

## EPS202 Society, Technology and Environment *Fall 2023 Syllabus*

**NJIT Academic Integrity Code:** All Students should be aware that the Department of Chemistry & Environmental Science (CES) takes the University Code on Academic Integrity at NJIT very seriously and enforces it strictly. This means that there must not be any forms of plagiarism, i.e., copying of homework, class projects, or lab assignments, or any form of cheating in quizzes and exams. Under the University Code on Academic Integrity, students are obligated to report any such activities to the Instructor.

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Course Description:

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of environmental studies and explores the interrelationships between science, technology, environment, and society. We examine the social and scientific origins of environmental problems and evaluate the complex role of technology in creating and resolving these concerns. The perspective of the course is broadly social scientific, though this mode of investigation takes place against the background of a scientific appreciation of current environmental dilemmas. We will consider both the local and global implications of current social activities on the environment and investigate specific issues such as environmental pollution, water depletion and quality degradation, declining biodiversity, and climate change. Other topics include ecosystem, energy, food production, and biotechnology.

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Prerequisites:** None

#### Course-Section and Instructors

Course-Section	Instructor
EPS202-101 and HM1	Dr. Zeyuan Qiu; <a href="mailto:zeyuan.qiu@njit">zeyuan.qiu@njit</a> ; 973-596-5357

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 4-5pm or by appointment through email

#### Required Textbook:

Title	Classical Edition Sources: Environmental Studies
Author	Thomas Easton
Edition	Fifth Edition
Publisher	McGraw-Hill
ISBN #	1308081936

**University-wide Withdrawal Date:** The last day to withdraw with a W is Wednesday, November 13, 2021. It

will be strictly enforced.

### Learning Outcomes:

- To enhance students' understanding of the complex and dynamic interrelationships between science, technology, environment and society.
- To empower students with critical thinking skills and knowledge of sustainability needed to pursue successful careers in science, technology and engineering.
- To develop students' sensibility to the contemporary environmental/ecological problems such as climate change, water and air pollution, and loss of biodiversity and their sources and causes.
- To establish students' social responsibility of solving the contemporary environmental problems from personal, professional and societal perspectives.
- To nurture students' environmental entrepreneurship spirit in tackling the contemporary environmental problems with development and application of innovative science, technology and engineering practices.

## POLICIES

**All CES students must familiarize themselves with, and adhere to, all official university-wide student policies. CES takes these policies very seriously and enforces them strictly.**

**Grading Policy:** The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Participation	15%
Weekly Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

Your final letter grade in this course will be based on the following tentative curve:

A	90% above	C	70-75%
B+	85-90%	D	60-70%
B	80-85%	F	Below 60%
C+	75-80%		

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance at classes will be recorded and is **mandatory**. Each class is a learning experience that cannot be replicated through simply "getting the notes."

**Practice Quizzes (0%):** There is one practice quiz for each piece of reading materials, which contains at least three multiple choice questions. The student shall use it to test your own understanding of the reading materials. You can practice them as many times as you want. Although the quizzes are not accounted toward your final grade, they would help improve your grades in weekly assignments, midterm and final exams.

**Class Participation (15%):** Class participation will be an integral part of the active learning process. The lecture video and other learning materials will be posted on the Canvas course website to allow you to learn the basic contents at any time before the class. When the class gathers together, the students will be actively engaged to interact with their classmates and the instructor to communicate their understanding of the learning materials. There will be plenty of opportunities offered for students to engage in group discussions and class debates. Active participation from students are expected and will be used in the determination of the final letter grade.

**Weekly Post-class Assignments (25%):** There are weekly assignments on the topics being discussed weekly. The deadlines for submitting the assignments online are the Saturdays after the week when the specific topic was

discussed. The assignments will be available right after the class, i.e. 8:50PM on Tuesday each week until 11:55pm on the coming Saturday in the Canvas course website. **No late submission is allowed and accepted for any reasons. Any missing assignment will be given a score of zero. Two assignments with the lowest score will be dropped out in calculating your final score to account for various reasons that results in such low scores: sickness, tardiness, and any other excuses.**

**Midterm and Final Exams (60%):** There will be two exams: a midterm that will be held in class in the eighth week of the semester and a final that will be held during the university final week. The midterm will cover the materials from the first week to the seventh week of the semester. The final exam will test your knowledge of the course material taught after the midterm.

The following exam periods are tentative and therefore possibly subject to change:

Midterm Exam	October 24, 2021
Final Exam	Follow the university final schedule

**Makeup Exam Policy:** There will normally be **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS** during the semester. In the event that a student has a legitimate reason for missing a quiz or exam, the student should contact the Dean of Students office and present written verifiable proof of the reason for missing the exam, e.g., a doctor's note, police report, court notice, etc. clearly stating the date AND time of the mitigating problem. The student must also notify the CES Department Office/Instructor that the exam will be missed so that appropriate steps can be taken to make up the grade.

**Cellular Phones:** All cellular phones and other electronic devices must be switched off during all class times. Such devices must be stowed in bags during exams or quizzes.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Accommodation of Disabilities:** Office of Accessibility Resources and Services offers long term and temporary accommodations for undergraduate, graduate and visiting students at NJIT.

If you are in need of accommodations due to a disability please contact Marsha Williams-Nicholas, M.S., E.D.M., Accessibility Resources and Services Manager at the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services at **973-596-2994** or via email at [marsha.williamsnicholas@njit.edu](mailto:marsha.williamsnicholas@njit.edu). The office is located in Kupfrian Hall 201. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Office of Accessibility Resources Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

For further information regarding self-identification, the submission of medical documentation and additional support services provided please visit the Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) website at:

- <https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>

**Important Dates** See: Fall 2023 Academic Calendar, Registrar  
<https://www.njit.edu/registrar/fall-2023-academic-calendar>

Date	Day	Event
Sept	4	Labor Day. University Closed
Sept	5	First Day of Classes
Sept	11	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
Sept	11	Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal
Sept	12	W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals

Sept	18	Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal - No Refund for Partial Withdrawal after this date
Oct	2	Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal
Oct	23	Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal
Nov	13	Last Day to Withdraw from Classes
Nov	21	Thursday Classes Meet
Nov	22	Friday Classes Meet
Nov	23	Thanksgiving Recess Begins. No Classes
Nov	26	Thanksgiving Recess Ends
Dec	13	Last Day of Classes
Dec	14	Reading Day 1
Dec	15	Reading Day 2
Dec	16	Saturday Classes Meet
Dec	17	Final Exams Begin
Dec	23	Final Exams End
Dec	25	Final Grades Due

## Course Outline

Lecture	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	9/5	Introduction	Assignment 1
2	9/12	Worldviews	Assignment 2
3	9/19	Origins of Environmentalism	Assignment 3
4	9/26	Conservation	Assignment 4
5	10/3	Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services	Assignment 5
6	10/10	Population	Assignment 6
7	10/17	Food and Agriculture	Assignment 7
8	10/24	Midterm	
9	10/31	Environmental Pollution	Assignment 8
10	11/7	Biodiversity	Assignment 9
11	11/14	Energy	Assignment 10
12	11/28	Climate	Assignment 11
13	12/5	Water	Assignment 12
14	12/12	Synthesis and Reflection	Assignment 13
15	12/17-12/23	Following the University Final Schedule	