ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (ERM)

ERM 151: Careers and Issues in Environmental Resource Management
1 Credits

Career opportunities and topical issues in the environmental sciences. ERM 151 Careers and Issues in Environmental Resource Management (1) The course is designed to introduce students to the environmental resource management field early in their academic experience. The course is the first required ERM course for students in the major and the minor. Weekly presentations are made by ERM graduates and Penn State faculty and student interns. Course objectives include: discuss topical issues in environmental sciences and resource management; familiarize students with career opportunities for ERM graduates; provide feedback from graduates to students on enhancing their Penn State experience; enhance critical thinking and communication skills; create an opportunity to address student questions about the ERM program. Two types of writing assignments (PIT and PDP) are designed to enhance the learning process and to serve as a basis for awarding a course grade. The PIT (Putting It Together) is written by each student during the last 10 minutes of each class period, and requires the student to focus on one point made by the speaker and to either explain how the point contributes to the students understanding or explain why they disagree with or have questions about the point. Students are instructed to consider the audience for their PIT to be lay people and that the PIT should simulate a letter to the editor or an Op Ed piece. The PDP (Personal/Professional Development Plan) is developed by each student throughout the semester. It is designed to facilitate the establishment/refinement of career goals and objectives, and to be an action plan for their Penn State experience. Students receive feedback on their draft PDP early in the semester. Student progress is assessed by evaluating the PITs and the PDPs. The course grade is weighted 48% PITS, 17% draft PDP, and 35% final PDP. A conventional auditorium-style classroom that will help students learn to solve problems and think critically using information they have discovered. The explorations will require students to supplement their observations with information found on the Web and in the Library. Students will be required to participate in class discussions using CourseTalk. Contributions will be evaluated for content and quality. Short, in-class, written student feedback will be collected frequently to determine the level of understanding and attendance. Two midterm evaluations and a comprehensive final will be given. These exams will consist of higher-order thinking questions requiring the student to synthesize information to solve problems. Self-quizzes will accompany each unit to help the student determine when they understand the concepts being learned. Environmental Factors and Their Effect on Your Food Supply is an introductory level, general education science course without prerequisites. This course is not a prerequisite for any other course. An introductory level course in sustainable environmental systems will provide a useful context for future course work. Recitation sections will be used to increase the student’s understanding of concepts discussed during lecture. Computer exercises develop specifically for this course, the textbook CD-ROM, and data found on the Web will be used to aid students in their understanding of course concepts. The course will be offered annually in the spring. Expected enrollment is 100 students.

Bachelor of Arts: Natural Sciences
General Education: Natural Sciences (GN)

ERM 297: Special Topics
1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.
ERM 299: Foreign Studies
1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12
Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.
International Cultures (IL)

ERM 300: Basic Principles and Calculations in Environmental Analysis
3 Credits
This course will teach basic problem solving skills while using examples taken from environmental media--air, water, and soil. ERM 300 Basic Principles and Calculations in Environmental Analysis (3) Students will be provided a contextual link between chemical, biological and physical principles learned in their basic science courses and the advanced environmental concepts presented in later required Environmental Resource Management (ERM) courses. This course will demonstrate the dependence of environmental science on biology, chemistry and physics. Students will integrate the knowledge from each of these disciplines into an interdisciplinary framework. This course will teach Environmental Resource Management students basic problem solving skills while using examples taken from environmental media - air, water, and soil.

Prerequisite: 3 credits in BIOL; CHEM 111; MATH 110 or MATH 140; PHYS 250 or PHYS 211

ERM 309: Measurement & Monitoring of Hydrologic Systems
3 Credits
Introduction to measurement and monitoring equipment/techniques commonly used in analyses and design of hydrologic systems.

