Forestry and Environmental Studies

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The School of Forestry & Environmental Studies is primarily a graduate and professional program designed to train leaders to solve worldwide environmental problems and to provide new understanding of local and global environments through interdisciplinary research in the natural and social sciences. The School offers numerous courses to undergraduates in Environmental Studies, and undergraduates from any major can take courses in the School. Those undergraduates with significant interest should contact the School's undergraduate program adviser to discuss a joint degree program that allows Yale College students to earn both a bachelor’s degree from Yale College and an M.E.M. from the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies in five years. For more information on the joint program, see the School’s website. Most graduate-level courses are open to qualified undergraduates. Listings and detailed descriptions of these courses are available in the bulletin of the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and most also appear in the online bulletin of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Information about the programs of the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies may be found on the School’s website. Most lectures and symposia are open to undergraduates, and a calendar of events is also posted on the School’s website.

* F&ES 020a / EVST 020a, Sustainable Development in Haiti  Gordon Geballe
The principles and practice of sustainable development explored in the context of Haiti’s rich history and culture, as well as its current environmental and economic impoverishment. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program. wr

F&ES 255b / EVST 255b / GBL 282b / PLSC 215b, Global Food Challenges: Environmental Politics and Law  John Wargo
We explore relations among food, environment, health, and law. We consider global-scale avoidable challenges such as: starvation and malnutrition, obesity, other food related human diseases, climate instability, soil loss, water depletion and contamination, microbial hazards, chemical contamination, food waste, dietary convergence, air pollution, energy, packaging, culinary globalization, and biodiversity loss. We focus on laws that influence the world’s food system, including those intended to reduce or prevent environmental and health damages. Other laws protect rights of secrecy, property, speech, confidential business information, free trade, worker protection, equal opportunity, and freedom from discrimination. Ethical concerns of justice, equity, and transparency are prominent themes. Examples of effective law, consumer movements and corporate innovations provide optimism for the future of responsible food. SO

* F&ES 261a / EVST 261a / G&G 261a, Minerals and Human Health  Ruth Blake
Study of the interrelationships between Earth materials and processes and personal and public health. The transposition from the environment of the chemical elements essential for life. After one year of college-level chemistry or with permission of instructor; G&G 110 recommended. SC

* F&ES 290b / EVST 290b, Geographic Information Systems  Charles Tomlin
A practical introduction to the nature and use of geographic information systems (GIS) in environmental science and management. Applied techniques for the acquisition, creation, storage, management, visualization, animation, transformation, analysis, and synthesis of cartographic data in digital form.

F&ES 315a / E&EB 15a, Conservation Biology  Linda Puth
An introduction to ecological and evolutionary principles underpinning efforts to conserve Earth’s biodiversity. Efforts to halt the rapid increase in disappearance of both plants and animals. Discussion of sociological and economic issues. SC

* F&ES 422a / ANTH 409a / ER&M 394a / EVST 422a, Climate and Society from Past to Present  Michael Dove
Discussion of the major currents of thought—which both historic and contemporary—regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular. WR, SO