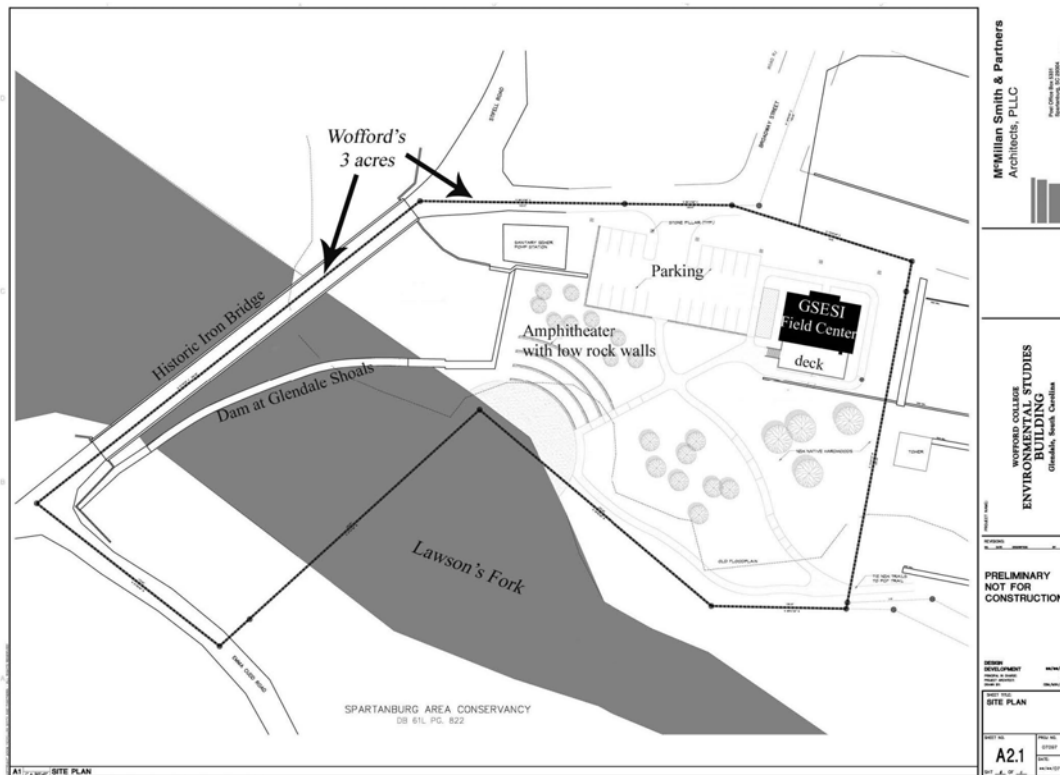


## THE WOFFORD ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM (4/08)

The Wofford Environmental Studies Program (ES) will combine existing and new courses, the diverse expertise of dozens of participating faculty members, and state-of-the-art technologies and facilities. It will provide for students a way in which to organize their passion and interests. Students choosing to major or minor in environmental studies will engage in a focused and rigorous program of study guided by the themes of environment, place, and community. Students in the major or minor will draw from many modes and areas of inquiry and bodies of knowledge, and the program will strive to represent the best scholarship from diverse political, economic, theoretical, and cultural perspectives.

The program will operate both on Wofford's traditional urban Spartanburg campus and at the new Glendale Shoals Environmental Studies Center and Field Station in Glendale, SC. The Center and Field Station (see figure below) are located a few miles from our urban campus on newly acquired property, which



borders 19 acres of protected green space along the Lawson's Fork stream. A small 'wet lab,' technological support (internet access, web cam, GIS, etc.), equipment storage, a class/seminar room, and modest office space will be housed in a fully renovated historic building, a former textile mill office, which sits adjacent to the rocky shoals of the Center's namesake. The LEED (Leaders in Environmental and Energy Design) certified building will be the hub for the program's place-based education, research, and outreach activities, and the site's

surrounding acreage will compliment classroom learning as professors embed in their courses fieldwork at this and other sites throughout the region. Completion of renovations and occupancy of the center is planned for January '09.