ASM 309 / ERM 309 Measurement & Monitoring of Hydrologic Systems (3)This course will provide students the opportunity to learn and apply basic measurement techniques that serve as critical tools in professional practice in water resources. Mapping development and use serves as a critical aspect of water resources engineering and planning, and a major portion of this course will focus on the fundamentals of surveying and translation of surveyed data into useful maps and engineering drawings. Students will learn the theory that underpins basic surveying and then apply this theory in actual survey practice. Autocad serves as a primary software tool used in engineering design and water resources planning, and students will be afforded opportunities to use Autocad to present and process various watershed- and survey-based data. Geographic information system (GIS) techniques will also be investigated as a tool to process, record, analyze, and display various spatial data commonly used in water resources planning and engineering design. Students will learn the basic techniques and processes used to transfer data between GIS and Autocad, both of which are commonly used in practice. The course will also investigate the instrumentation, techniques, and theory involved in common water resources measurements including weather conditions (which serve as the principle driving conditions in water resources), flow monitoring, basic soil properties, water movement in soils, and water quality sampling and analyses. Students will conduct hands-on exercises that will focus on the use of various instruments and techniques commonly employed to conduct such measurements. Data collected will be processed and analyzed within the context of professional practice case studies. The various aspects of the course will coalesce around the concept of the watershed being the basic unit of water resources analyses and design, and students will experience how various measurement techniques and approaches are necessary tools for practicing professionals. This course will be useful to any undergraduates seeking degrees in a major related to water resources planning, engineering, or technology.

Prerequisite: PHYS 211 or PHYS 250, CHEM 110
Cross-listed with: ASM 309

ERM 399: Foreign Studies
1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12
Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.
International Cultures (IL)

ERM 402: Foundations of Sustainable Business
3 Credits
Emphasis on understanding business strategies for enhancing sustainable operations, including issues related to the natural environment and corporate social responsibility. ERM 402 / BRS 402 Foundations of Sustainable Business (3) This course will provide students with an understanding of how environmental and sustainability issues are impacting business strategies and ultimately profits. We will also examine the external stakeholders, such as environmental groups, policy-makers, and "green" consumers, that impact business management. Business students will benefit by a better understanding of environmental/sustainability issues that impact their operations and strategies. Non-business students will benefit by understanding how business decisions can impact the natural environment. An emphasis will be on a thorough understanding of making a business case for sustainability. We will also discuss the triple bottom line and its use. Some Specific Issues to Cover: 1. How are organizations shifting business models to work with sustainability trends? 2. How can we make a business case (justification) for being "green"? 3. Can firms differentiate themselves by being responsible/sustainable? Do consumers and other stakeholders care? 4. Thorough understanding of stakeholders and how they impact operations. 5. How can the "business" side of the world work with the "environmental" side? 6. Use of packaging as an example of where parts of the supply chain are working together to be more sustainable. 7. How "waste" in its many forms can be seen as a surrogate for unsustainable practices. 8. Pros and cons of metrics used to measure sustainability. 9. Impacts of business operations on the environment.

Prerequisite: AG BM 101 or ECON 102 or ECON 104 and 7th semester standing
Cross-listed with: BRS 402

ERM 411: Legal Aspects of Resource Management
3 Credits
Legal systems and lawmaking processes; property rights in land, water, and wildlife resources; jurisdictional problems in planning resource use.

ERM 411 Legal Aspects of Resource Management (3) This course provides a survey of the basic legal principles, regimes, and issues related to environmental protection and natural resource management. The course is designed for students interested in environmental resource management and related careers, providing them with a basic grounding in core principles of environmental law and regulation. The course will offer instruction, discussion, and practical application of theories of environmental law and basic legal and regulatory regimes related to
water, air, and land. Focus will be on core federal legal regimes and statutes and their application in Pennsylvania. These legal regimes will be explored through topical case studies, such as Chesapeake Bay restoration, Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction, and climate change. During the latter half of the course, practical application of environmental legal issues will be demonstrated in a hands-on manner where students will represent private, nonprofit, or government sectors in a hypothetical land development proposal, and will be expected to perform tasks they may be asked to perform during their environmental careers: preparing permit applications, public comment documents, writing permit conditions, and challenging and defending final agency decisions.

**Prerequisite:** ECON 102 or AG BM101; and prerequisite or concurrent: ERM 151, CED 152, or E B F200

ERM 411H: Legal Aspects of Resource Management

3 Credits

Legal systems and lawmakers processes; property rights in land, water, and wildlife resources; jurisdictional problems in planning resource use. Honors

ERM 412: Resource Systems Analysis

3 Credits

The concept of systems; techniques of analysis, including input/output, mathematical programming, and simulation; application to resource systems. ERM 412 Resource Systems Analysis (3) ERM 412 is a course in problem solving, as it relates to environmental and resource related issues. The course covers a variety of problems within an environmental context, including mass balance, steady-state, and dynamic problems. Students will gain experience in making assumptions and testing those assumptions in the application of biological, chemical, and physical principles to problem solving. The course is designed to develop experience in quantitative problem solving using spreadsheets, modeling tools, and computer-based statistical analysis.

