

MES Winter Quarter 2008

First-year core: *Ecological & Social Sustainability*

Faculty: Alison Styring, Peter Dorman, & Linda Moon Stumpff CRN: 20634

Focus: Addresses central issues in contemporary sustainability studies on theoretical and practical levels. Emphasis is on ways to promote both environmental and social sustainability. Areas covered may include environmental quality at regional, national and global scales; energy use and alternative energies; resource availability and access to resources; social and cultural issues of sustainability; and indicators to guide policy. As part of this program, students write and present a research paper to provide evidence of their readiness to advance to candidacy.

Thesis-Essay Workshop – Maria Bastaki CRN: 20635

Electives:

Risk Assessment in Environmental Health – Maria Bastaki

(Mondays 6-10 pm) CRN: 20398

Focus: Risk is part of life and never in the history of mankind has there been such a thing as zero risk. This class will describe what we define as “risk”; how we estimate it, and how do we interpret it. You will examine questions such as: How much risk is too much? How do risks from different causes compare to each other qualitatively (toxicity mechanisms) and quantitatively? What factors contribute to human health risk? How do different people perceive and rank risks? The focus of this class will be on environmental pollutants that effect human health, and a brief examination of radiation risk. We will see how toxicology informs the assessment of risk. We will also examine how risk assessment is used by regulatory agencies to set safe levels. This class involves numerical calculations and quantitative reasoning. Be prepared to use a calculator!

Environmental Advocacy – Ted Whitesell

(Wednesdays 6-10 pm) CRN: 20435

Focus: development of skills, knowledge, and networks necessary for MES alumni to strengthen the environmental movement; combination of theoretical and experiential learning through guest lectures, readings, and student projects for environmental advocacy organizations; brief survey of approaches to environmental protection, emphasizing strengths and weaknesses.

Global & Regional Climate Change – Kurt Unger

(Wednesdays 6-10pm) CRN: 20437

Focus: the science and policy of global and regional climate change. This elective will address questions such as these: How does current climate change differ from past changes? How do climate change models work? What are some of the key effects of climate change? How are policy makers addressing climate change, what should they be doing and what can individuals do? We will also discuss the roles of technology and the media, as well as a variety of economic, legal, political and social perspectives.

Environmental Impact Analysis – David Tetta

(Fridays: Jan 18, Feb 1, 15, 29, Mar 14, 6-10pm Saturdays: Jan 19, Feb 2, 9a-5pm, Feb 16, 9a-1pm)
CRN: 20439

Focus: This course takes an applied perspective on environmental impact assessment, focusing on the federal and state laws and regulations as they operate in Washington State. During the course students will explore how to conduct and review environmental assessments; evaluate and mitigate environmental impacts to air, land, and water; and use the internet to support this kind of decision making process.