

BRYN MAWR

COLLEGE

Sustainability Course Inventory

Code	Title	Department	Level	Description	S / IS	2014-15
BIOL B111-02	Biological Exploration II	Biology	UG	BIOL 111 is an introductory-level course designed to encourage students to explore the field of biology at multiple levels of organization: molecular, cellular, organismal and ecological. Each course will explore these areas of biology through a unifying theme.	IS	Spring
BIOL B255	Microbiology	Biology	UG	Invisible to the naked eye, microbes occupy every niche on the planet. This course will examine how microbes have become successful colonizers; review aspects of interactions between microbes, humans and the environment; and explore practical uses of microbes in industry, medicine and environmental management. The course will combine lecture, discussion of primary literature and student presentations. Three hours of lecture and three hours of laboratory per week.	IS	Spring
CHEM B103	General Chemistry I	Chemistry	UG	For students with some background in chemistry who are motivated, self-directed learners. Topics include aqueous solutions and solubility; the electronic structure of atoms and molecules; chemical reactions and energy; intermolecular forces. Examples discussed in lecture and laboratory workshop include environmental sciences, material sciences and biological chemistry.	IS	Fall
ECON B213	Taming the Modern Corporation	Economics	UG	Introduction to the economics of industrial organization and regulation, focusing on policy options for ensuring that corporations enhance economic welfare and the quality of life. Topics include firm behavior in imperfectly competitive markets; theoretical bases of antitrust laws; regulation of product and occupational safety, environmental pollution, and truth in advertising.	IS	Fall
EDUC B260	Multicultural Education	Education	UG	An investigation of education as a cultural event that engages issues of identity, difference, and power. The course explores a set of key tensions in the contested areas of multiculturalism and multicultural education: identity and difference; peace and conflict; dialogue and silence; and culture and the individual psyche. Students will apply theory and practice to global as well as specific, localized situations — communities and schools that contend with significant challenges in terms of equity and places where educators, students, and parents are trying out ways of educating for diversity and social justice.	IS	Spring

GEOL B101	How the Earth Works	Geology	UG	An introduction to the study of planet Earth—the materials of which it is made, the forces that shape its surface and interior, the relationship of geological processes to people, and the application of geological knowledge to the search for useful materials. Laboratory and fieldwork focus on learning the tools for geological investigations and applying them to the local area and selected areas around the world. Three lectures and one afternoon of laboratory or fieldwork a week. One required one-day field trip on a weekend.	IS	Fall
GEOL B203	Invertebrate Paleobiology	Geology	UG	We will explore how the Earth-life system has evolved through time by studying the interactions between life, climate, and tectonic processes. During the lab component of the course, we will study important fossil groups to better understand their paleoecology and roles in the Earth-life system.	IS	Fall
CITY B201	Introduction to GIS for Social and Environmental Analysis	Growth and Structure of the City	UG	This course is designed to introduce the foundations of GIS with emphasis on applications for social and environmental analysis. It deals with basic principles of GIS and its use in spatial analysis and information management. Ultimately, students will design and carry out research projects on topics of their own choosing.	IS	Fall
CITY B229	Topics in Comparative Urbanism	Growth and Structure of the City	UG	Spring 2015: Colonial and Post-Colonial Reflection. Probing the relations of power at the heart of power and society in many cities worldwide, this class uses case studies to test urban theory, forms and practice. In order to grapple with colonialism and its aftermaths, we will focus on cities in North Africa, France, Ireland, Hong Kong and Cuba, systematically exploring research, writing and insights from systematic interdisciplinary comparisons.	IS	Spring
HIST B237	HIST B237 Topic: Modern African History	History	UG	This course examines the political economy of African development in historical perspectives. We will address the following questions: Why is the African continent, which is rich in natural resources, so poor? What are the causes of poverty in discuss the impact of slavery, colonial exploitation, foreign interventions, foreign aid, trade, and democratic transitions on African development. We will also explore the theories of development and underdevelopment.	IS	Fall
HIST B336	Topics History of Disease and Medicine(s) in Africa	History	UG	The course will focus on the issues of public health history, social and cultural history of disease as well as the issues of the history of medicine. We will explore various themes, such as the indigenous theories of disease and therapies; disease, imperialism and medicine; medical pluralism in contemporary Africa; the emerging diseases, medical education, women in medicine, and differential access to health care. We will also explore the questions regarding the sources of African history and their quality.	IS	Fall
ITAL B229	Food in Italian Literature, Culture, and Cinema	Italian	UG	Taught in English. A profile of Italian literature/culture/ cinema obtained through an analysis of gastronomic documents, films, literary texts, and magazines. We will also include a discussion of the Slow Food Revolution, a movement initiated in Italy in 1980 and now with a world-wide following, and its social, economic, ecological, aesthetic, and cultural impact to counteract fast food and to promote local food traditions.	IS	Fall