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 220W, ERM 151, ERM 300, and STAT 240; MATH 111 or MATH 141

ERM 413: Case Studies in Ecosystem Management

3 Credits

Application of biological, physical, and social science principles to ecosystem management problems; introduction to environmental impact analysis and review.

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 220W, SOILS101; Prerequisite or concurrent: ERM 412

Writing Across the Curriculum

ERM 426: Nutrient Management Specialist Preparation

1 Credits

Students in the College of Agricultural Sciences may wish to have professional certifications and licenses related to their anticipated area of employment. This course will assist students as they prepare for certification to write nutrient management plans for agricultural production and livestock operations. Professionals in the field will provide study materials and guide students as they study and prepare to complete the certification process. This course and successful completion of certification will make the student more employable than students that have not obtained this professional certificate. Upon completion of this course, students can take the licensing exam for Nutrient Management Specialist Certification offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

**Prerequisite:** SOILS 101 and SOILS 102.

ERM 430: Air Pollution Impacts to Terrestrial Ecosystems

3 Credits

Overview of the direct and indirect effects of air pollutants on terrestrial plants and ecosystems. ERM 430 Air Pollution Impacts to Terrestrial Ecosystems (3) Pollutant sources, transport, meteorology, and temporal and spatial trends of pollution dispersion and deposition are introduced. An overview is presented of the direct and indirect effects of air pollutants on terrestrial ecosystems with an emphasis on plant life. The effects of ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, halogens, and combined pollutants leading to acid-storm atmospheric depositions are presented. Emphasis is placed on air pollutants as plant pathogens leading to symptoms and eventual long-term accumulative effects to entire ecosystems. Methods of diagnostics, factors affecting plant response, ecosystem decline and resiliency, pest interactions, assessment of loss and cost/benefit analysis leading to abatement follows. Final parts of the course include perspectives of public awareness, development of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, compliance prevention of significant deterioration, and the Clean Air Act reforms of 1990.

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 220W or FOR 308

Cross-listed with: PPEM 430

ERM 431: Environmental Toxicology

3 Credits

Effects of pollutants on animal health at the chemical, physical, and cellular level.

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 110, CHEM 110, CHEM 112

Cross-listed with: VBSC 431

ERM 433: Transformation of Pollutants in Soils

3 Credits

The course provides the chemical and biological basis for understanding, predicting and controlling the fate of pollutants added to the soil. The course is designed into two major sections: Section I discusses the fundamental concepts of soil science as they relate to the fate of pollutants in soil systems. Section II provides specific coverage of important classes of soil pollutants. The environmental impacts associated with soil enrichment of these pollutant groups are discussed. Primary emphasis is given to pollutants having adverse effects on human health via water and the food supply, namely, trace elements, trace organic contaminants, pathogens, and radionuclides. The major plant nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, warrant coverage because of their potential negative impacts on aquatic systems. Salts can harm soil productivity and structure and thus represent a third distinct pollutant category.

**Prerequisites:** CHEM 111, CHEM 112, SOILS 101
ERM 435: Limnology

3 Credits

Biogeochemistry and natural history of freshwater ecosystems. W F S (E R M) 435 Limnology (3) This course will define and describe major principles (physical, chemical, biological, and ecological) that govern the structure and function of freshwater ecosystems (ponds, lakes, and rivers). Current scientific literature will be critically reviewed and discussed in relation to comparative philosophy, methodology, and case studies that cover a range of topics in limnology. The objectives of E R M (W F S) 435 are to familiarize students with the major physical properties, chemical cycles, taxonomic groups of organisms, and ecological interactions that define and describe the natural function of aquatic ecosystems. The course will use case studies to illustrate and examine pertinent issues (e.g., excessive material loading, introduction to exotic species, habitat fragmentation, and climate change) that can alter the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems. Knowledge of these basic ecosystem principles will be applied towards formulating real-life resolutions to the issues identified in class, in order to better manage aquatic resources (methods to reduce material loads, transport controls of exotic species, habitat restoration, and reduction of global gases). This course will be useful to both undergraduate and graduate students seeking degrees in Environmental Resource Management, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Ecology, and other related subjects. At the undergraduate level, the course will serve as a 400-level selection in both the Environmental Resource Management and Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree programs. At the graduate level, the course will compliment several Wildlife and Fisheries courses that form the compliment of that degree program. Moreover, the course can satisfy the course requirement for ecosystems ecology in the inter-college Ecology graduate program and serve as a breadth course in Water Resources for graduate students in the Watershed Stewardship program.

