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.

**Major and Minor in Environmental Humanities**

Requirements for the Major in Environmental Humanities

A. Required Foundation Courses for Major (31-33 credits)

- ANT 102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology or ANT 104 Introduction to Archaeology
- EHM 201 Ecoaesthetics in Art
- MAT 118 Mathematical Thinking or MAT 122 Overview of Calculus with Applications
- PHI 104 Moral Reasoning
- POL 102 Introduction to American Government
- SBC 111 Introduction to Sustainability
- Two of the following: SBC 113/114 Physical Geography OR ENV 115 Chemistry, Environment and Life OR MAR 104 Oceanography, BIO 201 Organisms to Ecosystems, OR EHM 118 Introduction to the Natural History of Long Island
- SBC 116 Human Geography
- SBC 203 Critical Analysis

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 Literature in English from Non-Western Cultures
- EGL 378 Contemporary Native American Fiction
- EGL 379 Native American Texts and Contexts
- EGL 395 Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies of Europe
- EHM 310 Beyond Eden: Contact Narratives, Origins and Sin
- SBC 321 Ecology and Evolution in American Literature
- SBC 325 Environmental Writing and the Media
- SBC 330 Extreme Events
- SBC 331 City, Suburb and Sprawl
- SUS 301 Environmental Ethics
- SUS 350 Contemporary Topics in Sustainability
- PHI 366/SUS 366 Philosophy of the Environment

**Group B: Social Sciences**

- ANT 201 Peoples and Cultures of South America
- ANT 357 The Agricultural Revolution
- ANT 362 Long Island Archaeology
• ANT 381 Applied Anthropology
• EHM 314 Civilizations and Collapse
• EHM 315 Ethnographic Methods
• ENV 310 Sustainability and Renewable Energy - Costa Rica
• HIS 215 Long Island History
• SBC 307 American Environmental History
• SBC 308 American Environmental Politics
• SBC 309 Global Environmental Politics
• SBC 311 Disasters and Society: A Global Perspective
• SBC 312 Environment, Society and Health
• SUS 303 Demographic Change and Sustainability
• SUS 305 Collective Action and Sustainability
• SUS 341 Environmental Treaties and Protocols

Group C: Applied Environmental Aesthetics

• SBC 117 Design Drawing
• SBC 354 Drawing for Design—CAD
• ARS 205 Foundation—Idea and Form
• ARH 205 Introduction to Architecture
• EHM 320 Artists and Designers of the East End
• EHM 330 The Household in Non-Western Society
• EHM 331 Precolumbian Urbanism
• SBC 300 History of Human Settlements and Long Island’s Development
• EDP 307 Theory and Design of Human Settlement

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

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.

Students should consult with the department advisor to ensure that their plan for completing the Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent with university graduation requirements for General Education. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must complete a course that satisfies the “Write Effectively within One's Discipline” (WRTD) learning objective to graduate. The Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent in most cases with the SBC learning outcomes for WRTD.

Note:
One course passed with a C- may be applied to the major; all other courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Course taken with the Pass/NC option may not be applied to the major.

Minor in Environmental Humanities

The Environmental Humanities minor is intended for students who seek to complement their chosen major with a foundation in the humanistic aspects of environmental studies and develop skills in one of Environmental Humanities core areas of study.

Requirements for the Minor

No more than one three-credit course in the minor may be taken under the Pass/No Credit option. All upper-division courses offered for the minor must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Only two courses used to satisfy requirements for the student's major may be applied towards the minor. Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

1. Required four introductory courses: 12 credits
   - SBC 203 Critical Analysis
   - SBC 111 Introduction to Sustainability Studies
   - EHM 201 Ecoaesthetics in Art

   One of the following courses:
   - ANT 102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
   - ANT 104 Introduction to Archaeology

2. Required three advanced courses from one or two of the three core areas: 9 credits.
Group A: Writing, Literature and Philosophy

- EGL 378 Contemporary Native American Fiction
- EGL 379 Native American Texts and Contexts
- EHM 310 Beyond Eden: Contact Narratives, Origins and Sin
- SBC 321 Ecology and Evolution in American Literature
- SBC 325 Environmental Writing and the Media
- SBC 330 Extreme Events
- SBC 331 City, Suburb and Sprawl
- SUS 301 Environmental Ethics
- PHI 366/SUS 366 Philosophy of the Environment

