

ES 001: Introduction to Environmental Studies
Westmont College, Fall 2019
Wednesdays 3:15 PM-6:30 PM *Location TBA*

INSTRUCTORS

Dr. Marianne Robins
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Widespread environmental problems such as biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and environmental change and degradation are among the most pressing global issues of our day. They have tremendous scientific, social, and economic impacts. Email:

GENERAL EDUCATION

ion requirement in **Thinking Globally**, and meets

analyze the dynamics of a particular artistic, economic, political, or social connection across cultural or regiona

		Global inequities	Global systems
Foundational Knowledge	Lectures, readings, discussions, tests, journals (c)	Lectures, readings, discussions, paper	Lectures, readings, discussions, paper
Connect systems	Lectures, discussions, readings, journals (a)	Lectures, discussions, readings, journals (a), paper	Lectures, discussions, readings, journals (a), paper
Theology and Ethics	Discussions, readings, journals		

related to food, water, carbon footprint, consumption or civic engagement. Your reflective response due on Week 4 should focus on the field trip taken the week prior.

b. Outdoor reflections:

Over the semester you will find a spot in three different habitats (oak woodland, riparian, chaparral, and/or shore) to sit quietly and observe for half an hour. You may jot down notes in a notebook, or make sketches if you like; but you should mostly focus on seeing, listening, smelling, perhaps even touching your surroundings. Refrain from the temptation to use any electronic devices over this time. After each of the three observation periods, write a short reflection on the experience (700 words).

c. Sustainability Speaker Series lectures:

You will attend at least three of the sustainability lectures proposed on campus and report in writing on the content of the presentation and the questions it raised for you (500 words).

4. Global Systems Papers (10%)

You will write a final paper reflecting on the global dimensions of the environmental issues presented in class and in your readings.

5. Campus Living Lab (25%)

You will participate in developing an interactive, research-based, multi-year campus sustainability project modeled on the concept of Urban Living Labs – an experimental approach to sustainability that has been modeled in cities throughout the world. This semester you will participate by conducting surveys and interviews with individuals on and off campus to determine what campus projects might be most exciting and practical to pursue in the future. You will present your findings as a class at a Sustainability Lecture Series seminar. Future ES 001 classes will move to the next stage of action based on your findings. Further details regarding this assignment will be given in class.

6. Participation (10%)

Participating means coming to class having read the texts assigned, listening attentively to your instructors and your peers, and asking and answering questions. Your grade will be derived from your ability to initiate and participate in discussions on the readings, and the questions and reflections you share as the class progresses.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Academic Integrity

We expect you to demonstrate academic integrity while completing assignments for this course.

and falsification, can be found at the following website:

http://www.westmont.edu/_offices/registrar/academic_policies/academic-dishonesty.html

If you have any questions regarding what academic integrity involves, we suggest consulting the College policy, or speaking with us directly.

2. Class Attendance and Conduct

Regular attendance of classes is expected, and attendance will be taken. College policy states that you are permitted to miss two classes per semester without penalty. Please inform us by email or in person if you are unable to attend a class. Students and instructor alike are responsible for maintaining an environment of collegiality and respect, free of any discrimination, harassment, or ridicule. **The use of cell phones, tablets, and computers is not permitted in the classroom.** Please turn off all such devices upon entering the classroom.

3. Late Assignments, Extensions, and Missed Exams

Late assignments will receive one-half grade-level reduction for each day they are late. Unexcused missed tests will receive a zero. Extensions or make-up tests will be offered only if you have missed their exam due to a medical or family emergency; appropriate documentation is required.

4. Academic Accommodations

If you have been diagnosed with a disability (learning, physical/medical, or psychological) are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Services office as early as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations for this course. Formal accommodations will only be granted for students whose disabilities have been verified by the Disability Services office. These accommodations may be necessary to ensure your full participation and the successful completion of this course. For more information, contact Sheri Noble, Director of Disability Services (565-6186, snoble@westmont.edu) or visit the website <http://www.westmont.edu/offices/disability>.

5. Meeting with the Instructors

You are warmly encouraged to meet with us to discuss anything related to the course: lectures,

Schiffman, Paula M. "The Los Angeles Prairie." *Land of Sunshine: Environmental History of the Los Angeles Region*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh (2005): 38-51.

Chapter 5 of *For the Beauty of the Earth* by Steven Bouma-Prediger
Conservation 2nd Ed. Hambler &
Canney 2013

Week 3

Field Trip: UCSB North Campus Open Space Restoration Project, *details TBA*

Week 4

Environment 2: Social Constructions of Nature, Wilderness

Selected readings from:

Environment, 18:2, 2005, 163-176.

Organization and

Uncommon Ground, 1995, 69-90.

The Great New Wilderness

Debate, 1998.

Excerpts from Burroughs, *The Art of Seeing Things*, 2001

Wolch and J Emel, *Animal Geographies*, 1998, 91-116.

