EES 112: Environmental Science

How Do We Affect the Natural World?

Course Description: Climate change, energy resources, natural disasters… you simply cannot avoid these topics in today’s world. This course serves as an introductory look at the actual science behind some of the most important and controversial issues that will shape our society- and our planet- during the 21st century. Some topics covered include:

1. Population Growth- Can the planet support a human population rapidly approaching 7 billion?

2. The Carbon Cycle- Why is carbon dioxide building up in our atmosphere?

3. Water Resources- Where does your drinking water come from? Is there enough to go around?

4. Global Warming- Is it real, and if so what’s causing it and what can we do about it?

5. Energy Resources- What will power our society in the 21st century?

Laboratory exercises examine resource use and conservation, hazard risk assessment and management, biodiversity measurements, and water analysis, treatment, & purification, among other topics.

Field trips (held during normal laboratory meeting times) vary and include visiting water treatment plants, doing biodiversity counts, and collecting water samples for analysis.