Course Change Request

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 12/06/24 9:43 am

Viewing: **EVPP 115 : Special Topics in Environmental Science**

Last edit: 01/17/25 10:18 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

> **Programs referencing this course**
>
> SC-BS-EVSC: Environmental Science, BS

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
Younsung Kim	5302	ykih

Effective Term: Fall 2024

Subject Code: EVPP - Environmental Science & Policy   **Course Number:**   115

Bundled Courses:

Is this course replacing another course?   No

Equivalent Courses:

Catalog Title: Special Topics in Environmental Science

Banner Title: Special Topics Environment Sci

Will section titles vary by semester?   Yes

Credits: 1-4

Schedule Type: Lecture

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week: 3

Repeatable: May be only taken once for credit, limited to 3 attempts (N3)   **Max Allowable Credits:**   9

Default Grade Mode: Satisfactory/No Credit

Recommended Prerequisite(s):

Recommended Corequisite(s):

Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

And/Or	(	Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level	)	Concurrency?

Registration Restrictions (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study:

Class(es):

Level(s):

Degree(s):

School(s):

**Catalog
Description:**

This course explores an array of special topics in environmental science- the topics vary by semester and by section.

Justification:

What: To create an undergraduate special topics course.

Why: Largely to award science credit for the week-long, immersive Washington Youth Summit on the Environment (WYSE) program, but also to have a special topics course available for the department.

Does this course cover material which crosses into another department?   No

Learning Outcomes:

Will this course be scheduled as a cross-level cross listed section?   No

Attach Syllabus

EVPP115_SpecialTopicsSyllabus.pdf

**Additional
Attachments**

Staffing:

Dr. Younsung Kim and others as appropriate.

**Relationship to
Existing Programs:**

The course will be written into the Environmental Science, BS.

**Relationship to
Existing Courses:**

None.

**Additional
Comments:**

**Reviewer
Comments**

Key: 18849

EVPP 115 Special Topics in Environmental Science:
Washington Youth Summit on the Environment

Course Information
Semester and Year: Summer 2025 via the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment
Credit Hours: 1
This credit can be applied directly toward the requirements of the [Environmental Science, BS](#) at George Mason, or applied as elective credit in other George Mason programs. The credit may apply to other universities, subject to its institutional policies.

Instructor Contact Information
Instructor Names: Dr. Younsung Kim, Elena Johnson, and Rachel Cleaver
Email: wyse@gmu.edu
Office Hours: As needed by appointment

Course Description/Overview
The Washington Youth Summit on the Environment (WYSE) is designed to immerse students in the world of environmental science and introduce them to the most complex environmental issues our world is currently facing. WYSE is hands-on and interactive, featuring engaging role-playing exercises with peers, environmental experts, scientists, administration officials, directors of environmental programs, and recent college graduates in the environmental field. Site discoveries to historic sites in and around the Washington, D.C. area are also included.

Course Learning Outcomes
- Know current environmental issues facing our world.
- Better understand different pathways to address our current environmental issues and problems.
- Connect possible career paths to issues they want to tackle.
- Understand how they can act now as students to get a jump-start on their career paths.
- Create an action plan for their own communities based on real-world problems that are impacting their local environments.
- Research, develop, and present their action plans and revise based on feedback from experts.

Grading Schema
Grading for the course is completed on a pass/fail basis. S/NC (Satisfactory/No Credit). An "S" grade reflects satisfactory coursework (C- or better for undergraduates); otherwise, the student receives no credit (NC).

<u>Grade Weights</u>
- **Group Learning (25%)** – Small group learning that occurs through direct instruction, collaborative work, and peer-to-peer discussion.
- **Environmental Action Plan Simulation (25%)**– Students will be given information about a region and a local environmental crisis being faced by that region. They will develop a plan of action to help address the issue using research, critical thinking, conflict resolution, and decision making. They will present that action plan to the broader group.
- **Participation in Hands-on Field Visits (15%)**– Field visits are designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore industry-relevant experiences while witnessing career opportunities at sites local to each destination.
    o Student field visits have included locations such as Shenandoah National Park, the Maryland Zoo, Skyline Caverns, and the National Aquarium in Baltimore. Students get special access at these sites to learn about the work and careers that professionals have there.
- **Participation in Guest Speakers / Lecturers (15%)** – Guest Speakers/Lectures are embedded in the program providing subject matter experts who speak to students on selected career-relevant topics and sharing first-person accounts of their career path.
- **Career Exploration (10%)**– WYSE will host breakout speakers and a Networking Mixer that will allow students to interact with professionals in a variety of fields. Students have the ability to see the speakers present and then informally chat with them in an open mixer format after the formal speaking events conclude.
- **Visit local attraction(s) in Washington, DC (5%)**- Students will visit local attractions in the Washington, DC area as an educational, social, and sightseeing events.
- **College Immersion (5%)**– Students will live on campus at George Mason and get the feel for a typical college campus experience during their time at WYSE.

<u>Course Schedule</u>
This on-campus, immersive program's week-long schedule is subject to change:

Day	Academic Activities
Sunday	Students arrive Opening speaker Introductions, networking, and expectations Campus tour
Monday	Smithsonian National Zoo: Directed exploration, group sessions, panel discussions
Tuesday	Field Visits (tentative): National Aquarium; SMSC; Norman Cole Pollution Plant and Engineering Field Sampling; NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; Friends of the Rappahannock Simulation research and activity
Wednesday	National Geographic Headquarters: Speaker session; museum tour Keynote speaker Concurrent speaker sessions
Thursday	Capitol Hill: Meetings with members of Congress

	Smithsonian Museum guided tour
Friday	Students depart

Important George Mason Course Policies

Students in this course must abide by the [Common Policies Addendum](#) and its policies therein- students are encouraged to review this information carefully in its entirety.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Any student use of Generative-AI tools should follow the fundamental principles of George Mason's Academic Standards policies.

Campus Closures or Emergency Class Cancellation/Adjustments

If the campus closes, or if a class meeting needs to be canceled or adjusted due to weather or other concern, students should check their George Mason email for updates on how to continue learning and for information about any changes to events or assignments.