

July 18, 2017

Dear Fall 2017 MES cohort member:

Welcome to the 34th cohort of the Graduate Program on the Environment at The Evergreen State College! This is your formal invitation to the **required MES orientation on Tuesday, September 19, 10am-4:30pm**. Please read below for further instructions about the day.

Where to Meet

Meet in the Seminar II Building, Room A1105. Seminar II is to the right of the “Bus Loop” on the enclosed campus map. We will be in the “A” wing, which is the first building on the left if coming from the Bus Loop. Parking is \$3.

Agenda

The tentative schedule is included in this packet. Orientation is a mandatory event—it is a “one-stop-shop” for all your MES questions and also a preview of the academic experience you will have over your two or more years with us. You will also get to meet most of the faculty and staff, and some returning students. Coffee and snacks and lunch will be provided. Please bring your own refillable water bottle and coffee mug. Finally, come prepared to get your individual picture taken on Tuesday (for internal purposes only).

We’re putting a lot of work into the program, and are looking forward to meeting all of you. Should you find, due to unavoidable circumstances, that you are unable to attend orientation, it will be your responsibility to let us know you won’t be there and to obtain the information on your own after orientation.

Preparing for gCORE

Your first core class at Evergreen is (graduate) Conceptualizing Our Regional Environment (gCORE) taught by Kevin Francis, Erin Martin, and Shawn Olson-Hazboun. The class will focus on three major themes: 1) cultural landscapes and systems of the Pacific Northwest, with an emphasis on the role of traditional ecological knowledge in salmon recovery and ecological restoration; 2) conceptual foundations of key environmental sciences, with an emphasis on the historical connections between natural and social sciences; 3) fundamentals of ecosystem science, with applications towards natural resource management. Students will also complete a major interdisciplinary group research and writing project. We will go over the gCORE syllabus and schedule at orientation.

Please mark your calendars for a **required three-day field trip to the Olympic Peninsula** from the morning of Thursday, October 5 to the early evening of Saturday, October 7. There will be an additional course fee of \$150 for the overnight trip that will cover all transportation, lodging, and food expenses and will be assessed with your tuition. Although we recognize that field trips require a significant investment of money and time, the consistent feedback from previous MES cohorts is that these field trips are an invaluable opportunity to explore the Pacific Northwest, understand key ecosystems and environmental issues in our region, and build a strong learning community. More details will be provided at orientation.

The first gCORE meeting is Tuesday, September 26, 6pm-10pm, in Seminar 2, A1105. Prior to class, you are invited to a “Welcome Back” potluck for all MES students at 5pm in the same classroom. More details to come.

Required Texts for gCORE

For all courses, faculty will let you know which books are required ahead of time via email. You can also check the Greener Store’s website: www.tescbookstore.com. Books can be purchased from any bookstore--but make sure to get the appropriate edition. You can also rent books from the Greener Store or check them out from the Evergreen Library

through interlibrary loan. Below are the required gCORE books. Note that we plan to hit the ground running with a seminar on Meadows' *Thinking in Systems* the first day of class.

1. Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Fourth Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2016).
2. F. Stuart Chapin et al., *Principles of Terrestrial Ecosystem Ecology*, Second Edition (Springer, 2012).
3. Donald Fixico, *Indian Resilience and Rebuilding: Indigenous Nations in the Modern American West* (University of Arizona Press, 2013).
4. Lee R. Kump et al., *The Earth System*, Third Edition (Pearson, 2010)
5. Emma Marris, *Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-Wild World*, 2013).
6. Donella Meadows, *Thinking in Systems*, (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008).

Additional readings, as assigned, will be posted on our Canvas site, which is an online course management system. We will email the class when this site is available. (Note that we will be using the Booth, Chapin, and Kump books for both gCORE and the second core class, Ecological and Social Sustainability).

All College Convocation and Common Reading

Every year incoming first-year undergraduate students read a common book and attend a convocation that features a lecture by its author. This year's book is Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*. For those of you who are new to Evergreen, convocation is a great way to learn more about the college, including its mascot and fight song! Convocation is on Wednesday, September 20 at 10am in the Constantino Recreation Center (called the CRC – our campus gym).

Immunizations

You should have received information regarding Evergreen's policy requiring proof of Measles (Rubeola) immunity for all new students. Students who do not submit proof (to the Health Center or Registration and Records) by the end of Fall quarter will not be able to enroll for Winter quarter courses. Please see www.evergreen.edu/health/health/immunizations.

Explanation of Terms

You may notice that in some places we say "Master of Environmental Studies" and in others we say "Graduate Program on the Environment." The Graduate Program on the Environment grants students a Master of Environmental Studies (MES) degree upon graduation. We usually refer to the program as "MES."

We also have "core" faculty and "adjunct" faculty. Core faculty teach in core classes and some electives and adjunct faculty teach electives only. Core faculty are typically full-time Evergreen faculty who teach only in MES. The entire cohort of 45 students attends core classes together on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Classes are taught by teams of two or three faculty who often lead smaller seminar and workshop groups. Adjunct faculty typically have full-time jobs in the community and teach one elective a year for MES. Electives are one night a week (Monday or Wednesday) and taught by one faculty member. Electives are usually capped at 15 students.

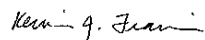
You'll also grow accustomed to the word "seminar." Seminars are integral to the Evergreen teaching philosophy. They are forums of approximately 15 students in which issues are raised and explored, but not necessarily resolved; they require you to think and to practice the skills of analysis and synthesis. In each core class, you will be assigned a smaller seminar group with one individual faculty. Please see the enclosed "What are Seminars?" handout for more information.

Questions?

Please contact Andrea Martin, Assistant Director, at 360-867-6225 or martina@evergreen.edu for questions about orientation and other administrative issues.

Please contact Kevin Francis, Faculty/Director, at 360-867-5831 or francisk@evergreen.edu for questions about gCORE or other classes. (Note that email is a more reliable way to contact me during the summer.)

Sincerely,



Kevin Francis, Ph.D.
Faculty/Director, Graduate Program on the Environment