

# Environment and Society

Over the past few decades, the injurious effects of human behaviour on Earth's natural systems have become increasingly obvious. There can be little question that ecological changes leading to extinction of species and loss of habitat pose a threat not only to our health, our prosperity and even our existence, but to the biosphere as a whole. Our failure to change our ways must be acknowledged and confronted. With its expertise in many domains of human endeavour, St. Thomas University is well prepared to help students interrogate the social processes that promote both our degradation of Earth and our persistence in such destructive behaviour.

Students completing the Major in Environment and Society are required to complete a second Major as well. This second Major may be in any field of their choice. ENVS electives taken from other departments may be counted both for the ENVS Major and for the Major in that Department.

The Major in Environment and Society will consist of 36 credit hours distributed as follows:

## *A. Required Environment and Society Courses*

ENVS 1013	Introduction to Environmental Problems
ENVS 2023	Introduction to Perspectives on the Environment
ENVS 3013	Environmental Policy
ENVS 3023	Environmental Praxis
ENVS 4003	Capstone Seminar in Environment and Society

*B. Natural Science (Students are required to take 3 credit hours in an approved natural science course). Recommended courses are:*

BIOL 2113	Ecology
PHYS 2543	Environmental Physics

Other courses may be substituted for either of these with the approval of the Program Director.

## *C. Electives (18 credit hours from the following):*

ANTH 3533	Food
ANTH 3723	Human Ecology
ECON 2203	Community Economic Development
ECON 2333	Ecological Economics
ECON 3323	Environmental Economics
ENVS 3053	Campus Sustainability
ENVS 4006	Work Study Project
HIST 3403	Water in World History
HIST 3423	Agriculture in World History
HIST 3933	Canadian Land Struggles in Comparative Global Perspective since 1945
NATI 3223	Native Environmental Ethics and Ecology

NATI 3923	Aboriginal Rights: The Land Question
PHIL 3563	Philosophy of Science
RELG 2133	Religion and Ecology
RELG 3523	Environmental Ethics
STS 2803	Controversies in the Earth and Environmental Science
STS 3003	Scientific Reasoning
SCWK 6823	Ecology and Social Justice
SOCI 2213	Society and Ecology

*Electives Available from UNB*

HIST 3925	Technology and Western Society
PHIL 3221-19	Selected Topics in Philosophy of the Environment
POLS 1603	Politics of Globalization

**ENVS-1013. Introduction to Environmental Problems**

This course introduces students to the nature of ecological problems and the relationships between human activities and environmental deterioration. The course examines the nature of the biosphere: how living plant, animal and microbial communities and their supporting air, water and soil cycles function.

**ENVS-2023. Introduction to Perspectives on the Environment (HMRT 2243)**

This course explores how society has attempted to understand the social origins of environmental degradation and the changes necessary in society to end human disruption of the environment. This involves a review of the different perspectives within the environmental movement, and of the attempts by the social sciences and the humanities to understand the social origins of environmental degradation. Prerequisite: ENVS 1013, or permission of the instructor.

**ENVS-3013. Environmental Policy (HMRT 3213)**

Building upon familiarity with the major perspectives within the environmental movement, the course will examine various approaches to resolving environmental problems such as: bioregionalism, sustainable growth, deep ecology, rightsizing economic activity, etc. Students will explore how alternate visions of the future would translate into public policy. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

**ENVS-3023. Environmental Praxis (HMRT 3223)**

This course explores how alternative visions of the future translate into political action at the international, national, provincial, community, and personal levels. This involves an analysis of alternative theories of the nature of social change. A component of this course may be service learning. Prerequisites: ENVS 1013 and ENVS 2023, or permission of the instructor.

**ENVS- 3053. Campus Sustainability**

The course examines the practices of environmental auditing as they apply to a university campus. Topics include alternative audit designs, the role of audits in changing institutional and individual behaviour, and the contributions of social sciences to university audits. Students' projects will involve carrying out components of a university wide environmental

audit.

#### **ENVS-4003. Capstone Seminar**

This is a required course for the Major in Environment & Society which is designed to integrate the entire program of study. The seminar will focus on developing a multidisciplinary understanding of a selection of environmental issues as determined by student and faculty interests. Issues considered will include ecological damage, social origins, and alternative approaches to addressing problems. Prerequisites: ENVS 3013 and ENVS 3023 or permission of the instructor.

#### **ENVS-4006. Work-Study Project**

This is a course in experiential learning for students in the final year of their Major in ENVS. Students will work with a non-profit organization which is actively involved in addressing environmental problems. Each student's activities will be designed under the direction of a faculty supervisor in consultation with the student and the work-place mentor. Enrolment is subject to the approval of the Coordinator of the Environment and Society program.

*NOTE: Not all courses listed are offered each year. Please consult with the Department Chair for more information about current and planned course offerings.*