

Resolution for the Proposal for Revisions to a Minor in Environmental Studies

WHEREAS, a group of faculty proposed to restructure an existing **Minor in Environmental Studies**, and

WHEREAS, the existing curriculum of the Minor was designed when fewer courses on this topic were offered at the College and needs updating, and

WHEREAS, the revised, five-course curriculum draws courses from a broader range of disciplines and is designed to introduce students to studies of environment issues in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and

WHEREAS, the revised program eliminates courses that are no longer routinely offered or departments no longer want to include in the Minor, and

WHEREAS, the revised program consists of a required course from a History & Philosophy and elective courses offered by American Studies, Biological Studies, Chemistry & Physics, English, Psychology, Politics, Economics & Law, Public Health, and Sociology, and

WHEREAS, all Academic Departments that would contribute a course/courses to a revised program expressed their support for the revisions, and

WHEREAS, the History and Philosophy Department expressed willingness to house this Minor, and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions require no additional resources,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate approve the proposed revisions in a **Minor in Environmental Studies**.

Submitted by Curriculum and Academic Planning Committee (CAP), May 24, 2021

The Proposal approved by CAP on May 21, 2021

[CAP Membership]

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Proposal Statement for Revisions to the Environmental Studies Minor

1. Title: Environmental Studies minor
Housing Department: History and Philosophy
2. Purpose of Revision: The previous minor was established when there were fewer courses focused on environmental topics at Old Westbury. Many more courses today fit into the minor, and the elective content reflects both an increase in interdisciplinary offerings and an elimination of courses from the curriculum that are no longer routinely offered or departments no longer want to include in the minor. With History & Philosophy starting to offer an Environmental Studies major (spring 2022), the revisions also harmonize some of the structure (same required course) between the major and minor.
3. Changes in Curriculum:
 - a. Required course changed:
 - i. HI 3001 Introduction to Environmental Studies
 - ii. **NO LONGER**: BS2490 Environmental Science OR BS4470 Ecology AND BS4680 Environmental Health
 - b. Eliminates the required independent study
 - c. Requires interdisciplinary coursework
 - d. More clearly points out how many classes can overlap with students' major
4. Changes in Instruction:
 - a. New elective courses:
 - i. HI 3001 Intro to Environmental Studies
 - ii. EL 2233 Environmental Literature
 - iii. AS 2300 Problems in US Environmental History
 - iv. AS 2750 Food
 - v. HI2810 Geography, Earth, and People
 - vi. HI3001 Intro to Environmental Studies
 - vii. HI3003 Environments in World History I
 - viii. HI3005 Environments in World History II
 - ix. HI3120 Latin America: Environment and Society
 - x. HI3600 Global Geography: People, Places & Environments
 - xi. HI3700 Historical Geography of Latin America
 - xii. HI4600 World Regional Geography
 - xiii. HI4700 Modern Global Environments
 - xiv. PE4280 Environmental Politics
 - xv. PE4290 Environmental Economics
 - xvi. PH4890 Environmental Justice
 - b. Removed courses:
 - i. PE3720 Long Island Economy, Environment and Society
 - ii. BS3530 Comparative Genomics Lecture
 - iii. BS3531 Comparative Genomics Lab
 - iv. BS3710 Environmental Physiology
 - v. BS4680 Environmental Health
 - vi. BS5591 Environmental Research

- vii. CP2000/2001 Chemistry for Non-Majors with Lab
- viii. PY3520 Environmental Psychology
- ix. PH4680 Environmental Health

- 5. Changes in Resources: N/A
- 6. Changes in Administration: housed in History and Philosophy

Proposed Revisions to Catalog Description

The Environmental Studies Minor examines the relationship between people and their environment, the physical and biological sciences, and important environmental issues. Students analyze historical and contemporary environmental problems by taking courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Students might pursue this minor in preparation for a career in environmental research, education, activism, policy or law, among others.

This five-course interdisciplinary minor introduces students to environmental ideas as represented in the Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities.

