



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

**2010-2011 Calendar Changes  
Proposed New and Deleted Programs**

**NEW PROGRAMS**

**Environmental Studies, B.A., Major and Minor**  
**Centre for Environment**

The Centre's B.A. program in Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary program intended for students interested in studying and working in an environmental area, primarily within the social sciences or humanities. This program offers rigorous academic study of the economic, social, cultural and political forces that drive issues such as species extinction, loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change. The interdisciplinary structure of the program provides grounding in scientific literacy while advancing critical thinking skills that will help students to evaluate complex environmental problems and sustainable solutions for improved environmental health and well-being.

***Major Program Requirements***

(7 FCE or their equivalent, including at least three FCE at the 300+ level)

First Year: Students must complete at least 4 FCE before applying to this type 1 major.  
ENV 100H1 is recommended but not required.

Higher Years:

1. ENV 221H1; ENV 222H1; ENV 223H1.
2. ENV 200H1 or another 0.5 FCE Life Science course approved by the Undergraduate Coordinator.
3. An additional 4.5 FCE, a maximum 1.0 of which may be environmental courses offered by academic units other than the CFE (from Group A below). The remainder must be selected from the following: ENV307H1; ENV322H1; ENV320H1; JGE321H1; JGE331H1; ENV333H1; ENV335H1; ENV341H1; ENV350H1; ENV395Y1; ENV347H1; ENV422H1; ENV423H1 ENV421H1; ENV440H1.
4. ENV451H1: Current Environmental Debates  
Group A: ABS 250H1, 402H1; ANT 353H1, 364Y1, 450H1; APS 203H1, 302H1 (App. Sci. & Eng.); ECO 313H1, 314H1; ENV 234Y1, 235Y1, 236Y1; FOR 200H1, 201H1, 302H1, 303H1, 400Y1, 401H1; GGR 272H1, 273H1, 314H1, 332H1, 334H1, 335H1, 338H1, 416H1, 418H1, 438H1, 473H1; HIS 404H1; HPS 307H1, 313H1, 324H1; JAG321H1; PHL 273H1, 373H1; POL 413H1; RLG 228H1, 345H1, 484H1; SOC385H1; other approved courses\*

\*NOTE: Some courses offered by other Faculties or at the University of Toronto Mississauga or Scarborough may be eligible for inclusion in Group A above.

***Academic Rationale***

This is a new BA major program that consolidates two outgoing Centre for Environment BA major programs: Environment and Society, and Environmental Policy and Practice, both of which were offered in minor, major and specialist streams. These two programs were developed independently by the former

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Division of the Environment and the Innis College Environmental Studies Program, respectively. An internal review of program offerings found that both of these programs needlessly overlapped with one another. A first year introductory course is being proposed, in order to attract incoming students to environmental programs. The former second year ENV 222Y1 is being transformed into two .5 FCE offerings, A new capstone fourth year course is being proposed, organized around an existing seminar series offered by the Centre for Environment.

The new program will avoid duplication amongst existing program offerings, while still maintaining a strong emphasis on providing breadth and depth within an interdisciplinary environmental program.

While departments offer environmental programs that emerge from their specific disciplines (such as environmental geography, environmental chemistry), the Centre for Environment's BA program offers an explicitly interdisciplinary program that both acknowledges the existence of such a broad variety of disciplinary directions for the study of environment but also provides students with the opportunity to be exposed to the interdisciplinary field of what is now commonly referred to as "environmental studies." This term "environmental studies" is now broadly established in Canadian universities to describe an interdisciplinary unit, program or degree. The 2007 *Alternatives* Journal Special Issue on Environmental Education (Vol. 33, No. 5) lists twenty universities whose faculties, departments, programs or degrees explicitly use the term "environmental studies," including such internationally recognized environmental units as York, Waterloo (both "Faculties" of "Environmental Studies") and Queens (School of Environmental Studies.) The term "environmental studies" denotes a new field of interdisciplinary enquiry that is now commonly accepted and firmly established within the academic world.

