

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## GEOS 335: Environmental Geography and Conservation

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course is a description, analysis, and spatial study of environmental problems including food supplies, energy resources, pollution of all types, wildlife habitat and habitat loss, and environmental change and degradation. The course will also explore the human impacts on environment and ecosystems, and discussions of conservation and preservation issues. MnTC Goal 10.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/27/2007 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Explain the concept of sustainability.
2. Identify and evaluate possible pathways to a sustainable future and demonstrate an awareness of the tradeoffs necessary to achieve a sustainable future.
3. Identify the structure, function, and processes of ecosystems (ecosystems include environmental systems such as climatic, hydrologic, soils, social, and biological systems).
4. Assess and analyze the environmental problems of a technological society using the framework of well-founded physical and biological principles.
5. Describe the relationships between environments and socio-cultural groups, and identify how natural resource challenges are being addressed by the social, legal, economic, political, cultural, and religious systems within societies.
6. Understand how socio-cultural variables affect the ways in which environments are perceived and managed, and the ways in which people or societies react to environmental challenges.

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will demonstrate and understanding of environmental systems and their interconnected nature.
2. Students will demonstrate and understanding of sustainability.
3. Students will be able to analyze the different geographical dimensions of environmental issues.
4. Students will be able to analyze the different cultural and societal perspectives of environmental issues.
5. Students will be able to describe the complexity of environmental problems and the spatial areas that they directly or indirectly affect.
6. Students will analyze various means that societies respond to environmental challenges and problems.
7. Students will articulate their findings and views in an illustrated oral presentation

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted