

Environmental Planning Concentration

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Environmental planning is a broad field encompassing a range of professional activities employing a variety of skills. Practitioners may work in the government, non-profit or business sector on watershed planning, the design of ecological infrastructure, industrial ecology, community organizing, workforce development, coastal planning and hazards mitigation; spatial analysis, environmental risk assessment, energy policy and planning, pedestrian and transit-oriented development, on developing urban food systems and open space preservation, preparing environmental impact statements, etc.

The frameworks that tie this wide-ranging work together include sustainable development, and its notion of achieving the “triple bottom-line” in planning activities by reconciling conflicts between economic development, social equity, and ecological protection and restoration. The idea of resilience, or the capacity to manage change, is also key in this specialization.

The breadth of environmental courses available at Harvard and the GSD reflect the multiple dimensions of sustainability in the context of planning practice and research. The GSD is richly populated with relevant courses; as well, other Harvard schools, especially the Kennedy School, Law School, and School of Public Health. The Harvard Center on the Environment (HUCE) has prepared an excellent overview; the Environmental Course Guide. Please note that courses may require permission of the instructor and/or the department, especially outside the GSD.

Students interested in the environmental planning area of concentration must choose at least two preapproved courses from the GSD and one from outside the GSD, or suggest an alternate program of three courses for approval by the concentration advisor.

Please note that course offerings often change, and new courses may be offered while some of these recommended courses may not be offered each year. This memo is subject to change depending on the availability of courses. Courses not listed on this memo may be approved with the permission of one of the Concentration Advisors.

Recommended basic courses:

The following courses are recommended to those interested in the concentration. They are introductory level courses that give a good overview of the topics and subject matter covered in more depth by other courses in the concentration:

GSD 5206: Land Use and Environmental Law*

Kayden

GSD 6318: Urban and Town Ecology

Forman

**Only if not taken to satisfy Implementation Methods Requirement*

Pre-approved courses include:

Fall

At the Graduate School of Design:

GSD 3348: The Idea of Environment	da Cunha
GSD 5206: Land Use and Environmental Law*	Kayden
GSD 5330: Healthy Places	Forsyth
GSD 6241: Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III: ** Introduction to Ecology	Handel
GSD 6337: Changing Natural and Built Coastal Environments	Apfelbaum, Parsons
GSD 5371: Environment, Politics and Action	Spinak
<i>*Only if not taken to satisfy Implementation Methods Requirement</i>	
<i>**Requires permission of instructor</i>	

At the Kennedy School of Government:

HKS IGA-422: Global Food Politics and Policy	Paarlberg
HKS IGA-411: The Energy-Climate Challenge	Lee, Holdren

At the Law School:

HLS 2074: Environmental Law	Lazarus
HLS 2717: Contemporary Issues in Oil and Gas Law: Fracking, Takings, Pipelines and Regulation	Konschnik
HLS 2193: Natural Resources Law	Anderson
HLS 2931: Powering the US Grid	Peskoe

At the School of Public Health:

HSPH GHP 272: Foundations of Global Health and Population**	Fan
<i>** Requires permission of instructor</i>	

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):

MIT 11.165J: Urban Energy Systems and Policy	Hsu
MIT 11.371J: Sustainable Energy	Golay
MIT 11.373: Science, Politics and Environmental Policy	Knox-Hayes, Solomon
MIT 11.601: Introduction to Environmental Policy & Planning	Susskind
MIT 11.S945: Urban Ecology: Plants, People, and Climate Change	Del Tredici
MIT 11.308J: Ecological Urbanism Seminar	Spirn
MIT 11.368: Environmental Justice: Law and Policy	Macey

Spring

At the Graduate School of Design:

GSD 5370: Environment, Economics, and Enterprise	Samuelson, Apeseche
GSD 5372: Planning for Climate Change: Scarcity, Abundance, and the Idea of the Future	Spinak
GSD 6333: Water, Aquatic Ecology and Land-Water Linkages	Nelson, Dekker
GSD 6318: Urban and Town Ecology	Forman

At the Kennedy School of Government:

HKS API-135: Fundamentals of Environmental Economics and Policy	Stavins
HKS API-164: Energy Policy Analysis	Aldy
HKS IGA-436: Water Resources Development and Management	Strzepek
HKS DPI-345: Green Politics and Public Policy in a Global Age	Rouyer
HKS IGA-457: International Climate Change Policy	Stowe

At the Law School:

HLS 2417: Advanced Environmental Law	TBA
HLS 2921: Climate Solutions Living Lab**	Jacobs
HLS 2123: International Environmental Law	Salzman

*** Requires permission of instructor*

At the School of Public Health:

HSPH EH 257: Water Pollution	Levin
HSPH EH 278: Human Health and Global Environmental Change	Bernstein

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):

MIT 11.S945: Urban Ecology: Plants, People, and Climate Change	Del Tredici
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Not Currently Offered

FAS GOV 1016: Spatial Models for Environmental Policy	TBD
GSD 6323: Brownfields Practicum Regeneration and Reuse of Brownfield Land	Kirkwood
GSD 5469: Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development	Forsyth
HLS 2025: Energy Law and Policy	Freeman
HSPH EH 285: Industrial Ecology and Life Cycle Assessment	TBD
MIT 4.401: Environmental Technologies in Building	Reinhart
MIT 11.314J: Water, Landscape, and Urban Design	Wescoat