PHIL B102	Science and Morality in Modernity	Philosophy	UG	In this course, we explore answers to fundamental questions about the nature of the world and our place in it by examining the works of some of the central figures in modern western philosophy. Can we obtain knowledge of the world and, if so, how? Does God exist? What is the nature of the self? How do we determine morally right answers? What sorts of policies and political structures can best promote justice and equality? These questions were addressed in "modern" Europe in the context of the development of modern science and the religious wars. In a time of globalization we are all, more or less, heirs of the Enlightenment which sees its legacy to be modern science and the mastery of nature together with democracy and human rights. This course explores the above questions and considers them in their historical context. Some of the philosophers considered include Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Wollstonecraft.	IS	Fall, Spring
PHIL B221	Ethics	Philosophy	UG	An introduction to ethics by way of an examination of moral theories and a discussion of important ancient, modern, and contemporary texts which established theories such as virtue ethics, deontology, utilitarianism, relativism, emotivism, care ethics. This course considers questions concerning freedom, responsibility, and obligation. How should we live our lives and interact with others? How should we think about ethics in a global context? Is ethics independent of culture? A variety of practical issues such as reproductive rights, euthanasia, animal rights and the environment will be considered.	IS	Fall
PHIL B252	Feminist Theory	Philosophy	UG	Beliefs that gender discrimination has been eliminated and women have achieved equality have become commonplace. We challenge these assumptions examining the concepts of patriarchy, sexism, and oppression. Exploring concepts central to feminist theory, we attend to the history of feminist theory and contemporary accounts of women's place and status in different societies, varied experiences, and the impact of the phenomenon of globalization. We then explore the relevance of gender to philosophical questions about identity and agency with respect to moral, social and political theory. Prerequisite: one course in philosophy or permission of instructor.	IS	Spring
POLS B224	Comparative Political Phil: China, Greece, and the "West"	Political Science	UG	An introduction to the dialogic construction of comparative political philosophy, using texts from several cultures or worlds of thought: ancient and modern China, ancient Greece, and the modern West. The course will have three parts. First, a consideration of the synchronous emergence of philosophy in ancient (Axial Age) China and Greece; second, the 19th century invention of the modern "West" and Chinese responses to this development; and third, the current discussions and debates about globalization, democracy, and human rights now going on in China and the West.	IS	Fall

SOCL B229	Black America in Sociological Perspective	Sociology	UG	This course presents sociological perspectives on various issues affecting black America as a historically unique minority group in the United States: the legacy of slavery and the Jim Crow era; the formation of urban black ghettos; the civil rights reforms; the of poverty and unemployment; the problems of crime and other social problems in black communities; the problems of criminal justice; the continuing significance of race; the varied covert modern forms of racial discrimination experienced by black Americans; and problems the role of race in American politics.	IS	Fall
Emily Balch Freshman Seminar 18	Critical Thinking and Social Justice	English	UG	You are signing up for a course designed to enhance your critical thinking skills. But why is critical thinking important? This course will ask you to consider the ways in which your capacity to think critically is not only valuable to you, but also important to society. What is the connection between a successful democracy and an informed and critically engaged people? Is being unaware or sloppy in one's reasoning a failure in one's political responsibility? In what ways might a lack of critical thinking perpetuate social injustice, such as sex- or race-based oppression, and in what ways might careful critical practices undermine such injustice? This course will ask students to reflect on these and other related questions by reading texts in political philosophy, ethics, feminism, and critical race theory. Particular theorists may include Socrates, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, John Stuart Mill, Paulo Freire, and Judith Butler. Texts may also include contemporary political punditry in the form of daily newspapers (The New York Times), radio broadcasts (NPR's This American Life), or TV programs (The Rachel Maddow Show or The Colbert Report). Students will develop their own capacities for critical thinking through class discussions and writing assignments that require them to analyze, interpret, evaluate, and build compelling arguments.	IS	Fall
Emily Balch Freshman Seminar 23/24	Poverty, Affluence and American Culture	English	UG	Whether dramatized by images of the Great Depression and post-Katrina New Orleans, or by the number of Americans lacking health insurance or facing foreclosure, poverty is one of the most persistent problems and controversial issues in the United States. Along with its obvious economic dimensions, poverty has a wide variety of political and cultural meanings. Through a selective, critical examination of scholarly works, journalism, novels, and movies, this Balch Seminar will explore the related themes of poverty, wealth, and the American Dream in the U.S., from the 1860s to the present. Using work from authors and directors as diverse as Benjamin Franklin, Malcolm X, Barbara Ehrenreich, Sandra Cisneros, Spike Lee, and Richard Wright, the course will look at how poverty, poor people, and class mobility have been discussed and represented in the United States, and it will provide an opportunity to explore how class and economic advancement impact how we see the meaning of America.	IS	Fall