Prerequisite: BIOL 110, CHEM 110

Cross-listed with: WFS 435

ERM 436: Limnological Methods

3 Credits

Application of current methodologies to evaluate the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of aquatic ecosystems. E R M (W F S) 436 Limnological Methods (3) Limnological Methods will instruct students to apply state of the art analytical measurements in order to gain an understanding of how and why ecosystems support specific biodiversity and biogeochemical cycles. The course will help students define key ecological elements (e.g., ecosystem metabolism, resource limitation, predator-prey relations) in both qualitative and quantitative terms, thereby making them tangible, tractable, and readily understandable. The course will use an instructional rubric to integrate conceptual, analytical, and communicative exercises in order to instruct students about how to evaluate variation in natural ecosystems. This course provides experiential training in the scientific process (rubric), so students can learn by doing, thereby internalizing their knowledge. Course content is organized into three 5-week sections, each of which will emphasize one component of the biogeochemical cycle (physical, chemical, biological). In each section, students will carry out a focused group study designed to evaluate how a pertinent environmental perturbation can affect that component of the aquatic biogeochemical cycle. The course content in each five-week block will have students: 1) review the experimental design and hypothesis, 2) implement the experimental design in the field or laboratory, 3 and 4) process and analyze samples in the laboratory, and 5) make statistical and graphical evaluations of the experimental results relative to their hypothesis (in class) and present these findings in written form. Knowledge of these basic ecosystem principles will be applied towards formulating real-life solutions to the issues identified in class, in order to better manage aquatic ecosystems. This course will be useful to undergraduate students seeking degrees in Environmental Resource Management and Wildlife and Fisheries Science, as well as graduate students pursuing degrees in Ecology, Forest Science, Wildlife and Fisheries Science, Watershed Stewardship, and other related subjects. At the undergraduate level, the course will serve as a 400-level elective in Environmental Resource Management degree program, Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree program, and the inter-college Marine Science option. At the graduate level, the course will complement several Forest Science and Wildlife and Fisheries courses. Moreover, the course can also satisfy the requirements for the ecosystems ecology focus in the inter-college Ecology graduate program. Grades will be based on three research papers, and a final laboratory practical.

Prerequisite: BIOL 110 and CHEM 110

Cross-listed with: WFS 436

ERM 440: Chemistry of the Environment: Air, Water, and Soil

3 Credits

A global perspective of the chemical principles, composition and processes that operate within and between air, water, and soil environments. E R M 440 Chemistry of the Environment: Air, Water, and Soil (3) This course provides a global perspective of the chemical principles, composition and processes that operate within and between air, water, and soil environments. The course is designed to develop knowledge of chemistry fundamentals as applied to the principles and concepts used in environmental chemistry. Upon completion of this course, students will have an understanding of soil, water, and air chemical principles and their applications. Specifically designed for juniors and senior undergraduates, the course will link theoretical chemistry concepts to real-world environmental problems. Students will be evaluated on examinations, homework, and class participation.

Prerequisite: CHEM 110, CHEM 111, CHEM 112; CHEM 202 or CHEM 210

ERM 444: Environmental Biophysics

3 Credits

Analysis of the interaction of living organisms and their microenvironment by applying biophysical principles and engineering methods. E R M 444 Environmental Biophysics (3) This course trains students in the analysis of the interaction of living organisms and their microenvironment by applying biophysical principles and engineering methods. Students will learn to describe the physical environment surrounding the organism (wind, temperature, radiation, humidity) and to calculate biophysical responses of the organisms to these variables in terms of transfer of mass (liquid water, gases) and other processes. Practical examples and accompanying calculations are fundamental components of the course as the students learn to quantitatively explore the links between the environment and features of living organism such as the shape and color of leaves and canopies, the distribution of the rooting system, or the thickness of an animal fur. A laboratory section complements the lectures and introduces the students to basic techniques and equipment utilized in this discipline. This course can be helpful for students in the areas of plant and animal sciences, ecology,
entomology, environmental sciences, and agricultural and environmental engineering.