The Centre for Environment is best positioned to provide such a program within the Faculty of Arts and Science, since its mandate is to serve as a doorway to other environmental offerings while providing an explicitly interdisciplinary set of program offerings. As the Faculty of Arts and Science Calendar properly explains, "The Faculty of Arts and Science established the Centre for Environment to help students focus the diverse strengths of the Faculty's environmental scholars into an academic program."

### ***Learning Outcomes***

This program provides a core set of interdisciplinary course offerings for students interested in the study of environment. Major learning outcomes include the fact that students come to recognize how complex environmental problems require the commitment of diverse disciplinary perspectives, while understanding at the same time how a unique interdisciplinary field of environmental studies has emerged over the recent decades. By completing the second year core program requirements, students will have been introduced to this interdisciplinary area of environmental studies, while also learning basic research skills and satisfying the Faculty's Living Things and Their Environment breadth requirement as well as the competency in quantitative reasoning. These second year courses provide a broad foundation for students to move into more focused upper level courses, such as environmental ethics, environmental policy, environmental law, and environmental design. The fourth year capstone course is organized around an existing seminar series and so that students complete the program, having been provided with an opportunity to interact with environmental academics and practitioners and to undertake integrative, problem-based research projects.

### ***Degree Objectives***

#### a. DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

While this program is interdisciplinary in nature, there is also an emphasis on developing depth of knowledge on three levels: first, by virtue of an explicit recognition within the second year ENV 221H1 and 222H1 core courses of the contributions of specific *disciplines* to the study of environment; second, through a carefully constructed, comprehensive presentation of the new interdisciplinary field of Environmental Studies that have emerged over the recent decades; and third, through focused courses that provide in-depth coverage of themes such as law, design, ecological economics etc. A significant number of elective courses at the 300 level, both within the Centre and from other departments, ensure that students, with aid of the Undergraduate office, will be able to create a program of study that is both unique to the individual and relevant to the broad study of environmental issues. It is expected that students will draw from their experiences in core courses to see the interdisciplinary links within their elective courses, and to apply advanced methods of inquiry to their analysis.

A second year research skills course, ENV 223H1, will provide the necessary building blocks for more advanced study as students progress through the program. A Living Things and Their Environment breadth requirement in environmental science is an essential component of the program.

Overall, students will develop a common knowledge base and vocabulary that will allow them to comprehend advanced subject material and to actively probe environmental issues from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

For the required 400 level course, "Current Environmental Debates," the Centre's bi-weekly Seminar Series will provide a context for small group seminars which will bring together students for discussion and collaboration using the skills and resources they have accrued individually over the course of their studies.

b. COMPETENCIES

i. Critical and Creative Thinking

The required ENV221H1 and 222H1 courses are structured to address environmental case studies from three fundamental perspectives: the scientific or physical nature of the issue, its ethical, cultural and philosophical dimensions, and its political ramifications. Students will be expected to use critical thinking, reading, analysis and research skills to identify the interdisciplinary linkages between these perspectives. This approach will be continued in 300+ classes as students continue to use their analytical skills to understand and explore solutions to real world problems in a creative, broad-based manner. In upper years, as students gain increasing fluency with their area(s) of interest, they will be required to think critically about how these areas intersect with larger environmental issues and the areas of interest of their peers, particularly in the ENV 451H1 "Current Environmental Debates" capstone course.

ii. Communication

All required social science and humanities classes contain a graded written component wherein students will be expected to effectively present a coherent, original argument. At the 200 and 300 levels, this will typically take the form of a series of written assignments that are graded on mechanics and style, as well as depth of analysis and compelling use of evidence and logic. All students take a required Living Things and Their Environment course in which they are graded on their ability to digest and interpret scientific data, and to effectively communicate their findings through regular essays and tutorial participation. The 400 level capstone course, ENV 451H1, "Current Environmental Debates," features regular seminars where students will discuss environmental issues in a small group setting; students are expected to communicate effectively with both one another and their seminar leader to develop and argue for their own integrative analysis of the issues at hand. At a minimum, a 2500-word research paper will be required in the capstone course. In addition, many of our courses include formal oral presentation assignments.

