Environmental Humanities

EHM 118: Introduction to the Natural History of Long Island
This multidisciplinary course focuses on the natural history of Long Island and the ecological analysis of local forests, salt marshes, marine intertidal systems and bogs. Students will become familiar with observation techniques and conceptual approaches used to investigate ecological patterns and processes in the local environment.

DEC: E
SBC: SNW

EHM 201: Eco-Aesthetics in Art
The biology, scale, texture, and color of the natural world and their relation to Art, Architecture and Design. Explores concepts of aesthetic-ecological harmony (developing symbiotic relationships between human-made artifacts and naturally occurring environments) as well as the history of Environmental Art, Architecture and Design. Slide lectures, readings, and the creation of site development proposals will introduce students to the basic principles of aesthetics, ecology, environmental inventory, and environmental art/design.

DEC: D
SBC: ARTS

EHM 202: Introduction to Environmental Humanities
An interdisciplinary inquiry into ethics, arts, culture, and theory in relation to environmental humanities. The course will be an overview of the emerging field of environmental humanities and will draw from multiple disciplines (philosophy, history, cultural studies, and literary criticism) to better our relationship to the nonhuman world. This course is a reading and writing intensive seminar and will require extensive writing practice, journaling, fieldwork, and formal essays. While you will be presented with established ideas and trends in environmental humanities, students will also be encouraged to formulate their own approaches to the material. The instructor values projects which exhibit critical and creative thinking along with a thorough understanding of rhetorical skills. This course is offered as both EHM 202 and SUS 202.

Prerequisite: WRT 102

DEC: G
SBC: HUM

3 credits

EHM 310: Beyond Eden: Contact Narratives, Origins and Sin
This course surveys Pueblo, African, Spanish, British, and Shinnecock contributions to American literature from the 1500s through the 1900s. Students will extend their understanding of these diverse traditions by analyzing contemporary literature that addresses the themes of nature, origins and sin, and by engaging in their own creative work. A final project will require students to examine one tradition in depth, to demonstrate understanding of theoretical approaches to literature, and to engage in historical research.

Prerequisite: WRT 102

DEC: K
SBC: HFA+

3 credits

EHM 314: Civilizations and Collapse
A comparative study of the development and collapse of civilizations. Changing case studies drawn from prehistoric and historic societies in the Americas provide students with an in-depth understanding of the ways in which two non-Western cultures were affected by and attempted to cope with environmental change. Students will learn to think critically about these processes and will complete the course with an increased awareness of the diversity of human responses to climatic change.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status

DEC: J
SBC: GLO

3 credits

EHM 315: Ethnographic Field Methods
Ethnographic Field Methods will explore and apply the methodological tools used by anthropologists to gather and interpret data. Using classic ethnographic texts, students will study a variety of anthropological methods. Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be examined. Students will apply the methods studied in class to an independent research project throughout the semester.

Prerequisite: U3/U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: ANT 102

3 credits

EHM 316: Cuba and Sustainability
For a variety of reasons, Cuba represents a wonderful case study for the value of using the natural history, arts, media and cultural traditions as a means of encouraging citizens to adopt environmentally sustainable practices. Working with the University of Havana Geography department, as well as Artes Escenicas Cubanas (Performing Arts organization) and Cuban writers about the environment, the class will explore the complexities of sustainability with an emphasis on the role of humanities in a global context with hands-on experience.

DEC: G
SBC: EXP+, GLO, HUM

3 credits

EHM 320: Artists and Designers of the Environment and Ecosystems
The location of Stony Brook provides students with a unique opportunity to study the fertile atmosphere New York has provided for artists, architects and other intellectuals whose work centers on environmental concerns. Commencing with the work of Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted, students will trace this rich history to post war artists including Alan Sonfist. We will also study the work of contemporary artists and designers, such as Jackie Brookner, and built works such as the Highline. Assignments will be centered on primary research into the creative process and sources of inspiration through photo documentation and interviews.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; completion of EHM 201 or another D.E.C. D or ARTS course

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+

3 credits

EHM 321: Utopia and Dystopia and the Environment in Literature and Culture
Examines 20th and 21st century Western cultural depictions of utopias and dystopias in literature (nonfiction, fiction). The course will consider literary representations of ideal or fallen societies, as well as ‘real life’ communities such as intentional, communal, co-operative ‘utopic’ models across the globe. Students will consider the ‘sustainability’ implications of living in ‘utopic’ and ‘dystopic’ communities. Students will write six short analytical essays about the course readings, give an oral and visual presentation on a real-life global utopic/dystopic community, and design their own model environmental utopic/dystopic community.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+

3 credits
EHM 322: Ecofeminism, Literature & Film

Ecofeminism, Literature, and Film will examine the connections among ecology and feminism in literature, film, conservation and sustainability. Ecofeminism is a complex ecocritical and philosophical approach to reading literature, film, and culture; it asks that we rethink our relationship to the earth and our responsibilities as human beings to all living creatures and to people of all races, cultures, and genders. In this course, students will study ecofeminist concepts in poetry, nonfiction essays, fiction, and films, and they will examine the work of prominent women ecologists, conservationists, and environmentalists.

Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

EHM 323: Environmental Justice

Explores the inequitable distribution of environmental risks, such as exposure to toxic chemicals and materials, versus environmental benefits such as access to environmental protections and natural resources. Most importantly, this course explores the essential question of 'why' there is such an inequity and, oftentimes, 'who' permits or allows disparate treatment. As Dr. Robert Bullard states, “who gets what, why, and how much?” Understanding the moral questions that underpin environmental justice requires exploration from the sociopolitical standpoint, but also through legal, economic, policy, and historical standpoints on a domestic, international, and transnational scale. The course will include readings from sociology and political science texts and perspectives, as well as literary and film portrayals of environmental justice topics.

Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
DEC: H
SBC: CER, STAS, WRTD
3 credits

EHM 325: Environmental Film, Media, Arts

This course is designed to develop visual communication skills and strategies to inspire environmental awareness and advocacy. The course extends beyond two-dimensional graphic design to include critical approaches to the practice of environmental design, film and visual art. With a focus on strategic messaging and technical skills, students will learn design principles, image making and filmmaking to bridge environmental issues through diverse media texts. Students will pick one topic, which will be used throughout the course as a primary theme and applied to various media and art projects. Each media project will use the tools of visual communication to engage the public and foster positive environmental, social, political, and ethical change.

Prerequisite: SBC 111, ENS 101, and U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

EHM 330: The Household in Non-Western Society

This course offers a survey of vernacular architecture in Non-Western societies worldwide. Students examine the design and meaning of vernacular architecture in a variety of cultures, exploring the ways in which construction practices and architectural design are shaped by cultural requirements and social mores. Special attention will be given to the future of vernacular architecture, and the ways in which housing may be designed to be both sustainable and culturally appropriate.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: ANT 102, ANT 104, or ARH 205
DEC: J
3 credits

EHM 331: Precolumbian Urbanism

An examination of the development of Precolumbian cities throughout the Americas. Specific attention will be paid to the interaction of urban development and environment, as well as the ways in which culture and cosmology impact architectural design. In depth consideration will be given to urban architecture of specific cultural groups in North, Central, and South America.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: J
SBC: GLO
3 credits

EHM 386: The Maya

For many, the word ‘Maya’ evokes images of a long dead culture and ruined pyramids. This course uses that familiarity as a starting point and follows the history of the Maya from ancient times to the present. We begin with an overview of what scholars know about the ancient Maya before tracing their experiences since the Spanish conquest, placing emphasis on Spanish colonization in the lowland areas of Mesoamerica, Mexico's War of the Castas, and the diverse experiences of the modern Maya including the Guatemalan Civil War and the Chiapas uprising, the impact of foreign tourism, and the experience of transnational migration. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which environmental and agrarian issues have impacted this diverse group of peoples.

Advisory prerequisite: Permission of the instructor/Study Abroad office
DEC: E
SBC: STEM+
3 credits
EHM 392: Water Security and Sustainable Development in the Turkana Basin
Lake Turkana, the world's largest desert lake, is now the focus of numerous development projects that have serious environmental, social, and political impacts. These include multiple dams and plantations in Ethiopia on the Omo River, which furnishes 90% of Lake Turkana’s water; the discovery of oil and a nearby large aquifer; and various other development initiatives. This course uses TBI’s unique geographic and strategic position to examine some of the contemporary and conceptual issues relating to disputes over trans-boundary water resources, such as hydropolitics, processes of securitization and de-securitization, hydro-hegemony and patterns of conflict and cooperation.
Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor/Study Abroad office
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

EHM 444: Experiential Learning
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a “real-world” setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.
Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)
SBC: EXP+
0 credit, S/U grading

EHM 459: Write Effectively in Environmental Humanities
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level EHM course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.
Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor
SBC: WRTD

EHM 487: Research in Environmental Humanities
Qualified advanced undergraduates may carry out individual research projects under the direct supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
SBC: EXP+
1-6 credits, S/U grading

EHM 488: Internship in Environmental Humanities
Participation in local, state, and national public and private agencies and organizations. May be repeated to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: U3/U4 status and permission of the Undergraduate Program Director
SBC: EXP+
0-12 credits, S/U grading