Emily Balch Freshman Seminar 25	Not My Nature	English	UG	Nature is not always what one expects it to be, and is often the most interesting when it is confusing, surprising, or funny. In this seminar, we will be exploring the quirky side of American nature writing, with an eye toward questioning common assumptions about both the natural world and the role of people within it. We will be reading and writing about ways in which nature has caught American writers off guard, surprised them, made them laugh, and terrified them. In doing so, we will challenge ourselves to think in new ways about the environments in which we live. What makes something natural or unnatural? What does it mean to be wild? And what do our answers say about ourselves? Readings may include selections from John Muir's My First Summer in the Sierra, Henry David Thoreau's The Maine Woods, Mary Austin's Land of Little Rain, Barbara Kingsolver's High Tide in Tucson, Bill Bryson's A Walk in the Woods, Elizabeth Kolbert's The Sixth Extinction, and essays by environmental historians William Cronon, Jennifer Price, and Harriet Ritvo.	IS	Fall
ANTH B237	Environmental Health	Anthropology	UG	This course introduces principles and methods in environmental anthropology and public health used to analyze global environmental health problems globally and develop health and disease control programs. Topics covered include risk; health and environment; food production and consumption; human health and agriculture; meat and poultry production; and culture, urbanization, and disease.	S	Fall
ANTH B244	Global Perspectives on Early Farmers and Social Change	Anthropology	UG	Throughout most of human history our ancestors practiced lifestyles focused upon the gathering and hunting of wild plants and animals. Today, however, a globalized agricultural economy supports a population of over seven billion individuals. This course utilizes information produced by archaeologists around the globe to examine this major historical transition while asking big questions like: What impact did the adoption of agriculture have on communities in the past, and how did farming spread to different world regions? We will also consider how the current farming system influences our own society. How does farming still affect our lives today, and how will the history of agricultural change shape our collective future?	S	Fall
BIOL B220	Ecology	Biology	UG	A study of the interactions between organisms and their environments. The scientific underpinnings of current environmental issues, with regard to human impacts, are also discussed. Students will also become familiar with ecological principles and with the methods ecologists use. Students will apply these principles through the design and implementation of experiments both in the laboratory and the field. Lecture three hours a week, laboratory/field investigation three hours a week. There will be optional field trips throughout the semester.	S	Fall
BIOL B225	Biology and Ecology of Plants	Biology	UG	Plants are critical to numerous contemporary issues, such as ecological sustainability, economic stability, and human health. Students will examine the fundamentals of how plants are structured, how they function, how they interact with other organisms, and how they respond to environmental stimuli. In addition, students will be taught to identify important local species, and will explore the role of plants in human society and ecological systems.	S	Spring

BIOL B262	Urban Ecosystems	Biology	UG	Cities can be considered ecosystems whose functions are highly influenced by human activity. This course will address many of the living and non-living components of urban ecosystems, as well as their unique processes. Using an approach focused on case studies, the course will explore the ecological and environmental problems that arise from urbanization, and also examine solutions that have been attempted.	S	Fall
BIOL B323	Coastal and Marine Ecology	Biology	UG	An interdisciplinary course exploring the ecological, biogeochemical, and physical aspects of coastal and marine ecosystems. We will compare intertidal habitats in both temperate and tropical environments, with a specific emphasis on global change impacts on coastal systems (e.g. sea level rise, warming, and species shifts). In 2015 the course will have a mandatory field trip to a tropical marine field station and an overnight field trip to a temperate field station in the mid-Atlantic.	S	Spring
BIOL B332	Global Change Biology	Biology	UG	Global changes to our environment present omnipresent environmental challenges. We are only beginning to understand the complex interactions between organisms and the rapidly changing environment. Students will explore the effects of global change on ecosystems by analyzing the primary literature and the latest IPCC report. In 2017, there will be a mandatory one-day field trip to the Smithsonian Global Change Research Wetland.	S	Fall
BIOL B390	Senior Seminar in Ecology	Biology	UG	A focus on the interactions among organisms and their environments. Students read and discuss current and classic papers from the primary literature. Topics may include biogeographic patterns, population and community dynamics, and ecosystem functioning. We may explore current issues such as global warming, habitat degradation and fragmentation, loss of biodiversity and the introduction of alien species. The effects of these human induced changes on the biota are examined. Students write, defend and publicly present one long research paper. Three hours of class lecture and discussion a week, supplemented by frequent meetings with individual students	S	Fall
ECON B225	Economic Development	Economics	UG	Examination of the issues related to and the policies designed to promote economic development in the developing economies of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Focus is on why some developing economies grow faster than others and why some growth paths are more equitable, poverty reducing, and environmentally sustainable than others. Includes consideration of the impact of international trade and investment policy, macroeconomic policies (exchange rate, monetary and fiscal policy) and sector policies (industry, agriculture, education, population, and environment) on development outcomes in a wide range of political and institutional contexts.	S	Fall, Spring
ECON B393	Research Seminar in Industrial and Environmental Regulation	Economics	UG	Thesis seminar. Each student does a semester- long research project on a relevant topic of interest. Research topics include the interaction of buyers, sellers, and government in imperfectly competitive markets: the causes and responses to environmental and natural resources degradation.	S	Spring

