Fall 2025 Course Lists for ENVS Majors

NATURAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

Introductory Sequence in Environmental Studies

ENVS 1000 (4)	Introduction to Environmental Studies
ENVS 1001 (4)	Introduction to Human Dimensions of Environmental Solutions

Introductory Sequence in Biology or Earth Science

ATOC 1050 (3)^	Weather and the Atmosphere
ATOC 1060 (3)^	Our Changing Environment: El Nino, Ozone, and Climate
ATOC 1070 (1)	Weather and the Atmosphere Lab
EBIO 1210 (3)^	General Biology 1
EBIO 1230 (1)	General Biology 1 lab
EBIO 1220 (3)^	General Biology 2
EBIO 1250 (4)	Introduction to Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Research (includes lab)
EBIO 1100 (3)	Biology and Society
EBIO 1110 (1)	Biology and Society lab
GEOG 1001 (4)^	Our Changing Planet—Climate and Vegetation with lab
GEOG 1011 (4)^	Our Changing Planet—Landscapes and Water with lab
GEOL 1010 (3)^	Exploring Earth
GEOL 1012 (3)	Exploring Earth for Scientists
GEOL 1020 (3)^	Dodos, Dinos, and Deinococcus: The History of a Habitable Planet
GEOL 1030 (1)	Introduction to Geology Lab
GEOL 1040 (3)	Geology of Colorado
GEOL 1060 (3)	Global Change —An Earth Science Perspective
GEOL 1150 (3)	Water, Energy and Environment: An Introduction to Earth Resources
GEOL 1170 (3)	Our Deadly Planet
GEOL 2001 (4)	Planet Earth

Introductory Sequence in Chemistry or Physics

CHEM 1011 (3)	Environmental Chemistry 1
CHEM 1113 (4)	General Chemistry 1
CHEM 1114 (1)	General Chemistry 1 lab
PHYS 1110 (4)	General Physics 1 (calculus-based)
PHYS 2010 (5)	General Physics 1 (algebra-based)

Intermediate Natural Science

EBIO 2040 (4)	Principles of Ecology
ENVS/ATOC 3600/	
GEOG 3601 (3)*^	Principles of Climate
GEOG 3511 (4)*	The Water Cycle
GEOL 2001 (4)	Planet Earth
GEOL 2005 (4)	Introduction to Earth Materials

SOCIAL SCIENCE REQUIREMENTS

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Intermediate Policy

PSCI 2106 (3)	Introduction to Public Policy Analysis	
PSCI 3206 (3)*	The Environment and Public Policy	

Intermediate Social Science

ENVS 3030-010 (3)	Fundamentals of Environmental Health	
ENVS 3032 (3)^~	Environment, Media and Society	(CE 10wk)
ENVS 3033 (3)	Governing the Environment	
ENVS 3034 (3)^~	Foundations of Environmental Justice	(CE 10wk)

VALUES REQUIREMENTS

Economics

ECON 2010 (4)	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 3535 (3)	Natural Resource Economics
ECON 3545 (3)	Environmental Economics

Ethics

ENVS/PHIL 3140 (3)	Environmental Ethics

SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

Statistics or Calculus 1

APPM 1350 (4)	Calculus 1 for Engineers
MATH 1300 (5)^	Calculus 1
EBIO 1010 (3)	Introduction to Statistics and Quantitative Thinking for Biologists
EBIO 4410 (4)	Biological Statistics
GEOG 3023 (4)^	Statistics and Geographic Data
MATH 2510 (3)^	Introduction to Statistics
PSYC 2111 (4)^	Psychological Science 1: Statistics
SOCY 2061 (3)^	Introduction to Social Statistics
PSCI 2075 (3)	Quantitative Research Methods

Writing

ENVS 3020 (3)^~ Advanced Writing in Environmental Studies (CE 13wk)

Offers training in critical thinking and analytical writing skills appropriate to upper-division classes. Writing assignments integrate the subject matter of different topical areas. Fulfills writing requirement for Environmental Studies major.