Group B: Social Sciences

- ANT 201 Peoples and Cultures of South America
- ANT 357 The Agricultural Revolution
- ANT 361 Peasants
- ANT 362 Long Island Archaeology
- ANT 381 Applied Anthropology
- EHM 314 Civilizations and Collapse
- EHM 386/HIS 386 The Maya
- ENV 310 Sustainability and Renewable Energy - Costa Rica
- HIS 215 Long Island History
- SBC 307 American Environmental History or HIS 365 North American Environmental History
- SBC 308 American Environmental Politics
- SBC 309 Global Environmental Politics
- SBC 311 Disasters and Society: A Global Perspective
- SBC 312 Environment, Society and Health
- SUS 303 Demographic Change and Sustainability
- SUS 305 Collective Action and Sustainability
- SUS 341 Environmental Treaties and Protocols

Group C: Applied Environmental Aesthetics

- SBC 117 Design Drawing
- SBC 354 Drawing for Design—CAD
- ARH 205 Introduction to Architecture
- EHM 320 Artists and Designers of the Environment and Ecosystems
- EHM 330 The Household in Non-Western Society
- EHM 331 Precolumbian Urbanism
- SBC 200 History of Human Settlements and Long Island’s Development
- EDP 307 Theory and Design of Human Settlement

Declaration of the Minor

Students should declare the Environmental Humanities minor no later than the middle of their junior year, at which time they should consult with the minor coordinator or undergraduate director and plan their course of study for fulfillment of the requirements.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Environmental Humanities

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## SENIOR

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**EHM**

**Environmental Humanities**

**EHM 118: Introduction to the Natural History of Long Island**
This multidisciplinary course focuses on the natural history of Long Island and the ecological analysis of local forests, salt marshes, marine intertidal systems and bogs. Students will become familiar with observation techniques and conceptual approaches used to investigate ecological patterns and processes in the local environment.

**DEC:** E  
**SBC:** SNW  
3 credits

**EHM 201: Eco-Aesthetics in Art**
The biology, scale, texture, and color of the natural world and their relation to Art, Architecture and Design. Explores concepts of aesthetic-ecological harmony (developing symbiotic relationships between human-made artifacts and naturally occurring environments) as well as the history of Environmental Art, Architecture and Design. Slide lectures, readings, and the creation of site development proposals will introduce students to the basic principles of aesthetics, ecology, environmental inventory, and environmental art/design.

**DEC:** D  
**SBC:** ARTS  
3 credits

**EHM 310: 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  
**DEC:** K  
**SBC:** HFA+  
3 credits

**EHM 314: 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:** U3 or U4 status  
**DEC:** J  
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  
**DEC:** J  
3 credits

**EHM 320: Artists and Designers of the Environment and Ecosystems**
The location of Stony Brook provides students with a unique opportunity to study the fertile atmosphere New York has provided for artists, architects and other intellectuals whose work centers on environmental concerns. Commencing with the work of Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted, students will trace this rich history to post war artists including Alan Sonfist. We will also study the work of contemporary artists and designers, such as Jackie Brookner, and built works such as the Highline. Assignments will be centered on primary research into the creative process and sources of inspiration through photo documentation and interviews.

**Prerequisite:** U3 or U4 standing; completion of EHM 201 or another D.E.C. D or ARTS course  
**DEC:** G  
**SBC:** HFA+  
3 credits

**EHM 330: 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  
**DEC:** J  
3 credits

**EHM 331: 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/U4 standing  
**DEC:** J  
3 credits

**EHM 386: The Maya**
For many, the word 'Maya' evokes images of a long dead culture and ruined pyramids. This course uses that familiarity as a starting point and follows the history of the Maya from ancient times to the present. We begin with an overview of what scholars know about the ancient Maya before tracing their experiences since the Spanish conquest, placing emphasis on Spanish colonization in the lowland areas of Mesoamerica, Mexico's War of the Castas, and the diverse experiences of the modern Maya including the Guatemalan Civil War and the Chiapas uprising, the impact of foreign tourism, and the experience of transnational migration. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which environmental and agrarian issues have impacted this diverse group of peoples.

**Advisory prerequisite:** HIS 212  
**DEC:** J  
**SBC:** SBS+  
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.

**Prerequisite:** Permission of instructor  
1-6 credits, S/U grading

**SBC**

Sustainability Block Curriculum

Stony Brook University: www.stonybrook.edu/ugbulletin
SBC 111: Introduction to Sustainability Studies
Survey course introduces concept of sustainability. Sustainability is often defined as the ability to provide for the needs of the world's current population without damaging the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. This course reviews the needs of the current population and future generations, trends that affect our ability to provide those needs, and possible solutions that are environmentally, economically, and socially acceptable.