**Prerequisite:** BIOL 110; MATH 110 or MATH 140; PHYS 250 or PHYS 211

ERM 447: Stream Restoration

3 Credits

Stream restoration including fluvial geomorphology, stream classification, impairment, sediment transport, stable stream design, and watershed assessment. ERM 447 Stream Restoration (3) Stream restoration will focus on understanding stream impairment by evaluating the stream channel, its floodplain, and the watershed supplying runoff to the stream. A wide variety of stream assessment tools will be introduced along with several stream classifications systems. Students will be expected to understand stream stability and evolution and how human activities and our infrastructure impact the health of a stream. Various restoration approaches designed to restore impaired stream reaches to stable channels will be introduced. Stream stability and the role of sediment transport in the context of pebble-count data will be introduced along with several sediment transport models. Stream biology, especially macro-invertebrates, the role of riparian buffers, and desirable plant populations will be introduced. The laboratory experiences will focus on stream assessment tools and stream surveys needed for the stream restoration design process. Students will be responsible for assessing a stream and developing a preliminary design for restoring an impaired local stream reach.

**Prerequisite:** A S M 327 or A B E 307 or C E 361

ERM 448: Rural Road Ecology and Maintenance

3 Credits

Roads are ubiquitous throughout the landscape and this course is intended for students who anticipate working in natural resource management fields. This course provides students with the fundamental understanding of the interaction of natural systems with unpaved and low volume paved roads in order to economically maintain roadways with minimum impact on the environment. The major focus area will be the road/stream interface, including the fundamentals of hydrology, geology, soils, and erosion processes as they pertain to roads and streams. It is expected that the student will gain a practical understanding of rural road maintenance in order to provide a foundation for real-world application. Emphasis is placed on Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) practices for rural roads that are used throughout Pennsylvania. The goal of ESM practices is to minimize the environmental impact of the existing road network by maintaining proper road drainage in order to keep road materials out of the adjacent streams and surrounding landscape. Upon completion the student will be ESM certified under Pennsylvania’s Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program.

**Prerequisites:** MATH 22 AND MATH 26; OR MATH 41; OR MATH 110 OR MATH 140 Concurrent Courses: ASM 327 OR BE 307 OR CE 335 OR CE 370 OR FOR 308 OR FOR 470

ERM 450: Wetland Conservation

3 Credits

Wetland types, classification, functions and values; hydrology, soils, and plants; introduction to wetland identification and delineation; wetland regulations. E R M (W F S) 450 Wetland Conservation (3) Wetlands are unique ecosystems, differing in many ways from both terrestrial and aquatic environments. They provide recognized values and functions to society, although these values and functions remain difficult to quantify. The study of wetlands is interdisciplinary, requiring background knowledge in science, management and policy disciplines. This course will explore the variety of wetland types and functions, and emphasize the diverse hydrological, biological, chemical, and physical interactions that occur within wetlands. Because wetlands are recognized as valuable assets in the landscape, issues surrounding wetland management and regulation have taken on increased importance; we will address these issues as well. Topics will also include the restoration of degraded wetlands and wetland creation, along with the construction of wetlands for pollution abatement. Students will become familiar with different wetland types and how they are classified, and will develop skills in understanding the interactions between wetland hydrology, hydric soils and hydphytic vegetation. They will also develop an understanding of important national and state policies and regulations pertaining to wetlands and their protection and delineation. Classroom assessment will be based on three cumulative exams, homework assignments, and a final project. The course will fulfill 3 credits of electives or technical selections in the Wildlife and Fisheries Science major. Other students university-wide may be interested in the course, and the intention is to develop a course that is accessible to a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional students. For proper instruction, a technology classroom with computer projection equipment will be required. E R M 450 will be offered each fall semester. Enrollment will be limited to 60-80 students.

**Prerequisite:** E R M 300 or W F S 209

Cross-listed with: WFS 450

ERM 494: Undergraduate Research in Environmental Science

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small group basis.

**Prerequisite:** permission of the Environmental Resource Management program

ERM 494H: Honors Thesis

1-6 Credits/Maximum of 6

Independent study directed by a faculty supervisor that culminates in the production of an ERM honors thesis.

**Prerequisite:** Junior or senior status in the Schreyer Honors College and permission of the ERM honors advisor

Honors

ERM 495: Internship

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

A supervised practicum in the environmental field. To be offered only for SA/UN grading.

**Prerequisite:** prior approval of assignment by instructor

Full-Time Equivalent Course
ERM 496: Independent Studies
1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18
Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

ERM 497: Special Topics
1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9
Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

ERM 499: Foreign Studies
1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12
Courses offered with a component in foreign countries, by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)