ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TOPICS COURSES
(from Fall 1998 to present)

ENV 205A *Topic: Human Impact on the Environment.* Examines interactions between natural systems and human activities resulting in environmental change or degradation of the earth’s atmosphere, water, soil, vegetation, and animal life. Provides historical background, scientific underpinnings, and examination of significant issues via case studies. Conservation, mitigation strategies, and policy changes implemented as a result of change or degradation also included. *Suitable for non-majors.*

ENV 205A *Topic: The Politics of Climate Change.* Learn about one of the greatest challenges of our times and how climate change solutions can improve the human prospect. Introductory level course that examines the U.N. Global Climate Treaty, arguments for addressing rising carbon dioxide levels, and the resulting political tensions over energy consumption. Also examines and debates alternative ways to reduce risks and adapt to the consequences of global warming, such as rising sea levels and the relocation of communities.

ENV 205B *Topic: Environmental Restoration.* Examines ecological issues associated with efforts to restore a wide range of natural habitats. Explores various restoration techniques in the context of long-term goals such as ecosystem function and biological diversity. Considers restoration case studies from a number of regions including Florida and Costa Rica.

ENV 205B *Topic: Introduction to Geographical Information Systems (GIS).* Introduces ArcView GIS package, providing students the background and knowledge of GIS theory and applications. Designed for students with no prior GIS experience, but requires basic Windows computing skills.

ENV 205C *Geography of Africa: People and their Environment.* This course covers the four regions of sub-Saharan Africa and examines the environmental, cultural, economic, and social processes that shape the continent. Current event issues are covered. *African and African-American Studies minor elective.*

ENV 205D *Topic: The Living Planet.* Studies the ways plants and animals have adapted through evolution and colonized the various biomes (tundra, forests, lakes, streams, grasslands, etc.). Course examines diversity of life forms and interdependence between plants/animals and environment, and the place of humans in ecosystems. Implications of human alteration of natural biomes will be addressed. Restoration efforts will be used to illustrate human efforts to be stewards, not destroyers, of natural environments; to conserve, protect, and restore our biosphere to, therefore, sustain it and draw sustenance from it.

ENV 205J *Topic: Eco-justice.* An inquiry into the policies that promote or hinder environmental justice and social equity. Analyzes the causes and effects of disasters with lingering ecological consequences, such as Love Canal, the failure of levees in New Orleans, the effects of strip mining for coal, and the Chernobyl and Bhopal tragedies.

ENV 215M *Topic: The Art of Landscape Design - From Renaissance Garden to Restoration Ecology.* The health of a society is discerned by the quality of its landscape and the manner in which it is designed. The Renaissance Garden is the point of origin for this class. From this early effort to reunite humanity and
nature, the evolution of landscape design will be studied. Culminates with studies of Bok Tower Gardens and the Genius Reserve, and concludes with project implementation. There will be three (3) Sunday field study excursions.

ENV 305 Topic: Environment and Development in the Andes. Explores the potential for sustainable development in one of the richest cultural and biological regions on earth. Emphasizes the role of geography and history in shaping the present economic landscape of the Andes. Students enrolled in this course must also enroll in the 10-day field study (ENV 305F), which runs from May 12-21, 2009, in the Ecuadorian Andes. Field study sites include the Choco/Andean cloud forest; Cotopaxi National Park; rural indigenous markets; and the colonial center of Quito, a World Heritage Site. Co-requisite course: ENV 305F; fulfills an elective requirement in the Sustainable Development minor.

ENV 305A Topic: Advocating Environmental Reform. Students will be introduced to the advocacy process at the core of the American social and political system and allowed to practice articulating, explaining, and criticizing the status quo. Participants will understand the ways and means, as well as the necessity, for transforming existing power relationships at the state and national levels to protect people, property, and wildlife.

ENV 305A Topic: Physical Geography of the Americas. Why do the Americas support such a spectacular range of physical environments? What forces have shaped the natural history of these regions? What kind of relationship do people have with the physical landscape in these places? Course explores a wide range of critical environmental regions including Baja California, the Amazon, the Caribbean islands, and the Pacific Northwest. Prerequisite: register in department.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES FALL TERM INITIATIVE From Manifest Destiny to Environmental Sustainability: Rediscovering the Landscape of the Americas.

