

## SYLABUS ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies Spring 2021 2:00-3:20 PM: Lectures via Zoom

**Instructor:** Dr. Julie Hopper

**Email:** [juliehop@usc.edu](mailto:juliehop@usc.edu)

**Zoom Office Hours:** After Class + By Appointment

### **Course Description:**

This course will give you an overview of how the natural world works, the ways in which humans are perturbing the natural world, and the ways in which the challenges of environmental degradation are (or are not) being addressed by society and government.

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

- Describe physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the environment
- Demonstrate the ability to critically think and solve problems in the realm of environmental processes and issues
- Discuss issues facing the environment from a scientific and social perspective
- Examine how environmental issues affect humans, from multiple perspectives
- Examine solutions to environmental degradation through law, policy, science and technology, and human behavior

### **FREE Course Text & Readings:**

- Miller and Spoolman, 2016. Environmental Science. Delmar Cengage Learning, 15<sup>th</sup> Ed. **FREE ONLINE through USC Libraries** (use your proxy server/VPN)
  - <https://www-r2library-com.libproxy1.usc.edu/Resource/Title/1305090446>
  - Also available as a paperback (\$\$) <https://www.cengage.com/c/environmental-science-15e-miller/9781305090446/>
- Additional readings will be assigned and available on Blackboard

### **Course Requirements & Expectations:**

*\*See expanded classroom ground rules and zoom etiquette toward the end of this syllabus\**

- **Come to class prepared and engage in discussions, individual and group work\***
  - Take pair work or small group work seriously.
  - Make an effort to get to know other students. Introduce yourself to students in breakout rooms.
  - Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.
  - Understand that others will come to these lectures and discussions with different experiences from yours.
  - You are encouraged to have your videos on during the zoom lectures and discussions, as well as in the breakout rooms.
- **Leave cell phones off during the lecture and stay engaged**
- **Be respectful of instructors and other students in class\***
  - Listen respectfully
  - Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.
  - Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space.
  - Understand that your words have effects on others.
  - Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.
- **If you have to miss class make sure to notify the instructor beforehand and watch the zoom recording and makeup any in-class activities within 48 hours**

**Zoom and Online Course Portal, Blackboard:** I encourage all of you to email me with questions, or to set up an office hour by appointment as needed. Although this is an atypical semester, I will strive to engage each and everyone of you to the best of my abilities. Communication will be Key! **Please contact me with any issues that are impacting your ability to learn (such as internet connectivity, or other obstacles) and I will try to help or will refer you to someone that can.** Lectures will be via zoom, with links provided on the left-menu in blackboard. **Please see Zoom Etiquette Guidelines at the end of the syllabus.** I will incorporate documentaries and activities, which will often occur during part of the lecture period. This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and submitting assignments. You are responsible for all notifications and assignments posted online via BlackBoard. *Let Dr. Hopper know by the first lecture if you have trouble accessing BlackBoard.* Typically lecture slides will be available before the lecture is given.

<b>Grade Breakdown</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Midterm and Final Exam	200	53%
Ecological Foot Print	5	1%
News Bias Analysis	10	3%
Participatory Activities	55	15%
Endangered Species Blog post	50	13%
Letter to a Leader	30	8%
Documentary Reflection	20	5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>370</b>	

*Extra Credit*

*11*

<b>Grade Breakdown</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
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<b>Grading Scale:</b>	A	93-100	A-	90-92				
	B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82		
	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72		
	D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62	F	59 and below

### **Statement on Academic Conduct:**

**Plagiarism**-Presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words, is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientificmisconduct>.

**Overview on Exams:** The midterm and final will take place via a timed Respondus test on Blackboard. If there is a conflict with an exam, or if you have DSP time extensions, or if you are in a very different time zone, you **must** email the instructor *Two weeks in advance* to see if alternative arrangements can be made. **Make-up exams will be more difficult and will not be given except in extreme emergencies that you can produce concrete proof for.** If a student misses an exam without an excused reason, they will receive a zero. Exam questions will be draw from course readings, activities and lecture materials, and will include multiple choice, T/F, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and essay questions. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of "0".

## **Policies on Assignments and Class Activities**

**Late Assignments will have 20% deducted each 24 hours, with the first 24 hour deduction starting 5 min after the deadline.** Instructions for all assignments are on Blackboard (BB). **Regarding in-class activities:** If you cannot make it to a class, you will need to make up any associated in-class activities (5 pts each) within 48 hrs (due by 1:50 PM). To know whether an in-class activity occurred, you will need to watch the zoom recording and email me directly. Assignments and activities will be graded and posted on blackboard within 7-14 days after the due date.

