Environmental Humanities

Major in Environmental Humanities

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Environmental Humanities (EHM)
The Environmental Humanities major, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree, draws together a range of disciplines to explore human understanding and interpretation of nature. The curriculum integrates disciplines from social sciences and the humanities including: writing, literature, philosophy, history, anthropology, archaeology, and art and architectural history.

The major prepares students to lead efforts to revitalize public understanding of the natural world through nature education, museum work, community organizing, literacy education, advocacy, business, writing and the arts. They may also choose to pursue advanced degrees in literature, journalism, education, social work, the arts, the social sciences and law.

The major builds on the interdisciplinary sustainability core curriculum. Students will enroll in major-specific courses in their junior and senior year. As part of the degree requirements, students will work in teams with students enrolled in related majors to solve problems collaboratively. Students are encouraged to take advantage of local and international independent research opportunities, internships and field camps to gain real-world experience.

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Humanities

A. Required Foundation Courses for Major (31-33 credits)
- ANT 102-F Introduction to Cultural Anthropology or ANT 104-F Introduction to Archaeology (3 credits)
- EHM 201-D Ecoaesthetics in Art (4 credits)
- MAT 118-C Mathematical Thinking or MAT 122-C Overview of Calculus with Applications (3 credits)
- POL 102-F4 Introduction to American Government (3 credits)
- SBC 104-B Introduction to Moral Reasoning (3 credits)
- SBC 111 Introduction to Sustainability (3 credits)
- Two of the following: SBC 113-E/114 Physical Geography OR ENV 115-E Chemistry, Environment and Life OR MAR 104-E Oceanography,
- SBC 116 Human Geography (3 credits)
- SBC 203-G Critical Analysis (3 credits)

B. Career and Leadership Skills (3 credits)
Three courses selected from CSK 101-109 (1 credit each)

C. Core Courses (21-22 credits)
Students are required to select 3 credits from each group (A-C). The remaining 12-13 credits may be selected from one area of concentration, or spread across all three areas. An internship or independent study may be completed in any of the three core areas and as many as 3 credits may be applied to replace one of the courses.

Group A: Writing, Literature and Philosophy
EGL 373-J Literature in English from Non-Western Cultures (3 credits)
EGL 396-G Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies in Asia, Africa and Latin America (3 credits)
EGL 378-J Contemporary Native American Fiction (3 credits)
EGL 379-J Native American Texts and Contexts (3 credits)
EGL 395-I Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies of Europe (3 credits)
EHM 310-K Beyond Eden: Contact Narratives, Origins and Sin (3 credits)
SBC 307 American Environmental History (3 credits)
SBC 308 American Environmental Politics (3 credits)
SBC 309 Global Environmental Politics (3 credits)
SBC 311 Disasters and Society: A Global Perspective (3 credits)
SBC 312 Environment, Society and Health (3 credits)
SUS 305-F Collective Action and Sustainability (3 credits)

**Group C: Applied Environmental Aesthetics**

- SBC 117 Design Drawing (3 credits)
- SBC 354 Drawing for Design—CAD (3 credits)
- ARS 205 Foundation—Idea and Form (3 credits)
- ARH 205 Introduction to Architecture (3 credits)
- ARH 390-I Foundations in European Art (3 credits)
- ARH 391-G Topics in Global Art (3 credits)
- ARH 396-K Topics in American Art (3 credits)
- EHM 320 Artists and Designers of the East End (4 credits)
- EHM 330-J The Household in Non-Western Society (3 credits)
- EHM 331-J Precolumbian Urbanism (3 credits)
- SBC 200 History of Human Settlements and Long Island’s Development (3 credits)
- EDP 307 Theory and Design of Human Settlement (3 credits)

With permission of the Program Director, a student may take SBC 487 Independent Study or SBC 488 Internship in lieu of any one course in any core area (with a max of 3 credits applied to the major requirements).

D. Systems Course (3 credits)

- SBC 401 Integrative, Collaborative Systems Project (3 credits)

E. Upper-Division Writing Requirement

Proficiency in writing, oral communication, and computer literacy will be encouraged in all students. These skills will be developed within the context of other formal coursework and no additional credits are required. To meet the upper-division writing requirement, students must submit two papers from any 300-level or 400-level course in the major to the Director of the SUS Undergraduate Program.

### Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Environmental Humanities

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<th>Freshman Fall</th>
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EHM

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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 Merritt 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 climactic change.
Prerequisite: SBC 111
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