

Introduction to Environmental Studies: Indigenous Natural Resource Management on the Pacific Rim



FALL 2024 (Freshmen / Sophomore; 14 credits)

Amy Cook (Marine Science / Biology / Zoology)

cooka@evergreen.edu

Website: <https://www.evergreen.edu/directory/amy-cook>

Zoltán Grossman (Geography / Native American & Indigenous Studies)

grossmaz@evergreen.edu

Website: <https://sites.evergreen.edu/zoltan>

Program Description

This program will take an interdisciplinary approach combining natural and social sciences to understand natural resource management, conservation, and protection, and to analyze effective Indigenous-centered solutions to problems in these fields. Although Indigenous peoples comprise about 5 percent of world population, their lands embody 80 percent of the planet's remaining biodiversity.

The program will apply concepts from ecology and political-cultural geography to study plants and animals in the Pacific Rim region, particularly on the West Coast of North America, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, and Hawai'i, and the various methods that Indigenous nations have developed to protect and sustainably care for natural wealth harvested for food and other cultural uses, in the past, present, and future.

Students will learn the foundations of natural resource management from the fields of ecology and population biology, and how organisms are affected by habitat loss, overharvesting, climate change, and other threats. The focus of this learning will be around a variety of freshwater, marine and terrestrial habitats including watersheds, nearshore marine habitats, prairies, and forests. We will examine responses led by Native nations to heal the harms of settler colonialism, such as habitat restoration, building climate resilience and food sovereignty, removing dams and dikes, recovering militarized lands, resisting mining and fossil fuel projects, and planning for sea-level rise and other climate-related disasters. The program will study Indigenous aspects of environmental/climate justice and resilience. The process of building partnerships between tribal and non-tribal governments, and developing "unlikely alliances" between tribal rightsholders and their neighbors, will be examined as essential elements in developing effective and sustainable resource management and protection plans.

Students will engage with the material through lectures, labs, seminars, guest speakers, films, workshops, field trips, written assignments, and a research project and presentation. Students will develop skills in writing, research, synthesizing information, and public speaking. The class will take day trips to visit the lands of South Salish Sea tribes [Squaxin Island, Nisqually], and a multiday field trip to coastal Washington tribes.

Required field trip: The four-day field trip to the Olympic Peninsula will be to visit the Quinault, Quileute, Makah, and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes on October 29-November 1. Please make work and family plans accordingly.

Schedule

Day	Time	Activity
Tuesday	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lecture
Tuesday	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Workshop/Seminar
Wednesday	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lecture
Thursday	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop
Friday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Lab/Field

Asynchronous films will be available to watch on your own.

Anticipated Credit Equivalencies (total of 14 credits):

- 4: Native American and Indigenous Studies: Indigenous Environmental Justice & Resilience
- 3: Geography: Human-Environment Interactions
- 3: Natural History of the Pacific Rim
- 4: Introduction to Natural Resource Management

Fields of Study: Ecology, Environmental Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Natural Resource Management

Preparatory for studies and careers in: Environmental studies, Natural Resource Management, Conservation Biology, Native and Indigenous Studies, Geography, Planning

Fees: \$360 fee covers the cost of a multiday field trip to the Olympic Peninsula (\$300), museum entrance fees (\$10), and a required lab fee (\$50)

Possible types of readings (TBD): *Messages from Frank's Landing* (Wilkinson), *Asserting Native Resilience* (Grossman & Parker), *Razor Clams* (Berger), *The Sea is My Country* (Reid), *Orca* (Mapes), *As Long as Grass Grows* (Gilio-Whitaker), *Dark Emu* (Pasco), *How to Be a Water Protector* (LaDuke).