1. *Students take Introduction to Environmental Studies (Column A),*
2. *At least one course in the Natural Sciences (Column B)*
3. *At least one class in the Social Sciences/Humanities (Column C)*
4. *The remaining two elective classes selected from any offerings in Columns B and C*
5. *At least two courses in the minor must be upper division (one of which will be HI 3001 Intro to Environmental Studies).*
6. *Only one course from the student's major can be double counted in the minor.*
7. *Internships and independent studies should be in a student's field of study and/or approved by an Affiliated faculty advisor.*

A. Required Course: (4 credits):

- HI 3001 Intro to Environmental Studies

B. Students must take a minimum of **one** (4 credit) of the following elective courses:

- BS2490 Environmental Science
- BS3450 Plant Biology
- BS4470 Ecology
- BS4472 Microbial Ecology
- BS4491 Human Ecology
- BS4651 Toxicology
- CP2300/2301 Weather Studies with Lab
- CP2400/2401 Ocean Studies with Lab
- CP2500/2501 Climate Studies with Lab
- CP2600 Environmental Analysis of Long Island
- CP5900 Research
- XX9990 Independent Study in Student's Home Department

C. Students must take a minimum of **one** (4 credit) of the following elective courses:

- AS 2252 U.S. Social Movements
- AS 2300 Problems in US Environmental History
- AS 2750 Food
- AS4200 Environmental Journalism
- AS4832 Internship in Journalism
- EL2233 Environmental Literature
- HI2810 Geography, Earth, and People

- HI3001 Intro to Environmental Studies
- HI3003 Environments in World History I
- HI3005 Environments in World History II
- HI3120 Latin America: Environment and Society
- HI3600 Global Geography: People, Places & Environments
- HI3700 Historical Geography of Latin America
- HI4600 World Regional Geography
- HI4700 Modern Global Environments
- PE4280 Environmental Politics
- PE4290 Environmental Economics
- PE5999 Internship
- PH4800 Epidemiology
- PH4890 Environmental Justice
- PH4900 Health and Society Field Placement
- PY4510 Ecological Context: Theories & Applications
- PY5404 Senior Seminar in Environmental Neuroplasticity
- SY5990 Senior Seminar (requires approval from the Sociology Department)
- XX9990 Independent Study in Student's Home Department

Current Catalog Description

Students interested in environmental issues may enhance their knowledge of the interaction of humans with their environment by minoring in Environmental Studies. This interdisciplinary course of studies exposes the student to both environmental sciences as practiced in biology and chemistry, as well as policy issues, which are explored from a social science perspective. Students who are majoring in the natural sciences may wish to pursue this minor in preparation for a career in environmental research. Students in the Social Sciences and Humanities may want to broaden their knowledge of environmental issues in preparation for a career involving environmental policy or law. Direct participation in environmental agencies and organizations on Long Island or independent laboratory research on an environmental problem is an important aspect of this minor.

Students minoring in Environmental Studies are required to complete five courses (20 credits), distributed as follows:

A. Required Courses (8 credits)

4. BS2490 Environmental Science or BS4470 Ecology
5. BS4680 Environmental Health. (fyi <-- not offered frequently at all! (also, currently under PH's ownership)

B. An independent study taken under the auspices of one of the following (4 credits)

- AS4832 Internship in Journalism
- BS5591 Environmental Research
- CP5900 Research
- PH4900 Health and Society Field Placement
- PE5999 Internship

- PY5510 Advanced Issues in Social Psychology
- SY5990 Senior Seminar (requires approval from the Sociology Department)

C. Elective Courses: at least two additional courses chosen from the following list (8 credits)

- AS4200 Environmental Journalism
- BS2490 Environmental Science
- BS3450 Plant Biology
- BS3530 Comparative Genomics Lecture
- BS3531 Comparative Genomics Lab
- BS3710 Environmental Physiology
- BS4470 Ecology
- BS4472 Microbial Ecology
- BS4491 Human Ecology
- BS4651 Toxicology
- CP2000/2001 Chemistry for Non-Majors with Lab
- CP2300/2301 Weather Studies with Lab
- CP2400/2401 Ocean Studies with Lab
- CP2500/2501 Climate Studies with Lab
- CP2600 Environmental Analysis of Long Island
- PE3720 Long Island Economy, Environment and Society
- PY3520 Environmental Psychology
- PH4680 Environmental Health
- HS4800 Epidemiology
- HS4890 Environmental Justice