses (6 hours; at least three credit hours from each category)**

*Introductory course from environmental studies*
- ENST 100 Environment, Culture and Society

**Introductory courses from natural sciences: (pick one)**
- EBIO 124 Introduction to Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- ESCI 101 Earth
- ESCI 107 Oceans and Global Change
- ESCI 109 Oceanography

**Electives (12 hours; at least six credit hours from each category)**

*From the Schools of Architecture, Humanities, and Social Sciences:*
- ANTH 332 / ENST 332 The Social Life Of Clean Energy
- ARCH 313 / ENST 313 Case Studies in Sustainable Design
- ARCH 322 / ENST 322 Case Studies in Sustainability: The Regenerative Repositioning Of New or Existing Rice Campus Buildings
- ECON 437 / ENST 437 Energy Economics
- ECON 461 Urban Economics
- ECON 480 / ENST 480 Environmental Economics
- ENGL 358 Consumption & Consumerism
- ENGL 459 Literature And Ecology
- FOTO 360 / ESCI 380 Visualizing Nature
- HART 302 Art, Architecture And Nature
- HIST 425 20th Century American Conservation
- HUMA 202 / ENST 202 Culture, Energy and the Environment: An Introduction To Energy Humanities
- SOCI 304 / ENST 302 Environmental Issues: Rice into the Future
- SPAN 403 Literature And the Environment in Latin America

*From the Schools of Engineering and Natural Sciences:*
- CEVE 302 / ENGI 302 Sustainable Design
- CEVE 307 / ENST 307 / ESCI 307 Energy and the Environment
- CEVE 310 Principles of Environmental Engineering
- CEVE 406 / ENST 406 Introduction to Environmental Law
- CHBE 281 / ENST 281 Engineering Sustainable Communities
- EBIO 204 Design & Practice Of Community Agriculture
- EBIO 270 Ecosystem Management
- EBIO 319 Tropical Field Biology
- EBIO 320 Brazilian Wetland Ecology And Conservation
- EBIO 323 / ENST 323 Conservation Biology
- EBIO 327 Biological Diversity Lab
- EBIO 379 / ENST 379 / LPCR 379 Lab Module in Aquatic Ecology with Scuba
- ELEC 365 / MSNE 365 Nanomaterials for Energy
- ESCI 321 Earth System Evolution and Cycles
- ESCI 340 / EBIO 340 / ENST 340 Global Biogeochemical Cycles
- ESCI 380 / FOTO 390 Visualizing Nature
- ESCI 407 Introduction To Biogeochemistry II
- ESCI 424 Earth Science and the Environment
- ESCI 425 / CHEM 425 / ENST 425 Organic Geochemistry
- ESCI 450 Remote Sensing
- ESCI 452 GIS for Geoscientists

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Students seeking advice regarding the Environmental Studies minor may contact Dr. Dominic Boyer (dcb2@rice.edu) or the coordinator for the Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (cenhs@rice.edu).