#### A. Program Goal

The goal of Wofford's Environmental Studies Program is to build a diverse community of participant-scholars who appreciate the human and natural dimensions of landscape, who are familiar with the ways in which scientists, politicians, artists, business leaders, social scientists, scholars, poets and writers approach the environment, and who seek to become informed, life-long stewards of the natural world.

#### B. Educational Objectives

There are four Educational Objectives of the ES Program,

1. Breadth. To provide all ES students with a core foundation in environmental studies, including knowledge and skills from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. With this foundation, our graduates can address the complex, multidimensional, and often ambiguous environmental issues that they will face as productive, engaged, and compassionate global citizens, regardless of their chosen career path.
2. Depth. To provide students with understanding of the fundamental knowledge prerequisite for the practice in a field related to, or for graduate work in, environmental studies.
3. Communication, Collaboration, and Conduct. To develop skills for clear communication, cross-disciplinary collaboration and responsible teamwork, and to inculcate codes of conduct that are both professional and ethical, so that students are prepared for the complex modern work place and for lifelong learning.
4. Learning Environment. To provide a creative and supportive learning environment that enables students to pursue their goals in an innovative program that is rigorous and challenging, but at the same time open and supportive.

#### C. Staffing

Members of the existing faculty and one new faculty member, preferably someone with a background in environmental science, will lead the ES courses and programs.

## D. Administration

There will be an on-site director of the ES Center, and this person will have administrative, support, and teaching duties (commensurate with expertise) in the program.

There will also be an ES program coordinator who will administer and oversee the ES program as a whole, convene regular meetings of the oversight committee (see below), and have particular responsibilities for advising students in either the BS or the BA track, depending on area of expertise. A coordinator/advisor of the alternate track will also be named from within the oversight committee.

An ES oversight committee will be formed by the Dean of the College, and will include the director of the ES Center, the ES program coordinator, and two faculty members from each of the sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Each member will serve a two-year term, and rotation off of the committee will be staggered in such a way as to allow one new member from each disciplinary area each year – this will require three of the founding members to initially serve a three year term.

## THE CURRICULUM

Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary major, and students may pursue a BA or a BS degree within the major. To earn their BA or BS degree, all ES majors must successfully complete the core ES requirements (listed below), the College's general education requirements, and the required number and type of elective courses approved by the oversight committee. Students may also pursue an ES minor.

Each student must work closely with their ES advisor to ensure that their progress through the program meets the high standards of breadth, depth, and rigor of the other programs at Wofford College. Because ES is not housed within a traditional department (biology or English, for example), each semester the oversight committee will meet to discuss the progress of students in the program. Each student must have his or her course selections approved by the committee to successfully complete the program, regardless of major, minor, or focus in ES. The total hours for the major will be 29-40 depending on BA or BS track. For example, if approved by the oversight committee, a student might complete the major for the BA degree with a minimum of 29 hours (a four-credit capstone plus three, 3-credit elective courses).

The ES science course (ES 203) may be used to satisfy one of the College's general education requirements for a laboratory science. There are no prerequisite courses for the ES courses listed below, but students pursuing a BS are required to take CS 175, Modeling and Simulation for the Sciences in addition to their elective courses.

### A. ES Major Requirements:

#### a. Core (20-21 hours):

ES 101 Introductory Seminar in Environmental Studies, 4 hrs

ES 201 Environmental Social Science, 3 hrs

ES 202 Environmental Humanities, 3 hrs

ES 203 Environmental Science, 4 hrs

ES 448 Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies, 3 hrs

ES 449 Capstone Project, variable credit, 3-4 hrs

Special topics courses (ES 280 and ES 480) will also be available in the major.

b. The ES Focus (9-12 hrs.):

An ES focus will consist of *at least* three elective courses beyond the core requirements listed above. Pursuant to a particular student's interests, the focus is intended to provide academic depth in the humanities, natural sciences, or social sciences. Courses for a particular focus will be chosen from existing and new courses as appropriate for a BA or BS degree track. Two of the three focus courses are strongly encouraged to be at the 300-level or above, and exceptions will require special approval of the ES oversight committee but may be applicable in some cases. For example, if a student needed to take three 200-level philosophy courses for their focus, they may be permitted to do so.