ENGL B218	Ecological Imaginings	English	UG	Re-thinking the evolving nature of representation, with a focus on language as a link between natural and cultural ecosystems. We will observe the world; read classical and cutting edge ecolinguistic, ecoliterary, ecofeminist, and ecocritical theory, along with a wide range of exploratory, speculative, and imaginative essays and stories; and seek a variety of ways of expressing our own ecological interests.	S	Spring
ENVS B101	Introduction to Environmental Studies	Environmental Science	UG	This interdisciplinary introduction to Environmental Studies Minor examines the ideas, themes and methodologies of humanists, social scientists, and natural scientists in order to understand what they have to offer each other in the study of the environment, and how their inquiries can be strengthened when working in concert.	S	Fall
ENVS B397	ENVS B397 Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies	Environmental Science	UG	In this capstone course, senior Environmental Studies minors from across the disciplines will draw on the perspectives and skills gained from their majors and from their preparatory work in the minor to collaboratively engage high-level questions of environmental inquiry. Prerequisite: Open only to Environmental Studies minors who have completed all introductory work for the minor.	S	Spring
GEOB B103	Earth Systems and the Environment	Geology	UG	This integrated approach to studying the Earth focuses on interactions among geology, oceanography, and biology. Also discussed are the consequences of human energy consumption, industrial development, and land use. Two lectures and one afternoon of laboratory or fieldwork per week. A required field trip is taken in April.	S	Spring
GEOB B302	Low-Temperature Geochemistry	Geology	UG	Stable isotope geochemistry is one of the most important subfields of the Earth sciences for understanding environmental and climatic change. In this course, we will explore stable isotopic fundamentals and applications including a number of important case studies from the recent and deep time dealing with important biotic events in the fossil record and major climate changes.	S	Spring
GEOB B314	GEOB B314 Marine Geology	Geology	UG	An introduction to oceanography, coastal processes, and the geomorphology of temperate and tropical shorelines. Includes an overview of the many parameters, including sea level change, that shape coastal environments. Meets twice weekly for a combination of lecture, discussion and hands-on exercises, including a mandatory multi-day field trip to investigate developed and pristine sections of the Mid- Atlantic US coast.	S	Fall
CITY B278	American Environmental History	Growth and Structure of the City	UG	This course explores major themes of American environmental history, examining changes in the American landscape, the history of ideas about nature and the interaction between the two. Students will study definitions of nature, environment, and environmental history while investigating interactions between Americans and their physical worlds.	S	Spring