## **Overview of Assignments: All due by 1:50 PM (California Time) via Turnitin (BB)\***

*Each of the below assignments are described in more detail on blackboard.*

### **Ecological Footprint Stats and Reflection: Due Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**

[https://www.footprintcalculator.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0YD4BRD2ARIsAHwmKVInn1g-BFx5LHSlqdJmF9lar3rv7vgo1xzIYu58W77ulCqgPY0kNNsaAu4yEALw\\_wcB](https://www.footprintcalculator.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw0YD4BRD2ARIsAHwmKVInn1g-BFx5LHSlqdJmF9lar3rv7vgo1xzIYu58W77ulCqgPY0kNNsaAu4yEALw_wcB)

**News Bias Analysis:** You will submit a ~1 page analysis on media bias based on articles from three different media outlets covering the same environmental issue. Guidelines for this assignment and the links to the three articles will be posted on BlackBoard. **Due Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Endangered Species Blog:** Involves researching an endangered species and its recovery plan. Culminates in a blog for use in an in-class discussion about choices in funding species recovery. See Blackboard Instructions for more information. **Due Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**In-Class Activities/Discussions (5-10 pts each):** Throughout the course you will be exposed to media, data based activities and in-depth discussions in class. Points are awarded via question worksheets or participation in activity-based discussions. In-class activity worksheets/reflections will need to be turned in within a 48 h period.

**Letter to a Leader:** ~2 page letter to a member of congress or the CEO or head of sustainability at a company expressing your views on a current environmental issue. The letter will be formatted as a formal letter, (with letterhead) and should be as persuasive as possible. Use evidence to support your plea. **Due Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>.** Extra credit (1 pt) will be given for actually sending your letter: Extra Credit Proof of submission due by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Zero-Waste Extra Credit Activity (5 pts):** For one week, keep a written log of everything that you put in the trash, recycling and/or compost. During the course of the week, try to implement several of the zero-waste tips included in the instructions for this activity on BB.

**iNaturalist Activity Extra Credit (5 pts) –** For this activity, you will use the iNaturalist app to take and submit photos of  $\geq 10$  different wild organisms (plants or animals) & write a reflection based on the activity prompts on BB (**All Extra credit due April 28<sup>th</sup> via BB**).

**Documentary Reflection:** You will watch a documentary relating to the science behind climate change, and will submit your answers to the reflection questions. **Due April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**-> Class Schedule on Next Page**

## Course Schedule (subject to slight changes)

Date	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Jan. 20	L. 1. Introduction And Course Overview	Ch. 1	
Jan. 25	L. 2. What Is Science? Measures Of Env Health & Interpreting Data	Ch. 1	<b>Ecological Footprint Disc.</b>
Jan. 27	L. 3. Earth As A System: Matter, Energy, And Change	Ch. 2	
Feb. 1	L.4. Climate and Biomes	Ch. 7	<b>News Bias Analysis Due</b>
Feb. 3	L.5. Ecosystem Ecology	Ch. 3	
Feb. 8	L.6. Population and Community Ecology	Ch. 5	
Feb. 10	L.7. Genetics & Evolution	Ch. 4	
Feb. 15	<b>Presidents Day (No Class)</b>		No Class
Feb. 17	L.8. Biodiversity	Ch. 4	<b>“Trophy” Documentary or “Rhino-Hunter” Disc.</b>
Feb. 22	L.9 Conservation and Endangered species	Ch. 8	<b>Endangered Species Blog</b>
Feb. 24	L.10. Human Pop. Growth And Demographics	Ch. 6	
Mar. 1	L.11. Cultures & the Environment: Past-Present	BB Reading	
Mar. 3	L.12. Land Resources	Ch. 9 & 12	
Mar. 8	<b>MIDTERM (via Blackboard respondus) Covers Lectures 1 -12 + Readings</b>		<b>Timed MIDTERM via BB, starts at 2PM</b>
Mar. 10	L.13 Agriculture and Agroecology	Ch. 10	
Mar. 15	L.14. Freshwater and Marine Resources	Ch. 11	
Mar. 17	L.15. Freshwater and Marine Pollution	Ch. 11	
Mar. 22	L.16. Nonrenewable Energy	Ch. 13	<b>Game Changer Disc.</b>
Mar. 24	L.17. Renewable Energy	Ch. 13	
Mar. 29	L.18. Air Pollution and Solutions	Ch.15.1-15.3	<b>Letter to a Leader Assign.</b>
Mar. 31	L.19 Noise and Light Pollution	BB Readings	
Apr. 5	L.20. Waste Generation, Disposal & Recycling	Ch. 16	
Apr. 7	<b>No Class: Exercise, Sleep, Spend time w/ friends</b>		<b>Wellness Day!</b>
Apr. 12	L.21. Sustainability and USC	Ch. 17	<b>USC Sustainability Disc.</b>
Apr. 14	L.22 The Environment and Human Health Risks	Ch. 14	
Apr. 19	<b>Watch Assigned Documentary (No Zoom Class)</b>		<b>Documentary Reflection</b>
Apr. 21	L.24. Climate Change	Ch.15.4-15.7	
Apr. 26	L.25. Global Change- Invasive Species	BB Reading	
Apr. 28	L.26. Env. Justice, Research and Policy + Evals	BB Reading	<b>Extra Credit due</b>
May. 12	<b>Take Home Final Exam Due by 1:50 PM via Turnitin on Blackboard</b>		

