

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES (ENSS)

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The Department of Environmental and Sustainability Studies provides students with a range of knowledge, skills and values essential to effective professional and social engagement that advances and improves understandings of sustainability, food systems, and human relationships to the environment within diverse cultural communities. The department provides majors in sustainable food systems (SFS) and environmental studies (ENVS) that focus on justice, equality, stewardship and other Core Values of the College through practical problem-solving. The department and its programs represent and encourage diverse interdisciplinary learning through high-impact practices such as learning communities, collaborative assignments and projects, practical skills courses, undergraduate research, global learning across cultures, service and community-based learning, and internships.

Degrees Offered

The Bachelor of Arts is offered in environmental studies and sustainable food systems.

- Environmental Studies Major (<https://catalog.guilford.edu/catalog/academic-departments-majors/environmental-sustainability-studies/environmental-studies/>)
- Sustainable Food Systems Major (<https://catalog.guilford.edu/catalog/academic-departments-majors/environmental-sustainability-studies/sustainable-food-systems/>)
- Sustainable Food Systems Minor (<https://catalog.guilford.edu/catalog/academic-departments-majors/environmental-sustainability-studies/sustainable-food-systems-minor/>)

ENVS 101. Environment and Society. 4.

This course is a broad introduction to the historical, cultural, political, economic, and ecological dimensions of human-environment interaction. We will ask big questions that seek to understand how humans and human social formations relate to nature and ecological processes through time and space. We will examine the consequences of those relations and trajectories for possible futures of increased human disturbance and/or the conditions for the mutual flourishing for all species. Course topics include belief systems and the environment, environmental justice, the politics of climate change, sustainable (and unsustainable) food systems, urban ecologies, and the environmental impacts of economic growth, development, and consumerism. Fulfills social justice/environmental responsibility requirements (1998). Evaluating systems and environments requirement (2019).

ENVS 150. Special Topics. 1-8.

May also be offered at 250, 350 and 450 levels.

ENVS 212. Environmental Science. 4.

Study of the structure and function of ecosystems with reference to energy flow, nutrient cycling, population growth and regulation, and community organization and dynamics. Particular emphasis on the relationship between humans and the environment. Fulfills natural science and mathematics and social justice/environmental responsibility requirements (1998). Fulfills the natural science/mathematics and evaluating systems and environments requirements (2019).

ENVS 220. The American Landscape (ART 220). 6.

A two-part exploration. First, students undertake traditional academic inquiry, reading and discussion. Second, they engage in experiential learning through an extended field trip and a direct photographic exploration of some of the landscapes and environments that have shaped American culture. Fulfills arts and social justice/environmental responsibility requirements (1998). Arts/humanities and evaluating systems and environments requirements (2019).

ENVS 242. Natural Science Seminars. 4.

Studies of the biology, geology, ecology and natural history of different field areas, including the American Southwest, the Galapagos, East Africa, Brannenburg, North Carolina and other areas. Includes a one-to three-week trip to the area being studied, depending on when the course is offered; trip includes research project. When course is offered for a minimum of 4 semester credits, the course will fulfill natural science/mathematics and social justice/environmental responsibility requirements (1998); natural science/mathematics, evaluating systems and environments requirements, and embodied and creative engagement requirements (2019).

ENVS 250. Special Topics. 1-8.

ENVS 260. Independent Study. 1-8.

May also be offered at 360 and 460 levels. Independent student projects are dependent upon the student's initiative in shaping the terms of investigation. The supervising instructor and the coordinator of environmental studies must approve a proposal describing the project.

ENVS 290. Internship. 1-8.

Recommended for all majors. College requirements apply. Details to be arranged between a student and a faculty member; schedules and nature of the work to be accomplished is at the discretion of the instructor. May also be offered at the 390 level.

ENVS 350. Special Topics. 8.

ENVS 360. Independent Study. 1-8.

ENVS 380. Inquiry and Practice in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. 4.

This course will introduce students to the theories, methods, and practices commonly used by both scholars and practitioners in the interdisciplinary field(s) of environmental and sustainability studies. We will hear from a wide variety of researchers, professionals, and activists about how they approach their work and their assessment of the future of the field. Students will explore the application of particular methods and theories in the development of a senior project proposal.

