

DC Semester Program

Spring 2018

Environmental Action in DC and the World

Taught by Professor Heather Macdonald

Sustainability, climate change, efficient energy sources, water resources, and environmental justice are some of the grand challenges facing our society. What are the roles of environmental movements, environmental science, and environmental policy in working to address these challenges and move towards a sustainable future? Students in this semester will learn about the historical background, current issues, and future directions of environmental movements in the US and will explore the intersections of environmental movements with environmental science and policy. With environmental work as the focus, students will have flexibility in determining their own path through the program.

Washington Program Internship

- *6 credit hours: INTR 499, ENSP 498*
**Potential to satisfy COLL 300 requirement*

In an internship tailored to individual interests, each student will have the opportunity to work on an environmental focus of their choice, possibly some combination of research, policy, and/or activism. Potential internships include working in federal agencies such as the **EPA, National Park Service, NOAA, NASA, and the DOJ**; think tanks such as **Center for American Progress** and **Brookings Institution**; non-profits and advocacy groups such as **Environment America, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, NRDC, Nature Conservancy, Pew Charitable Trusts, Sierra Club, US Climate Action Network, US Green Building Council, and World Wildlife Fund**; and media organizations such as **National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and Environmental Film Festival**.

Environmental Movements: Intersections with Environmental Science and Policy

- *4 credit hours: ENSP 249, AMST 350, MSCI 498*
**Satisfies COLL 200 requirement*

In this course, students will investigate the history, current issues, and future directions of environmental movements in the United States as well as the intersections of these movements with environmental science and policy. We will examine how scientific evidence is used as a basis for policy while exploring the role of environmental advocacy in mobilizing participants and promoting social action. We will consider how books, films, and other media are used to persuade a range of audiences that what they are saying is important. Students will have the opportunity to focus on environmental issues and campaigns of particular interest to them.

Addressing Environmental Challenges: Research, Policy, and Activism

- *4 credit hours: ENSP 249, AMST 350, PUBP 390*
**Satisfies COLL 300 requirement*

In this course, we will examine efforts to address environmental challenges. We will investigate the strategies that individuals and organizations use to work and lead for change and how they adapt to changing issues, policies, and leadership and to advances in environmental science. We will explore the intersecting roles of environmental science and advocacy on environmental policy. Program participants will be introduced to environmental researchers, policy-makers, leaders, activists, and media specialists in the DC area. In conversations and interviews with them, we will ask about their perspectives on environmental issues, their strategies for working towards solutions, how they assess the successes and continued challenges of their efforts, and how they communicate those successes and challenges to multiple audiences, including policymakers, researchers, the general public, and other organizations.