Students are encouraged to indicate their interest in ES early in their career and work in consultation with their academic advisor *and* the ES advisor of their preferred track (BA or BS, as appropriate). Each semester the ES oversight committee will review the progress of each student in the program and may recommend changes to a student's course selections.

[The ES Oversight Committee is in the process of finalizing the recommended electives list for focus courses that would satisfy requirements for the BA or BS degrees, and will post the list in Fall 2008.]

B. ES Minor Requirements (17 hrs.):

Students choosing to minor in ES must complete all core courses required in the major except for the ES 449 Senior capstone project.

C. Proposed ES course rotation for first two and a half years after program approval:

Spring 09	Introductory Seminar in Environmental Studies
	Environmental Social Science
	Environmental Humanities
	Environmental Science

Fall 09	Capstone Project Introductory Seminar in Environmental Studies
Spring 10	Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies Capstone Project Environmental Science Environmental Social Science
Fall 10	Environmental Humanities Capstone Project

The core courses will rotate every year or every other year as driven by enrollment. Similarly, the senior seminar and capstone project will be either every year or every other year, as determined by student need. All other ES faculty will list their courses as electives and offer them on whatever rotation works with departmental scheduling.

#### DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SIX NEW ES COURSES:

##### ES 101 Introductory Seminar in Environmental Studies (4 hrs)

This course introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches in contemporary environmental issues. The course considers key environmental issues, bringing cultural, scientific, historical, political, social, and economic perspectives to bear on each. The course is arranged thematically, with units on topics such as tropical deforestation, global warming, energy use, and resource depletion. This course will also address local environmental issues. For each topic, participants study relevant scientific findings, explore the interactions of human communities with non-human nature, and probe the ecological, cultural, and ethical implications of these interactions. This is a 4 credit hour course because it will include a significant field/lab component.

##### ES 201 Environmental Social Science (3 hrs)

The goal of Environmental Social Science (ESS) is to provide students with an interdisciplinary education of current socio-ecological phenomena. The content of ESS is organized around the fundamental proposition that cross-cultural comparisons of human ideas and behaviors reveal information that is vital to understanding the dynamics between society and nature. The class will utilize case studies from Asia, Oceania, Africa, Europe and the Americas. It will look at local, national and international environmental issues ranging from the ecological toll of regional industries and agricultural practices to the environmental costs of economic globalization, from water pollution and soil depletion in communities to global warming.

##### ES 202 Environmental Humanities (3 hrs)

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of environmental issues in the humanities, including philosophy, art history, literature, film, and history. Through the study of the ways in which the environment is represented in literature, art, and film, we will attempt to understand the central role that human environmental perceptions have

played and continue to play in the creation of both sustainable and unsustainable relations with nature.

#### ES 203 Environmental Science (4 hrs)

This course will be an introduction to the application of the scientific method to the study of the environment. It will focus on the interdependence of ecological systems, the sources of energy and cycles of resources in a variety of environments, and the forces affecting environmental change. Teams of students will engage in field-based research projects, delve into the primary literature, and present their findings as would be done at a professional science conference.

#### ES 448 Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies (3 hrs)

The required ES Senior Seminar will focus around an environmental problem or topic and will challenge both the majors and minors. The capstone will meet on a Tuesday/Thursday late afternoons at Glendale Shoals Environmental Studies Center. The ES Speakers Series will invite six experts to address the assigned problem or topic. These presentations/discussions will be open to the public, but the capstone students are required to attend. The seminar will also meet for discussion on days when speakers are not scheduled. Students must have completed all of the ES core courses before taking this capstone.

#### ES 449 Capstone Project (variable credit, 3-4 hrs)

This course will require students to complete an original research or creative writing project. The capstone project for BS students must be in the sciences. The products of these projects will be presented to the Wofford and surrounding communities in an end-of-the year symposium. These projects will be evaluated by the oversight committee, which will determine if any warrant honors in ES. Each student will work in close collaboration with a project advisor approved by the committee. (Hours dependent on project requirements. Responsibility will rotate among ES faculty.)

A list of courses projected as “focus” courses will be available soon.

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