

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES MINOR


The Environmental Humanities minor invites students to explore how stories, arts, and cultures shape the way people understand and respond to environmental change. Through ethnography, history, literature, and art, students will see the environment not just as an object for scientific analysis but as a source of meaning, inspiration, and multispecies connections. This minor draws on UNC's longstanding strengths in the humanities while connecting them to urgent environmental challenges. Unlike programs that approach the environment primarily through science or policy, this minor turns to cultural perspectives and human experiences, giving students a holistic lens for understanding and addressing past, present, and future planetary problems. By completing the minor, students develop a foundation in the interdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanities as well as sharpen their writing and communication skills and gain experience in research and analysis. These strengths prepare students for careers in science communication, policy and advocacy, education, nonprofit work, and beyond, as well as for graduate study in the humanities or environmental fields.

Requirements





In addition to the program requirements listed below, students must:



















- take at least nine hours of their minor "core" requirements at UNC–Chapel Hill
- earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 in the minor core requirements. Some programs may require higher standards for minor or specific courses.

For more information, please consult the degree requirements section of the catalog (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/degree-requirements/>).

Code	Title	Hours
Core Requirements		
ENEC/FOLK 205	 Environmental Humanities	3
Select two elective courses from List 1 (see below)		6
Select two elective courses from List 2 (see below)		6
Total Hours		15




List 1: Ethnographic and Historical Approaches

Code	Title	Hours
ENEC/ANTH 237	 Food, Environment, and Sustainability	3
ENEC 309	Environmental Values and Valuation	3
ENEC 325	 Water Resource Management for Food, Energy, and Health ^H	3-4
ENEC/PHIL 368	 Living Things, Wilderness, and Ecosystems: An Introduction to Environmental Ethics ^H	3
ENEC/COMM 375	Environmental Advocacy	3
ENEC 421	Textiles: Environmental Impacts, Issues, and Innovations	3
AAAD 239	 Disaster, Recovery, Resistance in Southern Black History	3
AMST 275	 Food and American Culture	3

AMST 277	 America's Role in the Global Environment	3
AMST 489	 Writing Material Culture	3
ANTH 123	 Habitat and Humanity	3
ANTH 125	Canine Cultures ^H	3
ANTH 238	 Human Ecology of Africa	3
ANTH 439	 Political Ecology	3
ANTH 540	 Planetary Crises and Ecological and Cultural Transitions	3
COMM 82	 First-Year Seminar: Food Politics from an Organizational Communication Perspective	3
FREN 369	 Environment, Society, and Public Policy in Southern France	3
GEOG 125	Cultural Landscapes	3
GEOG 240	Introduction to Environmental Justice	3
GEOG 281	Ethnographies of Globalization: From 'Culture' to Decolonization	3
GEOG 435	 Global Environmental Justice	3
GEOG 470	 Political Ecology: Geographical Perspectives	3
HIST 204	 Global Environmental Histories: People, Climate, and Landscapes	3
HIST/CHIN 439	 Environmental China: Premodern Political Ecology	3
RELI 73	 First-Year Seminar: From Dragons to Pokemon: Animals in Japanese Myth, Folklore, and Religion ^H	3
RELI 79	 First-Year Seminar: Human Animals in Religion and Ethics	3
or RELI 226	 Human Animals in Religion and Ethics	
RELI 184	 East Asian Religions	3
RELI 438	 Religion, Nature, and Environment ^H	3
RELI 489	 Animals in Japanese Religion	3

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

List 2: Artistic and Literary Approaches

Code	Title	Hours
AAAD 388	 Black Feminist Thought & the Speculative Imagination	3
AMST 211	 Approaches to Southern Studies: The Creative and Cultural Worlds of the American South	3
ANTH 334	 Art, Nature, and Climate Change	3
ARTH 64	 First-Year Seminar: Picturing Nature	3
ARTS 363	 At the Radical Edge of Life: Art, Space, and Ecology	3
ARTS 364	 The Walking Seminar: A Territorial Investigation	3
CHIN 356	 Chinese Environmental Literature	3
CHIN/CMPL 545	 Chinese Science Fiction	3
CMPL 260	 Landscape: Re-Imagining the Natural World	3

COMM 378	 Environmental Filmmaking: Creative Production and Social Impact	3
ENGL 221	 American Literature, 1900-2000 ^H	3
ENGL 266	 Science and Literature ^H	3
ENGL 666	 Queer Latina/o Photography and Literature	3
ENGL 687	 Queer LatinX Environmentalisms	3
FREN 150	 Globalization and the French-Speaking World	3
FREN 515	Social Networks: Technology and Community in Modern France ¹	3
GSSL 52	 First-Year Seminar: Nature and Death: Ecological Crises in German Literature and Film	3
GSSL 481	 Grand Hotels and Empty Fields: Inventing Central Europe through Culture	3
ITAL 320	 Italian Cities and Cultures: History, Power, and Ecology ¹	3
ITAL 374	 Italian Ecofiction in Global Perspective	3
ITAL 385	 Italian Landscapes: Italy in the UNESCO World Heritage List	3
ITAL 388	 Environmental Issues in Italian Literature and Film ¹	3
PORT 520	 Climate Change and the Cultural Imagination: Lusophone Interpretations ¹	3

^H Honors version available. An honors course fulfills the same requirements as the nonhonors version of that course. Enrollment and GPA restrictions may apply.

¹ Language prerequisite required.

Graduate School and Career Opportunities

The Environmental Humanities minor, in combination with a student's major, prepares students for careers and opportunities that bridge the humanities, arts, and environmental fields, including public scholarship and advocacy, arts and museum work, journalism and media, law, policy, and research. Students may also engage with nationally and regionally prominent institutions conveniently based in the area, such as the National Humanities Center or the publication Southern Cultures, gaining exposure to networks and experiences that support both professional development and postgraduate study. See the program page here for additional special opportunities.

Department Programs

Majors

- Environmental Studies Major, B.A. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/environmental-studies-major-ba/>)
- Environmental Science Major, B.S. (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/environmental-science-bs/>)
- Dual Bachelor's-Master's Degree Programs (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/environmental-studies-major-ba/#dualdegreertext>)

Minors

- Environmental Humanities Minor (p. 1)
- Environmental Science and Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/environmental-science-studies-minor/>)
- Food Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/food-studies-minor/>)
- Sustainability Studies Minor (<https://catalog.unc.edu/undergraduate/programs-study/sustainability-studies-minor/>)

Graduate Programs

- Doctor of Philosophy (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/environment-ecology/#programstext>)
- Master of Science (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/environment-ecology/#programstext>)
- Master of Arts (<https://catalog.unc.edu/graduate/schools-departments/environment-ecology/#programstext>)

Courses

- Environment, Ecology, and Energy (ENEC) (<https://catalog.unc.edu/courses/enec/>)

Contact Information

Environment, Ecology, and Energy Program

Visit Program Website (<https://e3p.unc.edu/>)
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