



## Graduate Course Syllabus

### SEC 510: Environmental Issues

Center: Online

#### Course Prerequisites

None

#### Course Description

A fundamental understanding of the various processes necessary to support life on Earth. Examine how human activities and philosophies (individual, business, cultural, and others) generate environmental issues and threaten these processes, and offers sustainable alternatives to these activities. Topics include ecology; populations; agriculture; desertification and deforestation; water and ocean pollution; air pollution, including ozone depletion and acid rain; global warming; natural resource depletion; solid and hazardous wastes; energy, including fossil fuels and nuclear power; economic implications; and sustainability.

#### Course Outcomes

- Acquire a fundamental understanding of the key concepts, processes and terminology of the issues that affect the natural environment
- Gain greater knowledge by researching one or more of those environmental issues
- Analyze and critique the different policies, processes, procedures and philosophies used by individuals, businesses and others that affect the natural environment
- Apply the learning and understanding to be able to present alternative strategies; personally, within an organization, community, culture, as a citizen of the world, to protect and save valuable resources (including money)

#### Required Materials

None

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think

and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

### **Instructor Availability and Response Time**

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment's due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

### **Grade Distribution**

<b>Assignment Category</b>	<b>Number of Graded Items</b>	<b>Point Value per Item</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Discussion Topic	11	23	253
Group Position Papers	3	100	300
Short Papers	2	50	100
Environmental Issues Journal	3	50	150
Environmental Issues Paper	1	150	150
Class Discussion: Definitions	1	47	47
			<b>Total Course Points: 1,000</b>

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

### **University Grading System: Graduate**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>	<b>Points</b>
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

\* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

### Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

### Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction, Terms and Concepts 1-1 Discussion: Environmental Issues, Terms, and Concepts 1-2 Class Discussion: Definitions 1-3 Position Papers
2	Air Pollution 2-1 Discussion: Air Pollution 2-2 Research: Air Pollution 2-3 Short Paper 2-4 Class Discussion: Definitions 2-5 Position Paper
3	Water Pollution: Salt Water 3-1 Discussion: Oceans and Estuaries 3-2 Research: Ocean and Estuary Pollution 3-3 Class Discussion: Definitions 3-4 Position Paper One
4	Water Pollution: Fresh Water 4-1 Discussion: Water Pollution 4-2 Think-About-It 4-3 Class Discussion: Definitions 4-4 Position Paper Two
5	Land Issues 5-1 Discussion: Land Issues 5-2 Class Discussion: Definitions 5-3 Position Paper

Module	Topics and Assignments
6	Conservation Issues 6-1 Discussion: Conservation Issues 6-2 Discussion: Biodiversity 6-3 Explore 6-4 Class Discussion: Definitions 6-5 Position Paper Three 6-6 Environmental Issues Paper:: Topic Options
7	Human Issues 7-1 Discussion: Human Issues 7-2 Class Discussion: Definitions 7-3 Environmental Issue Journal 7-4 Position Paper Three
8	Human Health Issues 8-1 Discussion: Human Health Issues 8-2 Short Paper 8-3 Class Discussion: Definitions 8-4 Environmental Issue Journal
9	Resource Depletion 9-1 Discussion: Resource Depletion 9-2 Class Discussion: Definitions 9-3 Environmental Issue Journal
10	Global Climate Change 10-1 Discussion: Global Climate Change 10-2 Class Discussion: Definitions 10-3 Environmental Issues Paper

### Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

### Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

### SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

### ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAG.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

### **Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

### **SNHU Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

### **Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).