



Looking for an Introduction to Environmental Studies?

Consider ENV100H: Introduction to Environment

“The time has come to lower our voices, to cease imposing our mechanistic patterns on the biological processes of the earth, to resist the impulse to control, to command, to force, to oppress, and to begin quite humbly to follow the guidance of the larger community on which all life depends.”

*~ Thomas Berry (Source: *The Dream of the Earth*, Pages: xiv introduction)*

Ecological concerns have begun to permeate our collective consciousness. Acid rain, poisoned air, forest clear-cutting, ozone depletion, global climate change, toxic waste sites—the list goes on—all weigh heavily on our personal and intellectual lives.

This course attempts to introduce students to both the scope and the seriousness of present ecological concerns, as well as some core principles and concepts in the field of environmental studies. We will do this in part by touching on some of the major writers and classic essays in the field. Class lectures will be supplemented by audiovisuals, guest lectures and class discussions. (N.B. There may also be some “surprise” guests.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is intended as a broad-based introduction to the study of the environment. The objectives of the course are:

1. to provide students with a “functional literacy” in some of the foundational ideas and concepts in the study of the environment;
2. to help students gain a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for, the sundry ecological challenges confronting the planet;
3. to create an educational atmosphere that is respectful, challenging, engaging, and informative; and
4. to help students learn to think critically about environmental issues, and to express their ideas clearly and effectively.

The Course Syllabus is accessible at: <http://www.environment.utoronto.ca/Undergraduate/Courses/CourseList.aspx>