SBC: SNW
3 credits

SBC 113: Physical Geography Lecture
This study of geosystems examines modern environmental problems through quantitative methods, analysis, and modeling grounded in basic and applied science and research. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental processes that dominate the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere, their characteristics and complex interactions, and their impact on human life and society.

DEC: E
SBC: SNW
3 credits

SBC 114: Physical Geography Lab
This laboratory course provides hands on experience in understanding the geosystems, including distribution and interrelationships of climate, vegetation, soils, and landforms.

Pre- or corequisite: SBC 113
1 credit

SBC 115: Introduction to Human Demography
An introductory course on the study of human population. Measurement issues and data in demographic analysis, as well as demographic perspectives on the basis of a review of major sources of information about population studies will be presented. Theories incorporating social, economic and political explanations for influences on human population growth will be considered. Population processes, with focus on fertility, mortality and migration, are reviewed. Population structure and characteristics, the interaction of the population processes and the number of people in a society of a given age, sex, race, ethnicity, socio-economic levels, marital status, and gender, are reviewed. Major issues related to sustainability (such as economic development, food and pollution, urbanization, gender and minority empowerment, and the human relationship and ecology with other organisms and species) are reviewed.

Prerequisite: MAT 125, MAT 131, MAT 132, or level 6 or higher on math placement exam.

SBC: SBS
3 credits

SBC 116: Introduction to Human Geography
Survey course introduces geography as a social science by emphasizing the relevance of geographic concepts to human problems. Course emphasizes globalization and cultural diversity.

SBC: SBS
3 credits

SBC 117: Design Drawing
This introductory course exposes the student to the fundamental theories and practices employed in visually representing design concepts from observational through technical and speculative drawing. The course content introduces the student to contour drawing, rendering, orthographic projection, and pictorial drawing. Project work engages the student in the application of the above-mentioned drawing techniques and develops skills through the solution of student tailored problems.

DEC: D
SBC: TECH
3 credits

SBC 200: Human Settlement: History and Future
The history of city growth over the millennia as affected by technological change is a basis for understanding the future of human settlement. More than half of the world's population currently lives in cities and urbanization continues on a global scale. The universality of urban development and resulting patterns will be presented as well as limits on growth of cities. Architectonic and socioeconomic planning theories and strategies for sustainable growth are presented. The development of Long Island, which is a microcosm of national and global patterns, will be discussed in detail.

DEC: F
SBC: SBS
3 credits

SBC 201: Systems and Models
Introduction to the dynamic modeling of complex systems. Students will learn to use simulation software that facilitates the visualization, formulation, and analysis of systems. Students will learn about systems with positive and negative feedbacks, the effects lags on system performance, and the difference between stocks and flows. Systems studied will include ecological models, economic models, chemical models, population models, epidemiological models, and models that include the interactions between population, economic development, and the environment.

Prerequisite: AMS 151 or MAT 125 or MAT 131 or MAT 141
1 credit

SBC 203: Interpretation and Critical Analysis
An introduction to interdisciplinary inquiry and representation in arts, culture, and theory with emphasis on the roles of analysis, argument, and imagination in multiple media. Requires serious engagement with sophisticated texts.

Pre- or corequisite: WRT 102

DEC: G
SBC: CER, HUM, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 204: Population Studies
The course will present basic mathematics of population growth and introduce various approaches for modeling populations, including population viability analysis (PVA). PVA, the quantitative assessment of the extinction risk of rare species or populations, takes biological information (habitat requirements, birth and death rates, population size) and makes predictions about future population sizes. Real examples will be discussed for a range of organisms, from bacteria to plants and mammals. This course will provide also the background for understanding human population growth. The impacts of human population growth in the developed and developing world on the ecology of other organisms, habitats and systems will also be discussed.

Prerequisite: MAT 125

DEC: E
SBC: STEM+
3 credits

SBC 205: Introduction to Geospatial Analysis (lab course)
Introduction to geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing techniques as applied to documenting, mapping, analyzing, interpreting, and managing natural and cultural resources. Overview of types of
This course will survey the politics of environmental policy-making within the international realm. Focused especially on environmental dilemmas that cross national boundaries (i.e., pollution), or that are shared by multiple nations (i.e., global warming) it will look at the ways that such problems have been defined and their solutions sought, both with and without an over-arching state or governance. It will survey the many groups, interests and values that have clashed and competed with one another to exert power and influence international environmental policies, as well as the variety of international institutions and agreements that have sought to formulate and implement solutions. One goal is to illuminate how and why solutions of global environmental problems differ from those to scientific or engineering puzzles. The course also aims to spur student engagement with the sometimes overwhelming nature of global environmental threats, the tenuous and sometimes counterproductive ways that knowledge and power can be linked, and the ways individuals may act powerfully in service of "sustainability."

