EHM

Environmental Humanities

EHM 118 - E: Introduction to the Natural History of Long Island
This multi-disciplinary course focuses on the natural history of Long Island and the ecological analysis of local forests, salt marshes, marine intertidal systems and bogs. During field labs, students will become familiar with observation techniques and conceptual approaches used to investigate ecological patterns and processes in the local environment.
3 credits

EHM 201 - D: Eco-Aesthetics in Art
Introduces the basic theoretical tools used to analyze and interpret works of fine art, environmental art, landscape architecture and architecture from an aesthetic perspective. Representative works of landscape painting (William Merrit Chase), environmental art (Robert Smithson), and landscape design (Frederick Law Olmstead) will be explored through formal lectures, class discussion and studios/site visits. Students will deconstruct the components of their surroundings and record their observations through the production of an artist’s sketchbook. Emphasis will be placed on the multi-sensory examination of form, color, texture, and other principles and elements of art as they are manifested in these environments.
4 credits

EHM 310 - K: 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, SBC 203
3 credits

EHM 314 - J: 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: SBC 111 or ENS 101 or GEO 101 or ANT 104 or permission of instructor
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 320 - G: Artists and Designers of the East End
Students trace the history of Long Island’s East End artists and architects beginning with the work of Thomas Moran, Grosvenor Atterbury and William Merritt Chase through postwar artists Jackson Pollack and architect Richard Meier. Contemporary artists including Eric Fischl, April Gornick and Robert Wilson are studied and studio visits are made. Assignments center on primary research into the creative process through photo documentation and oral history.
Prerequisite: Completion of EHM 201-D or another DEC D course and U3 / U4 Standing
4 credits

EHM 330 - J: 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
3 credits

EHM 331 - J: 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
3 credits

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.
1-6 credits, S/U grading