SBC

Sustainability Block Curriculum

SBC 111: Introduction to Sustainability Studies
Survey course introduces concept of sustainability. Sustainability is often defined as the ability to provide for the needs of the world's current population without damaging the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. This course reviews the needs of the current population and future generations, trends that affect our ability to provide those needs, and possible solutions that are environmentally, economically, and socially acceptable.
SBC: SNW
3 credits

SBC 113: Physical Geography Lecture
This study of geosystems examines modern environmental problems through quantitative methods, analysis, and modeling grounded in basic and applied science and research. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental processes that dominate the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere, their characteristics and complex interactions, and their impact on human life and society.
DEC: E
SBC: SNW
3 credits

SBC 114: Physical Geography Lab
This laboratory course provides hands on experience in understanding the geosystems, including distribution and interrelationships of climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms.
Pre- or corequisite: SBC 113
1 credit

SBC 115: Introduction to Human Geography
An introductory course on the study of human population. Measurement issues and data in demographic analysis, as well as demographic perspectives on the basis of a review of major sources of information about population studies will be presented. Theories incorporating social, economic and political explanations for influences on human population growth will be considered. Population processes, with focus on fertility, mortality and migration, are reviewed. Population structure and characteristics, the interaction of the population processes and the number of people in a society of a given age, sex, race, ethnicity, socio-economic levels, marital status, and gender, are reviewed. Major issues related to sustainability (such as economic development, food and pollution, urbanization, gender and minority empowerment, and the human relationship and ecology with other organisms and species) are reviewed.
Prerequisite: MAT 125, MAT 131, MAT 132, AMS 151, or level 6 or higher on math placement exam
SBC: SBS
3 credits

SBC 116: Introduction to Human Geography
Survey course introduces geography as a social science by emphasizing the relevance of geographic concepts to human problems. Course emphasizes globalization and cultural diversity.
DEC: F
SBC: SBS
3 credits

SBC 117: Design Drawing
This introductory course exposes the student to the fundamental theories and practices employed in visually representing design concepts from observational through technical and speculative drawing. The course content introduces the student to contour drawing, rendering, orthographic projection, and pictorial drawing. Project work engages the student in the application of the above-mentioned drawing techniques and develops
SBC 204: Population Studies
The course will present basic mathematics of population growth and introduce various approaches for modeling populations, including population viability analysis (PVA). PVA, the quantitative assessment of the extinction risk of rare species or populations, takes biological information (habitat requirements, birth and death rates, population size) and makes predictions about future population sizes. Real examples will be discussed for a range of organisms, from bacteria to plants and mammals. This course will provide also the background for understanding human population growth. The impacts of human population growth in the developed and developing world on the ecology of other organisms, habitats and systems will also be discussed.
Prerequisite: MAT 125, MAT 131, or AMS 151
DEC: E
SBC: STEM+
3 credits

SBC 206: Economics and Sustainability
Introduction to the basic economic concepts used in sustainability analysis. Students will learn the basic concepts and how to apply them in various contexts. Topics include the analysis of situations in which the behavior of individuals indirectly affects the well-being of others, strategic behavior and the environment, and the use of market-oriented policies to help in the stewardship of the environment.
Prerequisite: ECO 108
DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

SBC 207: American Environmental History
This course provides an overview of the history of how Americans have used, viewed and valued the natural environment. Beginning with the Indians and the early colonists (15th-16th centuries), the course will examine the cultural, social, economic, political, and technological currents that shaped North Americans' relationships with their environment in early and later industrial eras, after World War II, and finally, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Historical snapshots will center on people living in more natural places, such as farms and forests, as well as more built places, such as factories, cities, and suburbs. Events in the northeastern U.S. will provide a geographic focus, but the course will also look at related happenings elsewhere on the North American continent and beyond. Finally, it will examine at the growing array of movements that have identified themselves as 'environmental,' at the 'greenness' of modern culture, and at the environmental dimensions of a globalizing era.
Prerequisite: WRT 102
DEC: K & 4
SBC: SBS+, USA
3 credits

SBC 308: American Environmental Politics
This course will survey the politics of environmental policy-making in the United States. It examines how contrasting political, economic and social interests and values have clashed and contested with one another, and the exerted power, in the environmental policy realm. The course will explore past precedents and roots, but with a view to explain the shape of this realm in the modern United States, including the many actors and institutions: local, regional and national governments, non-governmental organizations and interest groups, as well as the public. It will look at the main patterns by which these groups have defined environmental problems and formulated and implemented solutions. A chief goal is to illuminate how and why solutions of real-world environmental problems, if they are to be effective, differ from those of scientific or engineering puzzles.
Prerequisite: POL 102
DEC: K
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

