ECOSYSTEM SCI & SUSTAIN-ESS (ESS)

Courses

ESS 120 Intro to Ecosystem and Watershed Sciences  Credit: 1 (1-0-0)
Course Description: Exploration of the fields of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability and Watershed Science, including career pathways.
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Undergraduate.
Registration Information: This is a partial semester course. Required field trips.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 129 Information Management for Sustainability  Credit: 1 (1-0-0)
Course Description: Learn to access, retrieve, store, and manipulate information for natural resources and sustainability applications. Basic mapping, statistics, and graphing.
Prerequisite: ESS 120, may be taken concurrently.
Registration Information: This is a partial semester course. Credit not allowed for both ESS 129 and ESS 180A1.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 130 Intro to Systems Theory for Sustainability  Credit: 1 (1-0-0)
Course Description: Introduction to the concept of a “system,” fundamental tenets of systems theory, and application of systems theory to the sustainability of social-ecological systems.
Prerequisite: ESS 129.
Registration Information: This is a partial semester course.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 210 Physical Geography  Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Also Offered As: GR 210.
Course Description: Energy, mass budget, and human impacts on atmosphere, hydrosphere, and continental land surfaces.
Prerequisite: None.
Registration Information: Credit not allowed for both ESS 210 and GR 210.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 211 Foundations in Ecosystem Science  Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Linkage between society and ecosystems services as foundation for sustainability of the coupled human-environmental system.
Prerequisite: GR 210 or ESS 210.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 220 Research Skills for Ecosystem Science I  Credit: 1 (0-0-1)
Course Description: Fundamental skills for participating in ecosystem science research through hands-on learning modules.
Prerequisite: None.
Registration Information: Written consent of instructor.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 221 Research Methods for Ecosystem Science II  Credit: 1 (0-0-1)
Course Description: Advanced topics in the practice of the scientific method and participation in research.
Prerequisite: ESS 220.
Registration Information: Written consent of instructor.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 298 Research  Credits: Var[1-3] (0-0-0)
Course Description: Directed research in an area of Ecosystem Science.
Prerequisite: ESS 221, may be taken concurrently.
Term Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 311 Ecosystem Ecology  Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Principles of ecosystems ecology, emphasis on their application to coupled natural and human systems.
Prerequisite: (PH 121 or PH 141) and (LIFE 320).
Registration Information: Required field trips.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 312 Sustainability Science  Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Synthesize multifaceted information across a wide range of disciplines, with the goal to develop potential solutions to complex human-societal-environmental challenges at multiple scales. Implement methods for understanding current issues, develop alternative scenarios to current practices and policies, and stage interventions to achieve more sustainable behaviors and practices.
Prerequisite: ESS 311.
Registration Information: Completion of AUCC category 3C.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 320 Internship and Career Preparation  Credit: 1 (0-0-1)
Course Description: Career-related skills and professional development in ecosystem science and sustainability (ESS) for majors.
Prerequisite: LIFE 320.
Term Offered: Fall, Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 330 Quantitative Reasoning for Ecosystem Science  Credits: 3 (2-2-0)
Course Description: Understanding diverse approaches for using data and models to understand complex ecological systems.
Prerequisite: (ESS 211 or LIFE 320) and (MATH 155 or MATH 160) and (STAT 301 or STAT 307 or STAT 315).
Registration Information: Junior or senior standing.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.
ESS 400 Global Perspectives on Sustainability Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Explores the intersections between ecosystem science, communities and sustainability in the context of the global challenges of climate change focusing on the new global framework (The Paris Agreement), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and ecological indicators.
Prerequisite: ESS 312.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: Yes.

ESS 411 Earth Systems Ecology Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Earth as a system, stressing ecological interactions among energy, water, and biogeochemistry.
Prerequisite: ESS 312.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 412 Sustainable Cities Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Explore the ecology of cities, evaluate the most innovative science developed for the city, and discuss with renowned researchers leading these efforts. Analyze sustainability plans from a variety of cities around the globe, and interact with the practitioners developing and implementing sustainable goals. Delve into sustainability theory, specifically "the sustainable city myth."
Prerequisite: ANTH 100 or ANTH 200 or GES 101 or GR 100 or GR 210 or LIFE 220 or LIFE 320 or NR 120 or NR 130 or SOC 220.
Registration Information: Junior standing. Credit not allowed for both ESS 412 and ESS 480A1.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 440 Practicing Sustainability Credits: 4 (2-0-2)
Course Description: Capstone integration of ecosystem science and sustainability, focused on case studies.
Prerequisite: ESS 312 and ESS 330.
Registration Information: Senior standing in WCNR. Must register for lecture and recitation.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: Yes.

ESS 471 Special Topics in Ecosystem Sustainability Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: ESS 311.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 482A Study Abroad: Communities and Conservation in South Africa Credits: 6 (0-0-6)
Also Offered As: ANTH 482A.
Course Description: Travel to the wildest areas of savanna South Africa to work and learn from rural and urbanizing communities. Insights into the innovative forms of community-based natural resource management emerging in South Africa. Understand the new landscapes of conservation associated with post-apartheid South Africa. Explore the problems faced by the millions of people living in poverty at the edge of protected areas.
Prerequisite: None.
Registration Information: Written consent of instructor. Pre-South Africa: during the spring semester prior to the actual study abroad experience, students will meet in March and April for workshops and guest lectures on the CSU campus. In South Africa: travel approximately June 10 – July 2. Post-South Africa: students and instructors will schedule 20 hours of consulting time while students work on group projects over 6 weeks. Credit not allowed for both ANTH 482A and ESS 482A.
Term Offered: Summer.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 486 Ecosystem Practicum Credits: 2 (0-0-4)
Course Description: One-week field practicum to examine ecosystem science and sustainability issues in Colorado landscapes.
Prerequisite: ESS 311.
Registration Information: Senior standing. Required field trips.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 487 Internship Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description: Supervised work experience in professional settings related to Ecosystem Science and Sustainability.
Prerequisite: ESS 320.
Registration Information: Written consent of instructor. Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 495 Independent Study in Ecosystem Science Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: Instructor Option.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 501 Principles of Ecosystem Sustainability Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Principles of ecosystem sustainability and threats to sustainability. Students will investigate and develop case studies.
Prerequisite: BZ 300 to 499 or ECOL 300 to 499 or CHEM 300 to 499.
Registration Information: Admission to graduate school. Sections may be offered: Online.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.
ESS 524 Foundations for Carbon/Greenhouse Gas Mgmt Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Foundations for understanding greenhouse gas emissions management and accounting.
Prerequisite: BZ 300 to 499 or ECOL 300 to 499 or CHEM 300 to 499.
Registration Information: Sections may be offered: Online.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 542 Greenhouse Gas Policies Credits: 2 (0-0-2)
Course Description: Rules, regulations and standards for greenhouse gas management and accounting.
Prerequisite: ESS 524.
Registration Information: Graduate standing. Sections may be offered: Online.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 543 Current Topics in Climate Change Credits: 2 (2-0-0)
Also Offered As: ATS 543.
Course Description: Climate fundamentals and current topics in climate change.
Prerequisite: BZ 300 to 499 or ECOL 300 to 499 or LIFE 300 to 499 or CHEM 300 to 499.
Registration Information: Credit not allowed for both ESS 543 and ATS 543. Sections may be offered: Online.
Term Offered: Fall.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 545 Applications in Greenhouse Gas Inventories Credits: 4 (2-6-0)
Course Description: Overview of methods for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation potential for agriculture and forestry activities.
Prerequisite: ESS 524 and STAT 511A.
Registration Information: Must register for lecture and laboratory. Required field trips.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 555 Multivariate Analysis for Community Ecology Credits: 2 (2-0-0)
Course Description: Techniques and conceptual understanding for analyzing multivariate ecological data characteristic of community ecology, including ordination, classification, and permanova.
Prerequisite: ESS 524 and (STAT 511A) and (BSPM 526 or BZ 535 or BZ 548 or BZ 561 or ECOL 505 or ECOL 600 or ECOL 610 or ECOL 620 or FW 555 or FW 662) and (STAT 511A).
Registration Information: STAT 511A or written consent of instructor. Must register for lecture and laboratory.
Term Offered: Fall (even years).
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 565 Biogeochemical Cycling in Ecosystems Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Biotic and abiotic processes responsible for distribution and fluxes of elements at ecosystem, landscape, and global scales.
Prerequisite: CHEM 245 and SOCR 240 and ECOL 300 to 699.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 587 Internship Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: Instructor Option.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 625 Ecology of Forest Production Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Also Offered As: F 625.
Course Description: Develops student expertise in understanding carbon and nutrient flows in forests.
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Must have taken a 300-level course in ECOL. Credit not allowed for both ESS 625 and F 625. Sections may be offered: Online.
Term Offered: Spring (even years).
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 655 Multivariate Analysis for Community Ecology Credits: 2 (2-0-0)
Course Description: Techniques and conceptual understanding for analyzing multivariate ecological data characteristic of community ecology, including ordination, classification, and permanova.
Prerequisite: ESS 524 and (STAT 511A) and (BSPM 526 or BZ 535 or BZ 548 or BZ 561 or ECOL 505 or ECOL 600 or ECOL 610 or ECOL 620 or FW 555 or FW 662) and (STAT 511A).
Registration Information: STAT 511A or written consent of instructor. Must register for lecture and laboratory.
Term Offered: Fall (even years).
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 660 Biogeochemical Cycling in Ecosystems Credits: 3 (3-0-0)
Course Description: Biotic and abiotic processes responsible for distribution and fluxes of elements at ecosystem, landscape, and global scales.
Prerequisite: CHEM 245 and SOCR 240 and ECOL 300 to 699.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Term Offered: Spring.
Grade Mode: Traditional.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 692 Seminar Credit: 1 (0-0-1)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Sections may be offered: Online.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring.
Grade Mode: Instructor Option.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 695 Independent Study in Ecosystem Science Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: Instructor Option.
Special Course Fee: No.
ESS 696  Group Study  Credits: Var[1-6] (0-0-0)
Course Description: Group study projects on topics in ecosystem science and sustainability.
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Written consent of instructor. Sections may be offered: Online.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 698  Research  Credits: Var[1-18] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Written consent of advisor.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 699  Thesis  Credits: Var[1-18] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Written consent of advisor.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 798  Research  Credits: Var[1-18] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Written consent of advisor.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.

ESS 799  Dissertation  Credits: Var[1-18] (0-0-0)
Course Description:
Prerequisite: None.
Restriction: Must be a: Graduate, Professional.
Registration Information: Written consent of advisor.
Terms Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.
Grade Mode: S/U Sat/Unsat Only.
Special Course Fee: No.