Application

ENVS 3005 (3)~* Environmental Education: From Theory to Practice (CE 13wk)

ENVS 3100 (3)* Topics in Applied Environmental Studies

- Section 002: Data Visualization
- Section 800: Field Ecology of Boulder – This course will be held in class and in the field. Students must first get permission from instructor Daniel Doak (Daniel.doak@colorado.edu) for enrollment.
- Section 581~: Human-Wildlife Interaction (CE 13wk)

ENVS 3930 (3)*	Internship
EBIO 4090 (3)*	Coral Reef Ecology (Programs>Education Abroad (Colorado.edu))
EBIO 4320 (4)*	Conservation Planning and Structured Decision Making
EBIO 4460 (3)*	Special Topics: Ecol & Evol: Galapagos Islands (Programs>Education Abroad (colorado.edu))

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- Section 802: Galapagos Islands (Programs>Education Abroad (Colorado.edu))

GEOL 2700 (2) Introduction to Field Geology
GEOL/EDUC 4833 (3)* Teaching and Learning Earth Systems

CORNERSTONE REQUIREMENT

ENVS 3520 (3)~ Energy and Climate Change: An Interdisciplinary Approach (CE 6wk)

Ever think about what keeps the lights on, and what it costs the planet? This course explores the resources we depend on, how we use them, and the impacts they have on climate, policy, and the economy. Since fossil fuels are still the biggest player, we'll take a close look at their role in climate change and the carbon cycle. We'll connect science to real-world challenges, like making ethical choices and protecting the environment, and you'll understand why energy knowledge matters in your own future career. The class is designed to be flexible and supportive, so that it is both manageable and rewarding. Recommended prerequisite: a two-course sequence in any natural science.

Textbooks:

All materials will be provided by your instructor free of cost.

ENVS 3525 (3)*^ Intermediate Environmental Problem Analysis: Topical Cornerstone

- Section 002: Ecosystem Management
- Section 003: Environment, Property, Protest
- Section 581: Climate Change and Migration (CE 6wk)

Climate Change and Migration Course description: While migration has historically been driven by economic, political, and social factors, climate-related stressors are now recognized as compounding these challenges. In this course, we will explore how climate change drives human migration across spatial and temporal scales. We will focus on case studies from around the world and examine how both sudden-onset events (like floods and cyclones) and slow-onset events (like drought and salinization) influences migration. We will also explore various forms of migration - such as permanent vs. temporary, voluntary vs. forced, and rural-to-urban migration. In addition, the gendered dimensions of migration, experiences of left-behind populations and health-related consequences of migration will be examined. Students will utilize foundational and interdisciplinary articles, as well as grounded examples to develop a better understanding of the complex relation between climate change and migration.

- Section 582: Climate Change and Migration (CE 6wk)

While migration has historically been driven by economic, political, and social factors, climate-related stressors are now recognized as compounding these challenges. In this course, we will explore how climate change drives human migration across spatial and temporal scales. We will focus on case studies from around the world and examine how both sudden-onset events (like floods and cyclones) and slow-onset events (like drought and salinization) influences migration. We will also explore various forms of migration - such as permanent vs. temporary, voluntary vs. forced, and rural-to-urban migration. In addition, the gendered dimensions of migration, experiences of left-behind populations and health-related consequences of migration will be examined. Students will utilize foundational and interdisciplinary articles, as well as grounded examples to develop a better understanding of the complex relation between climate change and migration.

ENVS 3621 (3)* Energy Policy and Society

CAPSTONE REQUIREMENT

ENVS 4800 (3) Capstone: Critical Thinking in Environmental Studies (students may take only one ENVS 4800 class)

- Section 001: Data for Development
  - What do we know about the current state of poverty? human health? education? food security? gender equality? the environment? Where are the biggest data gaps, and how can filling these gaps assist governments in targeting interventions and in tracking,

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monitoring and accelerating progress towards the sustainable development goals? In this capstone course you will tackle this problem head on, competing and collaborating with your peers, in the compilation, scrutinization and analysis of a diverse range of data sets, generated at different scales, from both boots on the ground and eyes in the sky, to create information and actionable insights for world development

- Section 002: Climate Justice
  - Climate change presents problems of historic complexity, scale, and injustice, and exacerbates inequalities between nations and social groups. Through engagement with readings, writing, film, case studies, discussion, and a radio journalism project, this course explores the social and political dimensions of climate justice on a global scale. Students will apply their learning to re-imagine possibilities for social change in a warming world.
- Section 003: Resilience in Complex Systems
  - From its history within ecology to its more recent application to social-ecological systems, the term "resilience" has taken on multiple meanings and a wide range of uses. In this course, we will work to disambiguate uses of the term; identify context-specific indicators of resilience; understand how resilience relates to concepts like sustainability and conservation; and examine both promise and limitations of current methods used to assess resilience. In addition to considering the value of a resilience approach for guiding research and addressing environmental challenges, students will develop a semester long research project that investigates an aspect of resilience as part of an in-depth exploration of an environmental issue.

ENVS 4850 (3) ENVS Honors Thesis Research (contact Peter.Newton@colorado.edu to enroll)

SPECIALIZATION REQUIREMENT

ENVS 3005 (3)~* Environmental Education: From Theory to Practice

ENVS/PHYS 3070 (3) Energy & the Environment

ENVS 3100 (3)* Topics in Applied Environmental Studies

- Section 002: Data Visualization
- Section 800: Field Ecology of Boulder – This course will be held in class and in the field.
- Section 581~: Human-Wildlife Interaction~

ENVS 3525 (3)^* Intermediate Environmental Problem Analysis: Topical Cornerstone

Intermediate Environmental Problem Analysis: Topical Cornerstone

- Section 001: Principles & Practices of Sustainability
- Section 002: Ecosystem Management
- Section 003: Environment, Property, and Protest
- Section 581: Climate Change and Migration (9/2-10/10/2025)

Climate Change and Migration Course description: While migration has historically been driven by economic, political, and social factors, climate-related stressors are now recognized as compounding these challenges. In this course, we will explore how climate change drives human migration across spatial and temporal scales. We will focus on case studies from around the world and examine how both sudden-onset events (like floods and cyclones) and slow-onset events (like drought and salinization) influences migration. We will also explore various forms of migration - such as permanent vs. temporary, voluntary vs. forced, and rural-to-urban migration. In addition, the gendered dimensions of migration, experiences of left-behind populations and health-related consequences of migration will be examined. Students will utilize foundational and interdisciplinary articles, as well as grounded examples to develop a better understanding of the complex relation between climate change and migration.

- Section 582: Climate Change and Migration (10/20-12/05/2025)

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ENVS/ATOC 3600 (3)* Principles of Climate
ENVS 3930 (1-3)* Internship
ENVS 4100 (3)~ Special Topics in Environmental Studies

- 581: Green Finance & Policy Tools (CE 6wk)

The money behind climate solutions—what it is, how it works, and why it matters now.
(no finance experience required)
Who's footing the bill for climate action—and how can we make sure it works? In this course, you'll explore some of the most talked-about financial tools shaping sustainability policy today. From carbon markets and green bonds to biodiversity credits and payments for ecosystem services, we'll unpack how these mechanisms work, what their trade-offs are, and how they can be designed to be both effective and equitable.
These tools are driving today's global conversations on climate and biodiversity—and understanding how they work can give you a competitive edge in pursuing many different sustainability-focused careers.
This is a 6-week course offered through Continuing Education, taught remotely and asynchronously. It's designed to be highly flexible, allowing you to learn at your own pace and fit the course around your existing schedule.
Whether you're curious about environmental policy, aiming for a sustainability-focused career, or just want to understand trends in the financial world — this course welcomes students from all backgrounds. Zero background in finance or economics needed—just curiosity and a desire to think outside the box!