SBC 309: Global Environmental Politics
This course will explore the politics of environmental policy-making within the international realm. Focused especially on environmental dilemmas that cross national boundaries (i.e., pollution), or that are shared by multiple nations (i.e., global warming) it will look at the ways that such problems have been defined and their solutions sought, both with and without an over-arching state or governance. It will survey the many groups, interests and values that have clashed and competed with one another to exert power and influence international environmental policies, as well as the variety of international institutions and agreements that have sought to formulate and implement solutions. One goal is to illuminate how and why effective solutions to global environmental problems differ from those to scientific or engineering puzzles. The course also aims to spur student engagement with the sometimes overwhelming nature of global environmental threats, the tenuous and sometimes counterproductive ways that knowledge and power can be linked.
and the ways individuals may act powerfully in service of "sustainability."
Prerequisite: SBC 111 or ENV 115 or ENS 101 or GEO 101 or permission of instructor
SBC: GLO
3 credits

SBC 310: Migration, Development and Population Redistribution
This course draws upon the contributions of various social and natural sciences (including population and urban geography, demography, political science, sociology, history, economics, public health and environmental sciences) to explore the effects of migratory and demographic shifts on the environment, social welfare, public health, economic development, ethnic diversity, urbanization, public policy and planning. It will examine the political, social, environmental, health and economic effects on sustainability.
Prerequisite: SBC 115
3 credits

SBC 311: Disasters and Society: A Global Perspective
This class introduces students to the sociological examination of natural, technological, and industrial disasters. Students will explore how and why disasters are fundamentally social events: What do disasters reveal about society? Why are the human consequences of disasters unequally distributed? What are the typical ways in which states, organizations, and communities respond to disasters? Focusing on case studies from around the world, students will discuss: What are the long-term/short-term causes of particular disasters? What forms of suffering the disasters under consideration generated? What state/civil society actions did they trigger? What advocacy networks were put in place in their aftermath?
Prerequisite: SBC 111, or ENS 101, or GEO 101; POL 102 or SOC 105
DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

SBC 321: Ecology and Evolution in American Literature
This course is a review of 19th- and 20th-century American writers who trace the evolution of the US with respect to ecological practices through various multicultural perspectives. Literature covered will include transcendentalist essays, utopian/dystopian novels, ecofeminist fiction, and journalism.
Prerequisite: SBC 111, or ENS 101, or GEO 101; POL 102 or SOC 105
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 325: Environmental Writing and the Media
An examination of multiple genres (including: photo journalism, literary nonfiction, fine art and advertising and documentary film) in order to understand ways in which these genres are utilized to inform and manipulate public opinion regarding the environment. The culmination of the course will be a final project using multiple genres.
Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 330: Extreme Events in Literature
A course that examines the depiction of extreme events (both natural and human-related) in literature, journalism, art, and film, with special emphasis paid to the extended political and social issues that are raised by the events in question.
Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 331: City, Suburb, Sprawl
A course that traces the shift from city to suburb to sprawl in texts that span the late-nineteenth century through the early twenty-first century, with special attention paid to phenomena such as industrialization, immigration, mass society, globalization, and postmodern hyperspace. An interdisciplinary set of texts will include works by novelists, artists, architects, and literary theoreticians.
Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

SBC 354: Drawing for Design—CAD
Techniques and Theory of Drawing; Architectural Drawing; Learning Computer Assisted Design (CAD). This course will serve as an introduction to CAD tools relevant to design and architectural rendering.
Prerequisite: SBC 117
SBC: STEM+
3 credits

SBC 374: Environment and Development in African History
Provides a critical exploration of the history and political-economy of environmental changes and human activities in Africa from earlier times to the present. It examines the ways in which the dynamics of human-environment relationship have shaped the development of African societies and economies from the rise of ancient civilizations to the contemporary problems of war and famine. Although significant attention will be given to the pre-colonial era (like the impacts of iron-working, irrigation, deforestation and desertification), the focus of the course will be on the 20th century and after, looking at the impacts of imperialism, colonialism, globalization and the postcolonial quest for development on the state of the environment in Africa. In the discussion, we will demonstrate that the shaping of African environments and ecologies is a product of complex, evolving and interconnected developments between humans and nature within and beyond the African continent. Offered as both AFS 374 and SBC 374. Not for credit in addition to SBC 320.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS+
3 credits

SBC 401: Integrative, Collaborative Systems Studies
Problem-based capstone course.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status
SBC: ESI
3 credits

SBC 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum
Work with a faculty member as assistant in a regularly scheduled course. The student must attend all classes and carry out all assignments; in addition the student will be assigned a specific role to assist in teaching the course. The student will meet with the instructor on a regular basis to discuss intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate director
SBC: ESI, EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

SBC 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled courses. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.
Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate director
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading