



## **Environmental Studies 101**

Summer, 2016

Instructor: George Leddy, PhD

3 units UC/CSU

Environmental Studies 101 is an accelerated version of the catalog course offered by the LACCD as a UC/CalState transfer class. This five-week course will run for 54 hours and offering 3 units of transferable credit. We meet from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, M–T–W–Th every week from June 20 to July 21. This course is offered through the Upward Bound program at LASC.

–An interdisciplinary survey of human and environmental interaction and sustainability. The course explores the role of humans in the transformation of the natural world. Topics include an overview of Earth systems and resources, human systems and environmental impacts, sustainability, and the cultural, economic and political choices needed to achieve a sustainable world.

The course combines natural sciences and social /behavioral sciences in considering human tenure of the earth and the analysis of human impacts and social policies on the environment; scientific method and critical thinking are presented as modes of decision-making; also considered are approaches by social, political and economic groups to the environment and its resources, as well as sustainable practices.

Environmental Studies emphasizes a multi-disciplinary approach to the examination of environmental problems. Students will be provided with reading materials that represent that approach and will be used throughout the course. In addition there will be a website with posted materials. Some videos will also be shown in class. These appear on the syllabus. We are also hoping for a guest speaker.

Issues with which students will become acquainted include population dynamics, food, energy, water, urbanism, buildings, business and personal choices. Topics will be complemented with Internet and other sources as well as guests. By examining environmental problems we will also look at proposed solutions and important changes underway. The green economy is growing at a faster rate than the larger economy. In the course we will also look at the job creating and training opportunities that can be found in this growing area of the economy.

There are two assignments. The first is a bibliography to be compiled on a specific agricultural commodity. Students will learn how to use Google Advanced Search and Google Scholar to find articles to put on their bibliographies. The second assignment is a short term paper on the subject of climate change. Students are to examine the pros and cons of a cap n' trade approach vs. a carbon tax. Articles will be posted from which students can write their papers.



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The requirements of the course are that the student avail themselves of class materials, attend all sessions, complete all quizzes, and turn in the two assignments. Quizzes will be drawn from course materials and posted materials. The quizzes will all be open book and open notes with collaboration encouraged. These require a Scantron® test forms 882E, two sided 100 questions. There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam that are closed book. Questions will be drawn from the quizzes. The final grade will be drawn from scores developed from all these activities. Grades will be compiled from an average of all the quizzes, the scores on the two exams, and the quality of assignments 1 and 2.

The details of the course are as follows:  
Environmental Studies 101

Start date	June 20, 2016
End date	July 21, 2016
Time	1:30pm to 4:00pm
Days	M-T-W-Th
Location	TBA
Instructor	G. S. Leddy
Books	Readings are online articles and the e-book " <i>Sustainability: A Comprehensive Foundation</i> ". Textbook by: Tom Theis and Jonathan Tomkin, Eds. < <a href="http://legacy.cnx.org/content/col11325/1.43/">http://legacy.cnx.org/content/col11325/1.43/</a> > It is available online as a website, downloadable PDF, and epub for readers and tablets.

The website for the course is: <http://www.agricanto.org/environmental-studies-101.html>  
Office hours will be announced in class.  
e-mail: [leddygs@lavc.edu](mailto:leddygs@lavc.edu)

On the next page are the daily topics and dates. A separate file provides more detail on the daily topics and important dates.



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<b>Dates</b>	<b>Theme</b>
<b>Week 1</b> June 20	Intro to Environmental Studies
June 21	Environmental problems, causes, sustainability
June 22	From population to demography
June 23	Agriculture and Food
<b>Week 2</b> June 27	Oceans and Coasts
June 28	Fresh Water Resources
June 29	California Water and Drought
June 30	Toxic substances
<b>Week 3</b> July 4	HOLIDAY
July 5	Minerals and Globalism <b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
July 6	Non-renewable Energy
July 7	Renewable energy
<b>Week 4</b> July 11	Climate Change
July 12	Evolutionary Biology and Species preservation
July 13	Public Lands and conservation biology
July 14	Transportation
<b>Week 5</b> July 18	Waste
July 19	Sustainable Cities
July 20	Greening of business
July 21	Personal Choices <b>FINAL EXAM</b>