



ENSC-208 – Independent Study in Environmental Science

University Arts and Science

Effective Term & Year: Winter 2024
Course Outline Review Date: 2029-09-01

Program Area: Math and Sciences

Description:

This course is designed for focused, self-guided learning in the field of environmental science. Students will undertake a directed study project as designed in consultation with their instructor. Students gain a deeper understanding of a selected topic of research related to environmental issues from social, scientific, cultural, philosophical, and/or economic perspectives.

Program Information:

This course is an elective course for the Environmental Studies Certificate (ESC) and can be used as an elective course in the Associate of Science Environmental Sciences (ASCES) program.

Delivery Methods: Directed/Guided Studies

Credit Type: College of the Rockies Credits

Credits: 3

Course type/s: Sciences, Lab Sciences

Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	
Seminar/Tutorials	

Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	90
Total	90

Course Requisites:

- Instructor permission required

Flexible Assessment: Yes

In some cases students may be able to apply for recognition of prior learning outside the classroom. This flexible assessment process provides equivalent course credit. It is a rigorous process that may include external evaluation, worksite assessment, demonstration, standardized test, self-assessment, interview, products/portfolio, and challenge exam, or other measures as appropriate. Tuition fees apply. Contact an education advisor for more information.

Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrollment Service office.

Textbook Resources:

No specific textbook is assigned for this course. All required resources will be provided.

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop and pursue a focused study plan for researching a selected topic of interest

related to environmental sciences.

- Investigate, through scientific inquiry, an environmental issue via social, scientific, cultural, philosophical, and/or economic perspectives.
- Collect and analyze secondary data and/or information pertaining to the field-related topic.
- Draw meaningful conclusions and communicate insights through a written report.
- Use presentation skills to effectively communicate scientific information to identified stakeholders.
- Reflect on personal growth in knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to research and environmental sciences competencies.

Course Topics:

- Social, scientific, cultural, philosophical, and/or economic perspectives on environmental issues.
- Planning a research project
- Quantitative and/or qualitative data collection and analysis from secondary sources
- Science communication
- Science writing
- Collaborating with stakeholders/experts in the field

See instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.

Evaluation and Assessments

Assessment Type: Directed/Guided Studies

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Project Plan	30%
Project Report	30%
Presentation	20%
Report of learning (journal)	20%
Total	100%

Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60	59-55	54-50	<50

Evaluation Notes: A grade of "D" grants credit, but may not be sufficient as a prerequisite for sequential courses.

Evaluation Notes Comments:

Please see the instructor's syllabus for specific classroom policies related to this course, such as details of evaluation, penalties for late assignments and use of electronic aids.

Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
 - Policy 2.4.4 Student Conduct (plagiarism, other cheating, behavioral misconduct)
 - Policy 2.5.8 Academic Performance
 - Policy 2.5.3 Grade Appeal
 - Policy 2.4.9 Student Concerns Re Faculty
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Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.