HIST B125	Amerindians, Europeans, and Slaves: Early Modern Colonialism	History	UG	The course explores the way in which peoples, goods, and ideas from Africa, Europe, and the Americas were brought together within colonial systems to form an interconnected Atlantic World. The course charts the manner in which an integrated system emerged in the Americas in early modern period, rather than to treat Atlantic History as nothing more than an 'expanded' version of North American, Caribbean, or Latin American history. The lived experiences of indigenous peoples, slaves, and free people of color are central topics and themes of the course.	S	Spring
PHIL B344	Development Ethics	Philosophy	UG	This course explores the meaning of and moral issues raised by development. In what direction and by what means should a society "develop"? What role, if any, does the globalization of markets and capitalism play in processes of development and in systems of discrimination on the basis of factors such as race and gender? Answers to these sorts of questions will be explored through an examination of some of the most prominent theorists and recent literature. Prerequisites: a philosophy, political theory or economics course or permission of the instructor.	S	Spring
POLS B222	Environmental Issues	Political Science	UG	This is a topics course. Topics vary Spring 2017: Movements, Controversies and Policy Making. An exploration of the ways in which different cultural, economic, and political settings have shaped issue emergence and policy making. We examine the politics of particular environmental issues in selected countries and regions, paying special attention to the impact of environmental movements. We also assess the prospects for international cooperation in addressing global environmental problems such as climate change.	S	Spring
POLS B354	Comparative Social Movements: Power and Mobilization	Political Science	UG	A consideration of the conceptualizations of power and "legitimate" and "illegitimate" participation, the political opportunity structure facing potential activists, the mobilizing resources available to them, and the cultural framing within which these processes occur. Specific attention is paid to recent movements within and across countries, such as feminist, environmental, and anti- globalization movements, and to emerging forms of citizen mobilization, including transnational and global networks, electronic mobilization, and collaborative policymaking institutions.	S	Spring

SOWK B563	Global Public Health	Social Work	UG	This course is open to graduate and undergraduate students and has relevance for students in Praxis, field education, study abroad and various internships (although these practice experiences are not required for the course). Globalization increasingly dictates the availability of social and economic resources as well as access to them, and at the same time presents a shared set of problems such as violence (particularly against women and children), unemployment, HIV- AIDS, poverty and starvation, threats to indigenous populations, and environmental destruction, among others. Changes from globalization require new ways to conceptualize and implement the welfare state and an envisioning of social justice that crosses borders. A domestic perspective and the lens of cultural context are no longer adequate; they require expansion to include geographic context as well as ideas and practices to address troubles shared by nations (such as assimilation) and by populations crossing borders (into areas not always welcoming of them). Enrollment limited to 5 advanced undergraduates.	S	Fall
SOCL B205	Social Inequality	Sociology	UG	Introduction to the major sociological theories of gender, racial-ethnic, and class inequality with emphasis on the relationships among these forms of stratification in the contemporary United States, including the role of the upper class(es), inequality between and within families, in the work place, and in the educational system.	S	Fall
ECON B242	Economics of Local Environmental Programs	Economics		Considers the determinants of human impact on the environment at the neighborhood or community level and policy responses available to local government. How can economics help solve and learn from the problems facing rural and suburban communities? The instructor was a local township supervisor who will share the day-to-day challenges of coping with land use planning, waste disposal, dispute resolution, and the provision of basic services.	S	Spring
Emily Balch Freshman Seminar 26	Environmental Social Problems	English	UG	This course examines how people have understood and addressed or failed to address problems in their surrounding environment. By "environment," we'll mean both our natural surroundings and our built environments, commonly understood as the world as it naturally presents itself and the world as it is manipulated and built by humans. Historically, the course begins with the radical environmental changes at the dawn of modernity as people became less influenced by the local scenes in which they found themselves and were more influenced by factors far removed from them in both space and time. Next, we'll explore the massive urban social problems experienced in urban areas due to rapid industrialization and growing rates of poverty and vice. The course then moves through a series of more contemporary case studies of environmental problems (including both single-event "disasters" like Hurricane Katrina or catastrophic floods from careless mining practices in Appalachia and ongoing slowly developing ever-present realities like global climate change) that demonstrate the importance of both critical academic understanding of the problems and engaged practice in applying this understanding to real world situations. Readings will include both theoretical and empirical pieces from sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, and non-scholarly news media and best-selling popular non-fiction.	S	Fall

Emily Balch Freshman Seminar 28/29	Muddy-ing the Waters: Doing Justice to Race, Class, Gender and Environment	English	UG	Co-designed by professors in Education and English, this pair of Esems offers a series of different stepping stones into the “muddy” work of social and environmental justice. Grounding ourselves in the domains of identity matters and ecological studies, we ask how different dimensions of human identity (such as race, class, gender, sexuality and religion) affect our ability to act in the social and natural worlds; conversely, we look at how these spaces shape and re-shape our identities and actions, individually and collectively. Our cross-disciplinary approach re-examines personal experiences through the differing orientations of the humanities, social sciences and sciences. Seeking fresh understandings, we revisit well-known examples of children’s literature and popular films, alongside Eli Clare’s memoir, Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness and Liberation; Elizabeth Kolbert’s “unnatural history,” The Sixth Extinction; and one novel (perhaps Ruth Ozeki’s All Over Creation or Amitah Ghosh’s The Hungry Tide); as well as essays by community activists and educators Teju Cole, Paulo Freire, David Sobel and Eve Tuck.	S	Fall