A semester-long learning experience designed around four linked courses sharing a common theme of environmental sustainability through which students gain a better understanding of both the American landscape and the key principles of sustainability. All students participating take ENV 305A Topic: Physical Geography of the Americas, ENV 305B Topic: Principles of Sustainability, ENV 305C Topic: American Environmental Thought, and ENV 305D The American Landscape in Film as a group, and no other courses (see course descriptions on next page). The block schedule allows a mid-semester, twelve-day field study in the Pacific Northwest that engages students in some of the most innovative developments in the areas of environmental planning, green architecture, habitat restoration, national parks, and sustainable agriculture. Students completing the program satisfy requirements for the Environmental Studies major with the exception of the six core courses. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Field Study Highlights: Portland, Columbia River Gorge, Mt. Rainier, and/or Olympic National Park. Travel Dates: Sept. 21 to Oct. 2. Field Experience Cost: Approximately $950. Credit: total of 16 semester hours for four-course block, standard letter grades. To Register or for More Information Contact: Dr. L. Lines, llines@rollins.edu, 407-646-6377, or Dr. B. Allen, ballen@rollins.edu, 407-646-2647. Registration Deadline: April 3, 2009.

ENV 305A Topic: Wildlife Restoration. Explores techniques for restoring habitat and lands for the conservation or reintroduction of wildlife. Topics include the concepts of habitat and niche for wildlife species, how to monitor wildlife populations, restoration planning for wildlife, and case histories of restoration projects for wildlife.
ENV 305B **Topic: Principles of Sustainability.** Why has sustainability suddenly become a major societal focus? What does sustainability mean? And what, exactly, are we trying to sustain? *Prerequisite: instructor’s consent; register in department.*

ENV 305B **Topic: Sustainable Development and Conservation in East Africa.** An examination of the natural resources and conservation efforts in savannah and highland habitats of East Africa. Conservation of these resources for future generations, while meeting the basic material needs of the people in the region, is also discussed. Explores the issue of conflict between local people and the national parks over economic benefits of the parks. *Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in ENV and consent.*

ENV 305C **Topic: American Environmental Thought.** How have environmental attitudes shaped the American experience? How has the unique American experience shaped our approach to the environment? Explores the ideas of a diverse group of American thinkers including Thoreau, Olmsted, Muir, Leopold, Carson, Daly, and others. *Prerequisite: register in department.*

ENV 305D **Topic: The American Landscape in Film.** What ideas have played a key role in shaping depictions of the American landscape in film? To what extent are these ideas valid? What are the strengths and limitations of film as a medium for communicating ideas about the American landscape? Explores these questions through a wide range of films including *Black Robe,* *The Motorcycle Diaries,* *Koyaanisqatsi,* and *The Fast Runner.* *Prerequisite: register in department.*

ENV 305D **The Unsettling of America.** Examines the profound changes in the American landscape tied to large-scale development and globalization. Emphasizes the farmlands, water projects, and cities of the American West.

ENV 305G **Topic: Birds and Pollinators.** Due to the variety and uniqueness of Florida ecosystems, peninsular Florida hosts an amazing diversity of mobile organisms! In Birds and Pollinators students will learn about the many species of birds and pollinators of the peninsula. Both birds and pollinators can play crucial roles in shaping ecosystems and the services that ecosystems provide to humanity. Focus will be on taxonomy, physiology, behavior and conservation issues, all while identifying and exploring these organisms in the field. Two Saturday field trips will be required.

ENV 305J **Topic: Food, Culture, and Environment.** Is agriculture about more than just producing food? Is modern agriculture sustainable? Do Americans view food differently than people in other countries? Is organic agriculture really everything it’s "cracked-up" to be? These kinds of questions lie at the heart of our exploration of food, culture, and the environment.

ENV 315A **Landscapes of Promise, Landscapes of Conflict.** Focuses on three signature landscapes (Southern California, Florida, and the Pacific Northwest) and the cultural response to their urbanization since World War II. Works of film and literature will be analyzed to enhance the understanding of efforts to find a balance between demands for development and the desire to maintain historic landscape values. Special emphasis will be placed on Portland, Oregon, a national leader in urban sustainability. *This course is linked to Landscapes of Promise: Oregon Field Study.*
ENV 350 *Topics: Case Studies in Sustainable Development.* Uses case studies to evaluate attempts to implement sustainable development programs in the service of social, economic, and ecological reforms. Prepares students for field study in sustainable development in Costa Rica.