

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.

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- 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

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‡ Recommended courses are:

- BIOL 2113 Ecology
- PHYS 253 Environmental Physics

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

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- ANTH 353 Food
- ANTH 3723 Human Ecology
- ECON 2203 Community Economic Development
- ECON 2333 Ecological Economics
- ECON 3323 Environmental Economics
- ENGL 2773 Reporting the Environment: The Journalism of John McPhee
- 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 353	Philosophy of Science
RELG 2133	Religion and Ecology
RELG 323	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

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



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



This is a course in experiential learning for students in the final year3 and EU@e