## Expanded ENST classroom ground rules and Zoom Etiquette

- **Share responsibility for including all voices in the conversation.** If you tend to have a lot to say, make sure you leave sufficient space to hear from others. If you tend to stay quiet in group discussions, challenge yourself to contribute so others can learn from you.
- **Listen respectfully.** Don't interrupt, turn to technology, or engage in private conversations while others are speaking. Use attentive, courteous body language. Comments that you make (whether asking for clarification, sharing critiques, or expanding on a point) should reflect that you have paid attention to the previous speakers' comments.
- **Be open to changing your perspectives based on what you learn from others.** Try to explore new ideas and possibilities. Think critically about the factors that have shaped your perspectives. Seriously consider points-of-view that differ from your current thinking.
- **Understand that we are bound to make mistakes in this space, as anyone does when approaching complex tasks or learning new skills.** Strive to see your mistakes and others' as valuable elements of the learning process.
- **Understand that your words have effects on others.** Speak with care. If you learn that something you've said was experienced as disrespectful or marginalizing, listen carefully and try to understand that perspective. Learn how you can do better in the future.
- **Take pair work or small group work seriously.** Remember that your peers' learning is partly dependent upon your engagement.
- **Understand that others will come to these discussions with different experiences from yours.** Be careful about assumptions and generalizations you make based only on your own experience. Be open to hearing and learning from other perspectives.
- **Make an effort to get to know other students.** Introduce yourself to students sitting near you. Refer to classmates by name and make eye contact with other students.
- **Understand that there are different approaches to solving problems.** If you are uncertain about someone else's approach, ask a question to explore areas of uncertainty. Listen respectfully to how and why the approach could work.

### Zoom Etiquette Guidelines (Zoom course links are on blackboard)

- **Arrive on time and sign into the zoom link using the USC Authentication System**
- **Please treat this class as if it were a physical in-person class.**
  - Do not walk, cook drive or conduct distracting activities while in Zoom
    - Similarly please do not lie down in bed while in the zoom class, believe me.. you will get tired and you will lose focus.
- **Video:** Everyone is highly encouraged to keep your videos on during our sessions, and especially in breakout rooms while you are interacting with your classmates and myself
- **Microphone:** Please mute yourselves when you are not speaking to reduce background noise. Feel free to unmute yourself when you have a question
- **Chat:** You are encouraged to type questions and participate in the discussions via the chat. If you don't want the rest of the class to see your response, you may send me a message privately. Occasionally I will use the chat record as a way of assessing participation (points)
- **Activities:** Some of the activities in this class will be via breakout rooms and others may be asynchronous- where you will have 10-20 mins of the class to conduct an activity. It is highly encouraged that you use class-time to complete the activity, but you will have the freedom to complete an activity within 48 h and turn it in (via BB or email- TBD).

## **IT, Academic and Student Support Systems**

**For Zoom or general IT USC Support:** Phone: (24/7): 213-740-5555; Email [consult@usc.edu](mailto:consult@usc.edu)

**For Blackboard Support:** Phone: 213-740-5555 (option 2, assistance 24/7) [blackboard@usc.edu](mailto:blackboard@usc.edu)

**Research Support:** Need to do research but don't know where to start? Not sure how to cite a source in your bibliography? Ask a librarian! <http://libguides.usc.edu/> **General Academic Support:**

The Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity provides customized support services to help students transition into college and achieve their academic goals. <https://kortschakcenter.usc.edu/>

**Counseling and Mental Health** - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call [studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling)  
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline** - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)  
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

**Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)** - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call [studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault) Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

**Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)** - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298 [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu) Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

**Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment** - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298 [usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report) Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

**The Office of Disability Services and Programs** - (213) 740-0776 [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu) Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

**USC Campus Support and Intervention** - (213) 821-4710 [campussupport.usc.edu](http://campussupport.usc.edu)  
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

**Diversity at USC** - (213) 740-2101 [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu) Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

**USC Emergency** - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu) Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

**USC Department of Public Safety - UPC:** (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu) Non-emergency assistance or information.

**Office of the Ombuds** - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC) [ombuds.usc.edu](http://ombuds.usc.edu)  
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will