Kate Soper, *What is Nature?*

Poem: Basho

Week 5

Energy & Climate 1: Causes and Consequences of Climate Change

Nogués-Bravo, David, Francisco Rodríguez-Sánchez, Luisa Orsini, Erik De Boer, Roland Jansson, Helene Morlon, Damien A. Fordham, and Stephen T. Jackson. "Cracking the code of biodiversity responses to past climate change." *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* (2018).

New York Times, 2018

Brook, Barry W., and Corey JA Bradshaw. "Key role for nuclear energy in global biodiversity conservation." *Conservation Biology* 29, no. 3 (2015): 702-712.

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Week 6

Energy & Climate 2: Energy, Climate, and Environmental Politics

Selected readings from:

Poem: Seamus Heaney, Höfn

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, ch. 3-5, available at:
https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf
Philip Warburg, *Harness the Sun* TBD
Kari Norgaard, 2010, *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions and Everyday Life*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, Introduction and ch. 3.

E. A. Wrigley, *Energy and the English Industrial Revolution*, Cambridge, 2010, ch. 1-2.
Journal of American History, 99,
2012, 24-39.
Paul

https://in.boell.org/sites/default/files/downloads/Themenpapier_GDR-2ndeEdFinal.pdf

Week 7

Food 1: Soil, Agriculture, and Feeding the World

*Sex, Economy, Freedom and
Community*

2018.
Khan,

Johnson, Nathanael. This is Roquette Science: How Computerized Arugula (aka roquette) ine, 2018.

Week 8

Food 2: Population Growth, Production, and Consumption

Selected readings from:

Excerpts from Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, 2006
Excerpts from Richard Manning, *The Oil We Eat*, 2004 (426)
Excerpts from Robert Stock, *Africa South of the Sahara*, 2004
Towards a Just Way of Eating
Marcus, *Meat Market: Animals, Ethics and Money*, 2005
D. Goodman, *Globalizing Food*, 2002
Anup Shah, *Ecology and the Crisis of Overpopulation*, 1998
Vandana Shiva, The Hijacking of the Global Food-supply
poem: Odeation

UN Report on Resource Use, December 2017
-Waste Offers Economic
Times Magazine, 2018.

Magazine 2016.

National Geographic, 2018.

National Geographic, 2018.

Independent, 2018.

Week 10

Resource Consumption 2: Consumption, the Commons, and the Economics of Sustainability

Selected readings from:

Science, 1962: 1243-8.

World Development,

19:6, 1991, 607-621

Theodore Panayotou, *Green Markets: The Economics of Sustainable Development*, 1993

Juliet Schor, *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth* (Penguin Press 2010) chap.

2.

TerraChoice Environmental Marketing, *The Six Sins of Greenwashing*, 2007

Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons* (Cambridge, 1990), pp. 1-8, 58-88.

Week 11

Pollution 1: Land, Air, Water & Environmental Justice

Silent Spring

Sullivan, Timothy J., Charles T. Driscoll, Colin M. Beier, Dallas Burtraw, Ivan J.

Fernandez, James N. Galloway, David A. Gay et al. "Air pollution success stories in the United States: The value of long-term observations." *Environmental Science & Policy* 84 (2018): 69-73.

Lawrence, Michael J., Holly LJ Stemberger, Aaron J. Zolderdo, Daniel P. Struthers, and

Risk Analysis, 26(5): 1395-407

The Crisis, Jul/Aug 2007, pp. 22-25.

Javier Auyero and Débora Alejandra Swistun, *Flammable: Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown*, Introduction, ch 2, 4.

Mike Davis, Ecology of Fear

Week 13

Water 1: Watersheds, water quality, drought, and floods

Overviews of watersheds in South Coast Region of California:

<http://coastalwatersheds.ca.gov/Watersheds/SouthCoast.aspx>

Gumprecht, Blake. "Who Killed the Los Angeles River." *Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles* (2005): 115-134.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Fact Sheets on National Rivers and Streams Assessment (2009), National Lake Assessment (2012), and National Wetland Assessment (2011)

DeNicola, Erica, Omar S. Aburizaiza, Azhar Siddique, Haider Khwaja, and David O. Carpenter. "Climate Change and Water Scarcity: The Case of Saudi Arabia." *Annals of Global Health* 81, no. 3 (2015): 342-353.

Week 14

Water 2: Resource for a Growing Population, and Political Implications

Prasannan

-Century

Modern Asian Studies 51, 2 pp. 485–510.

Excerpts from Elizabeth Economy, *The River Runs Black. The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*, 2004.

Ken Saro-wiwa, *Genocide in Nigeria: The Ogoni Tragedy*, 1992

Week 15

Pathways

Selected readings from:

T_Chipko.html

Paul Hawken, *Blessed Unrest*, New York, 2007, chap. 1, pp. 1-8.

Michael Mann and Tom Toles, *The Madhouse Effect*, chap. 8.

National Geographic, November 2015:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2015/11/germany-renewable-energy-revolution/>

Poem: Mary Oliver