iii. Information Literacy

As the field of environment studies is interdisciplinary in nature, students will be required to actively assimilate information from a variety of sources, from the 19<sup>th</sup> century writings of Thoreau, to pioneering contemporary texts, to recent scientific articles about climate change. Effective research will require a broad familiarity with resources in the sciences, social sciences and the humanities, as well as the critical faculties necessary to evaluate and synthesize such disparate materials. Students enrolled in the Environmental Studies program are expected to master the research tools offered through the library and information commons (i.e., online journals and databases). Core courses at the 200 level have been expanded to prepare students for postgraduate or professional work in an environmental field by teaching effective, informed research design and methodology. Students will be required to take a minimum 3.5 FCE at the 300 level or higher, in which the demonstration of research skills is a major graded component, either through the completion of a major paper or through assignments such as an annotated bibliography or literature review.

iv. Quantitative Reasoning

In all required courses, students are expected to apply quantitative reasoning to interdisciplinary issues. A second year research skills course (ENV223H1: Fundamental Environmental Skills) specifically addresses both qualitative and quantitative methods. As this is an interdisciplinary program, students will be entering from various fields where quantitative reasoning is crucial. By fostering an environment

where collaboration is encouraged, the Centre's ENV core courses at the 200 and 400 levels will encourage students to apply statistical and other forms of quantitative reasoning to issues which they would otherwise approach from a more humanities-based perspective. Furthermore, all students are required to take the science-based ENV 200H or an approved alternative Life Sciences course in order to gain basic literacy with the quantitative tools necessary for studying environmental science. Elective courses offered by other departments, such as APS 203H1 "Technology in Society and the Biosphere" and ECO 313H1 "Environmental Economics and Policies" further refine these abilities through their application to real-world issues.

v. Social and Ethical Responsibility

This program is designed to actively engage students with environmental issues, and to encourage the examination of received wisdom and conventional thinking about the environment. Students are actively encouraged to understand and explore sustainable, long-term solutions to environmental problems, rather than short-sighted 'quick fixes.' Exploring environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective will expose students to a variety of different viewpoints, causing them to consider opinions and consequences they would not normally have. The ENV 221H1 and 222H1 core courses explicitly include issues of environmental ethics within the syllabus and a course dedicated to the exploration of Ecological Worldviews is also a part of the Centre for Environment's program offerings.

c. AN INTEGRATIVE, INQUIRY-BASED ACTIVITY

Most courses at the 300+ level, of which a minimum 3.5 FCE is required, contain an inquiry-based graded component, namely a research or opinion paper of significant length. These may be supported by additional assignments such as a formal proposal, abstract or literature review. Students will be evaluated on their ability to conduct research and synthesize several points of view into a coherent, persuasive argument. In their fourth year of studies, students will complete ENV 451H1, a seminar-based course that will require the completion of a research paper in which the skills, both directed and interdisciplinary, developed over the course of their degree will be applied to specific environmental problems. A limited number of students will have the opportunity to take part in a professional experience course through a work placement, and dedicated independent research courses are offered as program elective options.

### **Minor Program Requirements**

(4 FCE or their equivalent, including at least 1.5 FCE at the 300+ level)

**First Year:** Students must complete at least 4 FCE before applying to this type 1 minor. ENV 100H1 is recommended but not required.

#### **Higher Years:**

1. ENV 221H1; ENV 222H1.
2. ENV 200H1 or another 0.5 FCE Life Science course approved by the Undergraduate Coordinator.
3. An additional 2.5 FCE, a maximum 1.0 of which may be environmental courses offered by academic units other than the CFE (from Group A below). The remainder must be selected from the following: ENV307H1; ENV322H1; ENV320H1; JGE321H1; JGE331H1; ENV333H1; ENV335H1; ENV341H1; ENV350H1; ENV395Y1; ENV347H1;  
**Group A:** ABS 250H1, 402H1; ANT 353H1, 364Y1, 450H1; APS 203H1, 302H1 (App. Sci. & Eng.); ECO 313H1, 314H1; ENV 234Y1, 235Y1, 236Y1; FOR 200H1, 201H1, 302H1, 303H1, 400Y1, 401H1; GGR 272H1, 273H1, 314H1, 332H1, 334H1, 335H1, 338H1, 416H1, 418H1, 438H1, 473H1; HIS 404H1; HPS 307H1, 313H1, 324H1; JAG321H1; PHL 273H1, 373H1; POL 413H1; RLG 228H1, 345H1, 484H1; SOC385H1; other approved courses\*

**\*NOTE:** Some courses offered by other Faculties or at the University of Toronto Mississauga or Scarborough may be eligible for inclusion in Group A above.

### **Academic Rationale**

This is a new BA minor program that consolidates two outgoing Centre for Environment BA minor programs: Environment and Society, and Environmental Policy and Practice, both of which were offered

in minor, major and specialist streams. These two programs were developed independently by the former Division of the Environment and the Innis College Environmental Studies Program, respectively. An internal review of program offerings found that both of these programs needlessly overlapped with one another. A first year introductory course is being proposed, in order to attract incoming students to environmental programs. The former second year ENV 222Y1 course is being transformed into two .5 FCE offerings.

### **South Asian Studies Minor**

#### ***Program Requirements***

(4 FCE)

1. SAS 114Y1
2. SAS 216H
3. SAS 3XXH
4. SAS 413H
5. SAS 414H
6. One FCE from the following: SAS 212Y, HIS 282Y, ANT 352Y, RLG205Y

#### ***Academic Rationale***

The proposed Minor program is intended to replace the current program of Specialist, Major and Minor streams. In keeping with our plans to restructure the South Asian Studies undergraduate program in order to make it more cohesive, relevant, and useful in the work place, we have eliminated the Specialist and Major streams and focused entirely on a strong Minor program. This program will not offer courses that duplicate other departmental offerings. Instead, it will offer four FCEs that are largely interdisciplinary, diverse, and holistic. The entire program is cumulative and integrated in that it requires a working knowledge of Hindi as well. At the end of the program, we expect students to be confident in seeking jobs that require an awareness of the role of South Asia in a global economy together with knowledge of the region's social and cultural context.

## PROGRAM DELETIONS

Program	Rationale
Anthropology (General) Specialist	Most sub-disciplines (Archaeology, Biological and Social-Cultural) of Anthropology have developed a Specialist program which now renders this program unnecessary. The only exception is the Linguistic section which only has the Major program but the enrolment numbers in this program indicate that a Specialist program is not needed in this area.
Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence (Science) Specialist and Major	The Cognitive Science program was reviewed and has been revised to encompass both an arts and a science major.
Environment and Society Specialist, Major and Minor Environmental Policy and Practice Specialist, Major and Minor	The Centre for Environment reviewed all its program offerings as part of the A&S curriculum renewal. The proposed New major and minor consolidate these two programs: Environment and Society, and Environmental Policy and Practice. These two programs were developed independently by the former Division of the Environment and the Innis College Environmental Studies Program, respectively. An internal review of program offerings found that these programs needlessly overlapped.
French Cultural Studies Minor French Translation Minor	There has not been a strong demand from students for the minor programs.
South Asian Studies Specialist and Major	The South Asian Studies undergraduate program curriculum has been reviewed in order to make it more cohesive, relevant, and useful in the work place. As a result, the Faculty will be focused entirely on its strong Minor program that will not offer courses that duplicate other departmental offerings.
Drama and English Specialist Earth Systems: Physics and Environment Specialist Economics and Geography Specialist Economics and Philosophy Specialist Economics and Political Science Specialist Economics and Sociology Specialist Economics and Statistics Specialist English and Linguistics Specialist English and Philosophy Specialist Environment and Science Specialist History and Political Science Specialist Linguistics and Philosophy Specialist Literary Studies and Philosophy Specialist Past Environments Specialist Philosophy and Physics Specialist Philosophy and Political Science Specialist Philosophy and Religion Specialist Philosophy and Sociology Specialist Political Science and Sociology Specialist Slavic Languages Specialist; Slavic Languages and Literatures Specialist	As a result of Faculty-wide curriculum renewal and establishment of degree level expectations, all major programs in the Faculty of Arts & Science must include 0.5 FCE at the 400-level. As a result it is clear that each of the joint specialist programs listed should be disestablished as they are no different than a double major.