

EPS202 Society, Technology and Environment *Spring 2025 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
EPS202-102 and HM2	Dr. Zeyuan Qiu; zeyuan.qiu@njit ; 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 Monday, April 1, 2024, 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	March 24, 2024
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. 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: Academic Calendar in the Office of Registrar

- <https://www.njit.edu/registrar/calendars>

D	Day		Event
January	20	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January	21	Tuesday	First Day of Classes
January	25	Saturday	Saturday Classes Begin
January	27	Monday	Last Day to Add/Drop a Class
January	27	Monday	Last Day for 100% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal
January	28	Tuesday	W Grades Posted for Course Withdrawals
February	3	Monday	Last Day for 90% Refund, Full or Partial Withdrawal, No
February	17	Monday	Last Day for 50% Refund, Full Withdrawal
March	10	Monday	Last Day for 25% Refund, Full Withdrawal
March	16	Sunday	Spring Recess Begins - No Classes - University Open
March	22	Saturday	Spring Recess Ends
April	3	Thursday	Wellness Day - No Classes Scheduled
April	7	Monday	Last Day to Withdraw
April	18	Friday	Good Friday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed
April	20	Sunday	Easter Sunday - No Classes Scheduled - University Closed
May	6	Tuesday	Thursday Classes Meet
May	7	Wednesday	Friday Classes Meet
April	7	Wednesday	Last Day of Classes
May	8	Thursday	Reading Day 1
May	9	Friday	Reading Day 2
May	10	Saturday	Final Exams Begin
May	16	Friday	Final Exams End
May	18	Sunday	Final Grades Due

Course Outline

Lecture	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	1/27	Introduction	Assignment 1
2	2/3	Worldviews	Assignment 2
3	2/10	Origins of Environmentalism	Assignment 3
4	2/17	Conservation	Assignment 4
5	2/24	Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services	Assignment 5
6	3/3	Population	Assignment 6
7	3/10	Food and Agriculture	Assignment 7
8	3/24	Midterm	
9	3/31	Environmental Pollution	Assignment 8
10	4/7	Biodiversity	Assignment 9
11	4/14	Energy	Assignment 10
12	4/21	Climate	Assignment 11
13	4/28	Water	Assignment 12
14	5/5	Moonshot Ideas	Assignment 13
15	5/10-5/16	Following the University Final Schedule	

*Updated by Zeyuan Qiu - January 2025
Department of Chemistry & Environmental Sciences (CES)
Course Syllabus, Spring 2025*