Prerequisite: SBC 111 or ENV 115 or ENS 101 or GEO 101 or permission of instructor

SBC 310: Migration, Development and Population Redistribution
This course draws upon the contributions of various social and natural sciences (including population and urban geography, demography, political science, sociology, history, economics, public health, and environmental sciences) to explore the effects of migratory and demographic shifts on the environment, social welfare, public health, economic development, ethnic diversity, urbanization, public policy and planning. It will examine

the political, social, environmental, health and economic effects on sustainability.

Prerequisite: SBC 115

SBC 311: Disasters and Society: A Global Perspective
This class introduces students to the sociological examination of natural, technological, and industrial disasters. Students will explore how and why disasters are fundamentally social events: What do disasters reveal about society? Why are the human consequences of disasters unequally distributed? What are the typical ways in which states, organizations, and communities respond to disasters? Focusing on case studies from around the world, students will discuss: What are the long-term/short-term causes of particular disasters? What forms of suffering the disasters under consideration generated? What state/civil society actions did they trigger? What advocacy networks were put in place in their aftermath?

Prerequisite: SBC 111, or ENS 101, or GEO 101; POL 102 or SOC 105

SBC 312: Environment, Society, and Health
This class examines the interactions between environment, social structures, and institutions. The first part of the class examines the ways in which environmental issues are perceived and constructed by various social actors (lay public, state officials, scientists, activists, media). The second part of the class will examine the differential impact of class, race, and gender on the distribution of hazards and risks (what is commonly known as 'environmental inequality'). In the third part of the class, students will be introduced to different cases of 'contested environmental illnesses' (cancer, lead-poisoning, asthma).

Prerequisite: SBC 111, or ENS 101, or GEO 101; POL 102 or SOC 105
the complexity and diversity of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of distribution of languages, religions, ethnicity, family relations, and governance systems. The influence of globalization, migration, HIV/AIDS, conflicts, population growth, and socioeconomic development policies on modern Sub-Saharan African are discussed. 

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

SBC 321: Ecology and Evolution in American Literature

This course is a review of 19th- and 20th-century American writers who trace the evolution of the US with respect to ecological practices through various multicultural perspectives. Literature covered will include transcendentalist essays, utopian/dystopian novels, ecofeminist fiction, and journalism.

Prerequisite: SBC 203 or EGL 204

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 325: Environmental Writing and the Media

An examination of multiple genres (including: photo journalism, literary nonfiction, fine art and advertising and documentary film) in order to understand ways in which these genres are utilized to inform and manipulate public opinion regarding the environment. The culmination of the course will be a final project using multiple genres.

Prerequisite: WRT 102
Advisory Prerequisite: SBC 203

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 330: Extreme Events in Literature

A course that examines the depiction of extreme events (both natural and human-related) in literature, journalism, art, and film, with special emphasis paid to the extended political and social issues that are raised by the events in question.

Prerequisite: SBC 203 or EGL 204

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

SBC 331: City, Suburb, Sprawl

A course that traces the shift from city to suburb to sprawl in texts that span the late-nineteenth century through the early twenty-first century, with special attention paid to phenomena such as industrialization, immigration, mass society, globalization, and postmodern hyperspace. An interdisciplinary set of texts will include works by novelists, artists, architects, and literary theoreticians.

Prerequisite: SBC 203 or EGL 204

DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

SBC 354: Drawing for Design--CAD

Techniques and Theory of Drawing; Architectural Drawing; Learning Computer Assisted Design (CAD). This course will serve as an introduction to CAD tools relevant to design and architectural rendering.

Prerequisite: SBC 117

SBC: STEM+
3 credits

SBC 401: Integrative, Collaborative Systems Studies

Problem-based capstone course.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 status

SBC: ESI
3 credits

SBC 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum

Work with a faculty member as assistant in a regularly scheduled course. The student must attend all classes and carry out all assignments; in addition the student will be assigned a specific role to assist in teaching the course. The student will meet with the instructor on a regular basis to discuss intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate director

SBC: ESI, EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

SBC 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II

Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member’s regularly scheduled courses. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and undergraduate director

SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading