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: **Handel**
  - Introduction to Ecology
- GSD 6337 Changing Natural and Built Coastal Environments: Apfelbaum, Parsons
- SES 5371 Environment, Politics and Action: Spinak

*Only if not taken to satisfy Implementation Methods Requirement*

**Requires permission of instructor**

**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 GHP272 Foundations of Global Health and Population**: Fan

**Requires permission of instructor**

**At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):**
- 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 11.5945 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
(Note that Spring course listings will be updated once the catalog is completed)

At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 5370 Environment, Economics, and Enterprise                Samuelson, Apeseche
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-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 XXXX Advanced Environmental Law                               Mergen
HLS 2921 Climate Solutions Living Lab**                           Jacobs
HLS XXXX International Environmental Law                          Salzman

** Requires permission of instructor

At the School of Public Health:
HSPH EH257 Water Pollution                                        Shine
HSPH EH278 Human Health and Global Environmental Change           Bernstein

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
TBA

Not Currently Offered
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 EH285 Industrial Ecology and Life Cycle Assessment           TBD
FAS GOV-1016 Spatial Models for Environmental Policy              TBD
MIT 4.401 Environmental Technologies in Building                  Reinhart
MIT 11.314J Water, Landscape, and Urban Design                    Wescoat