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  
GSD 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,  Konschnik  
  Takings, Pipelines and Regulation  
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  
** 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

*Updated December 12, 2017*
Spring
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 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

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

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