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- ENVS/GEOG 4201 (3) Biometeorology

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ATOC/GEOL 3070 (3)^	Introduction to Oceanography
ATOC 4500 (3)	Special Topics in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences - Upper Division • Section 001: Coastal Oceanography
ATOC 4730 (3)	Physical Oceanography and Climate
BUSM 3060 (3)	Environmental Sustainability in a Globalized World **(restricted to BUSM students)**
COMM 3370(3)	Environmental Communication
CVEN 4122(3)	The Colorado River Water Crisis: Water Policy, Hydrological Variability, and Climate Change
CVEN 4404 (3)	Water Chemistry
CVEN 4414 (1)	Water Chemistry Lab
EBIO 3040 (4)~	Conservation Biology
EBIO 3190 (3)^	Tropical Marine Ecology
EBIO 3523 (3)	The Art and Strategy of Science Communication: Branding Climate Change
EBIO 3590 (4)	Plants and Society
EBIO 4030 (3)	Limnology
EBIO 4080 (4)	Freshwater Phycology
EBIO 4145 (4)	Restoration Ecology
EBIO 4155 (4)~	Ecosystem Ecology
EBIO 4320 (4)*	Conservation Planning and Structured Decision Making
EBIO 4360 (3)	Lifestyle Medicine
EBIO 4370 (3)	Genetically Engineered Organisms
EBIO 4800-001(3)	Soil Ecology
GEOG 3053 (4)^	GIS: Mapping
GEOG 3251 (3)~	Mountain Geosystems
GEOG 3301 (3)	Analysis of Climate and Weather Observations
GEOG 3402 (3)~	Natural Hazards
GEOG 3511 (4)*	The Water Cycle
GEOG 3601 (3)^*	Principles of Climate
GEOG 3682 (3)^	International Development: Economics, Power, and Place
GEOG 3692 (4)^	Introduction to Global Public Health
GEOG 3812 (3)	Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
GEOG 3832 (3)	India and Its Neighbors: Societies, Economies, and Geopolitics
GEOG 3822 (3)	Contemporary China: Environment, Society, Politics
GEOG 4002 (3)	Topics in Human and Environment/Society Geography • Section 002: Geography of the Andes
GEOG/GEOL 4093 (4)	Remote Sensing of the Environment
GEOG 4103 (4)	Geographic Information Science: Spatial Analytics
GEOG 4201 (3)	Biometeorology
GEOG/GEOL 4241 (4)	Earth Surface Processes/Principles of Geomorphology
GEOG 4271 (3)	The Arctic Climate System
GEOG 4371 (3)	Forest Geography: Principles and Dynamics
GEOG 4501 (3)	Water Issues in the American West
GEOG 4712 (3)	Political Geography
GEOL 3030 (3)	Introduction to Hydrogeology
GEOL 3040 (3)	Global Change: The Recent Geological Record

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GEOL 3950 (3)	Natural Catastrophes and Geologic Hazards
GEOL 4185 (3)	Geomicrobiology
GEOL 4241 (4)	Principles of Geomorphology
GEOL 4833 (3)	Teaching and Learning Earth Systems
LAND 3103 (3)	Ecological Planting Design(contact Nate Jones for enrollment https://www.colorado.edu/envd/nate-jones)
LAWS 4075 (3)	Introduction to U.S. Law for Undergraduate Students
PLAN 4101 (3)	Sustainable Futures Planning (contact Nate Jones for enrollment https://www.colorado.edu/envd/nate-jones)
PSCI 3206 (3)*	The Environment and Public Policy
PSCI 4012 (3)	Global Development
REES/SCAN 3251 (3)	Arctic Thrillers: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North
SOCY 3012 (3)	Gender and Development
SOCY 4027 (3)	Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment
SOCY 4037 (3)~	Hazards, Disasters and Society
SOCY 4052 (3)^	Social Inequalities in Health
SOCY 4117 (3)~	Food and Society

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