Fall 2017 Course Offerings
New EVST Courses
An overview of global climate governance, including overarching conceptual frameworks, a variety of empirical subdomains, interlinkages with other policy fields, and modeling central challenges encountered in global climate governance. Students prepare a range of individual and group assignments throughout the term.
Writing About The Environment (EVST 224)

Alan Burdick

Wednesday

2:30pm – 4:20pm

Exploration of ways in which the environment and the natural world can be channeled for literary expression. Reading and discussion of essays, reportage, and book-length works, by scientists and non-scientists alike. Students learn how to create narrative tension while also conveying complex?sometimes highly technical?information; the role of the first person in this type of writing; and where the human environment ends and the non-human one begins.
Dendrology (EVST 231)

Marlyse Duguid

Tuesday

1:00pm – 4:00pm

Dendrology literally translates as “the study of trees” and integrates morphology, phenology, ecology, biogeography, and the natural history of tree species. In this course students learn how to identify the major temperate plant families, with a focus on North American forest species. In addition, they learn the morphological and ecological traits used for field identification of woody plants. We use phylogenetic systematics as the structure for understanding the evolutionary history and relationships between species.
Animals in Literature and Theory (EVST 237)

Jonathan Kramnick

Tuesday/Thursday

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Consideration of the role animals play in our aesthetic, ethical, political, and scientific worlds through reading of fiction, poetry, philosophy, and critical theory. Topics include: animal sentience and experience; vegetarianism; animal fables; pet keeping; animals alongside disability, race, and gender; and the representation of animal life in the visual arts.
Environmental Justice in South Asia (EVST 324)

Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan and Luisa Cortesi

Monday

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Study of South Asia’s nation building and economic development in the aftermath of war and decolonization in the 20th century. How it generated unprecedented stress on natural environments; increased social disparity; and exposure of the poor and minorities to environmental risks and loss of homes, livelihoods, and cultural resources. Discussion of the rise of environmental justice movements and policies in the region as the world comes to grips with living in the Anthropocene.
EVST Core A and B Courses
Atmosphere, Oceans and Environmental Change (EVST 201 & 202L)

Ronald Smith

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

9:25am – 10:15am

Physical processes that control Earth’s atmosphere, ocean, and climate. Quantitative methods for constructing energy and water budgets. Topics include clouds, rain, severe storms, regional climate, the ozone layer, air pollution, ocean currents and productivity, the seasons, El Nino, the history of Earth’s climate, global warming, energy, and water resources.
General Ecology (EVST 223)

David Vasseur
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
10:30am – 11:20am

The theory and practice of ecology, including the ecology of individuals, population dynamics and regulation, community structure, ecosystem function, and ecological interactions at broad spatial and temporal scales. Topics such as climate change, fisheries management, and infectious diseases are placed in an ecological context.
Global Environmental History (EVST 226)

Harvey Weiss

Tuesday/Thursday

9:00am – 10:15am

The dynamic relationship between environmental and social forces from the Pleistocene glaciations to the Anthropocene present. Pleistocene extinctions; transition from hunting and gathering to agriculture; origins of cities, states, and civilization; adaptations and collapses of Old and New World civilizations in the face of climate disasters; the destruction and reconstruction of the New World by the Old. Focus on issues of adaptation, resilience, and sustainability, including forces that caused long-term societal change.
Ecosystems and Landscapes
(EVST 242 and 242L)

Mark Bradford

Monday/Wednesday 1:00pm - 2:20pm
Friday 8:00am - 12:00pm

Introduction to concepts in ecosystem and landscape ecology. Topics include element cycling, food web interactions, species-area relationships, whole system metabolism, and models of biodiversity. Understanding of ecological patterns and processes at multiple scales in order to study, manage, and conserve species and ecosystems.
Environmental Politics and Law (EVST 255)

John Wargo
Tuesday/Thursday
10:30am – 11:20am

Exploration of the politics, policy, and law associated with attempts to manage environmental quality and natural resources. Themes of democracy, liberty, power, property, equality, causation, and risk. Case histories include air quality, water quality and quantity, pesticides and toxic substances, land use, agriculture and food, parks and protected areas, and energy.
Additional EVST Courses
Primate Behavior and Ecology (EVST 182)

Eduardo Fernandez-Duque

Tuesday/Thursday

9:00am – 10:15am

Socioecology of primates compared with that of other mammals, emphasizing both general principles and unique primate characteristics. Topics include life-history strategies, feeding ecology, mating systems, and ecological influences on social organization.
Race, Class and Gender in American Cities (EVST 196)

Laura Barraclough

Tuesday/Thursday

10:30am – 11:20am

Examination of how racial, gender, and class inequalities have been built, sustained, and challenged in American cities. Focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Topics include industrialization and deindustrialization, segregation, gendered public/private split, gentrification, transit equity, environmental justice, food access, and the relationships between public space, democracy, and community wellbeing. Includes field projects in New Haven.
Democracy, liberty, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Concepts include institutional analysis, democratic consent, property rights, market failure, and common pool resources. Topics of policy substance are related to human use of the environment and to U.S. and global political institutions.
Writing About Science and the Environment (EVST 215)

Carl Zimmer

Tuesday

9:25am – 11:15am

Advanced non-fiction workshop in which students write about science, medicine, and the environment for a broad public audience. Students read exemplary work, ranging from newspaper articles to book excerpts, to learn how to translate complex subjects into compelling prose.

Students must apply, see Canvas for details.
Field Science: Sustainability
(EVST 234L)

Kealoha Freidenburg

Tuesday 1:00pm - 2:15pm
Thursday 1:00pm – 5:00pm

A field course that explores the effects of human influences on the environment. Analysis of pattern and process in forested ecosystems; introduction to the principles of agroecology, including visits to local farms; evaluation of sustainability within an urban environment. Weekly field trips and one weekend field trip.
Minerals and Human Health (EVST 261)

Ruth Blake
Tuesday/Thursday
11:35am - 12:50pm

Study of the interrelationships between Earth materials and processes and personal and public health. The transposition from the environment of the chemical elements essential for life.
Sustainability as an overarching framework for life in the twenty-first century. Ways in which this integrated policy concept diverges from the approaches to environmental protection and economic development that were pursued in the twentieth century. The interlocking challenges that stem from society’s simultaneous desires for economic, environmental, and social progress despite the tensions across these realms.
Ecology and Russian Culture (EVST 294)

Isabel Lane and Molly Brunson

Monday

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Interdisciplinary study of Russian literature, film, and art from the nineteenth to the twenty-first centuries, organized into four units: forest, farm, labor, and disaster. Topics include: perception and representation of nature; deforestation and human habitation; politics and culture of land-ownership; leisure, labor, and forced labor; modernity and industrialization; and nuclear technologies and disasters. Analysis of short stories, novels, and supplementary readings on ecocriticism and environmental humanities, as well as films, paintings, and visual materials. Several course meetings take place at the Yale Farm. Readings and discussions in English.
Space, Place and Landscape (EVST 304)

Laura Barraclough

Thursday

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Survey of core concepts in cultural geography and spatial theory. Ways in which the organization, use, and representation of physical spaces produce power dynamics related to colonialism, race, gender, class, and migrant status. Multiple meanings of home; the politics of place names; effects of tourism; the aesthetics and politics of map making; spatial strategies of conquest. Includes field projects in New Haven.
Environmental Communication for Public Policy (EVST 311)

Paul Lussier
Tuesday
3:30pm - 5:20pm

Analysis, assessment, and application of narrative strategies to the communication of climate and energy science toward public policy engagement and action. Emerging interdisciplinary theory and research in narratology, sociology, and psychology, as well as cultural, education, and media sciences.
Food and Documentary (EVST 352)

Ian Cheney

Tuesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Wednesday 2:30pm - 4:20pm

Survey of contemporary public debates and current scientific thinking about how America farms and eats explored through the medium of documentary film. Includes a brief history of early food and agrarian documentaries, with a focus on twenty-first century films that consider sustainable food.
Agriculture: Origins, Evolution and Crises (EVST 399)

Harvey Weiss
Thursday
3:30pm - 5:20pm

Analysis of the societal and environmental drivers and effects of plant and animal domestication, the intensification of agroproduction, and the crises of agroproduction: land degradation, societal collapses, sociopolitical transformation, sustainability, and biodiversity.
Biotechnology and the Developing World (EVST 415)

Anjelica Gonzalez

Tuesday/Thursday

1:00pm - 2:15pm

Study of technological advances that have global health applications. Ways in which biotechnology has enhanced quality of life in the developing world. The challenges of implementing relevant technologies in resource-limited environments, including technical, practical, social, and ethical aspects.
Climate and Society: Past to Present (EVST 422)

Michael Dove

Thursday

1:30pm - 3:20pm

Discussion of the major traditions of thought, both historic and contemporary, regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular.
Rivers: Nature and Politics (EVST 424)

James Scott
Thursday
1:30pm - 3:20pm

The natural history of rivers and river systems and the politics surrounding the efforts of states to manage and engineer them.
Documentary Film Workshop (EVST 463)

Charles Musser

Tuesday 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Wednesday 10:30am - 1:20pm

A yearlong workshop designed primarily for majors in Film and Media Studies or American Studies who are making documentaries as senior projects.