ENVS 390. Internship. 1-8.

ENVS 450. Special Topics. 1-8.

ENVS 460. Independent Study. 1-8.

ENVS 470. Senior Thesis. 1-8.

Recommended for all students planning to attend graduate school. A written senior thesis may be undertaken as a separate project or as the culmination of independent study; the senior thesis must represent serious research and independent thought.

ENVS 480. Senior Seminar. 1-4.

This senior seminar is designed as a time and place for students to discuss, critique, and work on their capstone projects, and to develop and practice presentations associated with their projects as they prepare for public presentations at GUS, the Environmental and Sustainability Studies Annual Forum, and/or professional conferences. Fulfills the Senior Seminar requirement for the Integrative Experience.

ENVS 490. Departmental Honors. 1-8.

For seniors with a 3.5 G.P.A. students may complete a senior thesis and obtain program honors at graduation.

SFS 110. Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture. 4.

This course develops skills and knowledge in sustainable agriculture through reading, reflection, discussion, and practical experience on the Guilford College Farm and at partner sites. We will spend some time in a classroom creating context and some time outdoors, applying what we have learned through hands-on experiences.

SFS 120. Introduction to Food Systems. 4.

Interdisciplinary overview of food systems, and the challenges facing them; introduces food insecurity issues facing the region. Fulfills social justice/environmental responsibility requirement (1998). Evaluating systems and environments requirement (2019).

SFS 150. Special Topics. 1-8.**SFS 210. Liberal Artisans Skills. 1-4.**

These hands-on courses provide students with practical skills in areas of food production, preparation and use. Topics may include urban farming, season extension, preservation and canning, farm management, fermentation and pickling, cheese making, beer making, wine making, food and culture courses, grant writing, beekeeping, farm machinery operation and repair, market management, basic carpentry, business planning, pruning, seed saving, grafting, etc. Can be repeated multiple times with different content.

SFS 213. Food and Faith: Interfaith Intersections, Community, and Ecological Awareness. 4.

This course will explore the interconnections between spiritual and/or value systems and the modes of agriculture we support. We will look at multiple perspectives of our natural environment and the ways these viewpoints affect how we treat animals, land, people, and how this affects our communities. This course includes discussion, independent and group reflection, experiential learning through hands-on activities, and visiting off-campus sites related to land conservation, communion, and connection. All students, faith-oriented or not are welcome to take part in this course. Our primary faith-related studies will slant toward Quakerism, but we will include multi-faith perspectives and other value-systems as well.

SFS 220. Sustainable Regional Food. 4.

Place-based, interdisciplinary look at solutions to the challenges facing food systems and regional innovations. Prerequisite or corequisite: SFS 120, or permission of instructor.

SFS 230. Food and Agriculture Law and Policy. 4.

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the complex legal web comprising our food system and to cultivate a systems thinking approach for our analysis, and, from there, to effectively apply that knowledge and analysis in food and agriculture advocacy endeavors. Prerequisite or corequisite: SFS 120, or permission of instructor.

SFS 250. Special Topics. 8.**SFS 260. Independent Study. 1-8.****SFS 290. Internship. 1-8.****SFS 350. Special Topics. 1-8.****SFS 360. Independent Study. 8.****SFS 390. Internship. 1-8.****SFS 410. Senior Capstone. 4.**

This course has been designed as a student-driven, project-based capstone for Sustainable Food Systems majors, and can serve as a student's signature work. ENVS students or others with a background in sustainable food may also be eligible to take the course. Students will decide on, research, and develop a hands-on project involving the Guilford College farm and/or other sustainable food-related issues in the greater community. Students will present their projects at the annual ENSS Forum, and/or at GUS. Fulfills the Senior Seminar requirement for the Integrative Experience.

Prerequisite: SFS 110, senior standing, and instructor permission. 1 credit is taken in the 12-week Spring semester of the senior year (project planning and research), and 4 credits are taken in the 3-week Spring semester of the senior year (project execution).

SFS 460. Independent Study. 8.**SFS 470. Senior Thesis. 4.****SFS 490. Departmental Honors. 4.**