

Environmental Planning Concentration

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Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Environmental planning is a broad field that encompasses 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 framework that ties this wide-ranging work together is that of 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 World Conference on Environment and Development’s Brundtland Report (1987) short and influential definition of sustainable development as “development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” asserts core norms for distributive justice, poverty alleviation and ecological protection that form an important basis for interdisciplinary collaboration on planning practice and research. The concentration is intended for students seeking the knowledge, capacity and skills needed to contribute to developing sustainable urbanization and production practices.

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 5342 Cities and Environmental Change
GSD 5469 Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development

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: ** Introduction to Ecology	Handel
GSD 6337 Changing Natural and Built Coastal Environments	Apfelbaum, Parsons

**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
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At the Law School:

HLS 2074 Environmental Law	Lazarus
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At the School of Public Health:

HSPH EH285 Industrial Ecology and Life Cycle Assessment	TBD
HSPH GHP272 Foundations of Global Health and Population**	Bloom

*** Requires permission of instructor*

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):

MIT 11.308J Ecological Urbanism Seminar	Spirn
MIT 11.314J Water, Landscape, and Urban Design	Wescoat
MIT 11.373 Science, Politics and Environmental Policy	Layzer, Solomon
MIT 4.401 Environmental Technologies in Building	Reinhart
MIT 11.601 Introduction to Environmental Policy & Planning	Susskind

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 5469 Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development	Forsyth
GSD 6318 Urban and Town Ecology	Forman
GSD 6333 Water, Aquatic Ecology and Land-Water Linkages	Nelson, Dekker

At the Kennedy School of Government:

HKS API-135 Fundamentals of Environmental Economics and Policy	Stavins
HKS API-164 Energy Policy Analysis	Aldy
HKS IGA-436 Water Resources Development and Management	Strzepek

At the Law School:

HLS 2025 Energy Law and Policy	Freeman
HLS 2193 Natural Resources Law	Salzman

At the School of Public Health:

HSPH EH257 Water Pollution	Shine
HSPH EH278 Human Health and Global Environmental Change	Bernstein

At the Faculty of Arts and Sciences:

FAS GOV-1016 Spatial Models for Environmental Policy	TBD
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Not Currently Offered

GSD 6323 Brownfields Practicum Regeneration and Reuse of Brownfield Land	Kirkwood
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