Environmental Planning Concentration

Advisors: Jerold Kayden and Ann Forsyth
Email: jkayden@gsd.harvard.edu and aforsyth@gsd.harvard.edu

Other Concentration Faculty: Neil Brenner, Richard Peiser, Peter Rowe, Abby Spinak

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Environmental planning is a broad field encompassing a range of professional activities employing a variety of skills. Practitioners may work in the government, non-profit or business sector on watershed planning, the design of ecological infrastructure, industrial ecology, community organizing, workforce development, coastal planning and hazards mitigation; spatial analysis, environmental risk assessment, energy policy and planning, pedestrian and transit-oriented development, on developing urban food systems and open space preservation, preparing environmental impact statements, etc.

The frameworks that tie this wide-ranging work together include sustainable development, and its notion of achieving the “triple bottom-line” in planning activities by reconciling conflicts between economic development, social equity, and ecological protection and restoration. The idea of resilience, or the capacity to manage change, is also key in this specialization.

The breadth of environmental courses available at Harvard and the GSD reflect the multiple dimensions of sustainability in the context of planning practice and research. The GSD is richly populated with relevant courses; as well, other Harvard schools, especially the Kennedy School, Law School, and School of Public Health. The Harvard Center on the Environment (HUCE) has prepared an excellent overview; the Environmental Course Guide. Please note that courses may require permission of the instructor and/or the department, especially outside the GSD.

Students interested in the environmental planning area of concentration must choose at least two preapproved courses from the GSD and one from outside the GSD, or suggest an alternate program of three courses for approval by the concentration advisor.

Please note that course offerings often change, and new courses may be offered while some of these recommended courses may not be offered each year. This memo is subject to change depending on the availability of courses. Courses not listed on this memo may be approved with the permission of one of the Concentration Advisors.

Recommended basic courses:

The following courses are recommended to those interested in the concentration. They are introductory level courses that give a good overview of the topics and subject matter covered in more depth by other courses in the concentration:

GSD 5206: Land Use and Environmental Law*  Kayden
GSD 6318: Urban and Town Ecology  Forman

*Only if not taken to satisfy Implementation Methods Requirement

Pre-approved courses include:
Fall

At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 3348: The Idea of Environment da Cunha
GSD 5206: Land Use and Environmental Law* Kayden
GSD 5330: Healthy Places Forsyth
GSD 5371: Critical Perspectives in Environmental Planning Spinak
GSD 6241: Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III: ** Handel
Introduction to Ecology
GSD 6323: Brownfields Practicum Regeneration and Reuse of Kirkwood
Brownfield Land
GSD 6333: Water, Aquatic Ecology and Land-Water Linkages Nelson, Dekker

*Only if not taken to satisfy Implementation Methods Requirement
**Requires permission of instructor

At the Kennedy School of Government:
HKS IGA-411: The Energy-Climate Challenge Lee, Holdren

At the Law School:
HLS 2074: Environmental Law Lazarus
HLS 2717: Contemporary Issues in Oil and Gas Law: Fracking, Konschnik
Takings, Pipelines and Regulation
HLS 2193: Natural Resources Law Anderson
HLS 2931: Powering the US Grid Peskoe

At the School of Public Health:
HSPH GHP 272: Foundations of Global Health and Population** Fan
HSPH ID 539: Built Environment, Human Energy Expenditure, and Lusk
Public Health

** Requires permission of instructor

At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
MIT 11.371J: Sustainable Energy Golay
MIT 11.601: Introduction to Environmental Policy & Planning Susskind
MIT 11.021J: Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Ashford
Prevention and Control
MIT 11.308J: Ecological Urbanism Seminar Spirn

Spring

At the Graduate School of Design:
GSD 5370: Environment, Economics, and Enterprise Samuelson, Apeseche
GSD 5372: Planning for Climate Change: Scarcity, Abundance, Spinak
and the Idea of the Future
GSD 6318: Urban and Town Ecology Forman
SES 5369: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Keenan

Updated July 30, 2018
### At the Kennedy School of Government:
  - Stavins
- HKS API-164: Energy Policy Analysis
  - Aldy
- HKS DPI-345: Green Politics and Public Policy in a Global Age
  - Rouyer
- HKS IGA-422: Global Food Politics and Policy
  - Paarlberg
- HKS IGA-455: Leadership in Environmental Conflicts
  - Wentworth

### At the Law School:
- HLS 2417: Advanced Environmental Law
  - TBA
- HLS 2921: Climate Solutions Living Lab**
  - Jacobs
- HLS 2123: International Environmental Law
  - Salzman

** Requires permission of instructor

### At the School of Public Health:
- HSPH EH 257: Water Pollution
  - Levin
- HSPH EH 278: Human Health and Global Environmental Change
  - Bernstein
- HSPH EH 212: Food and the Global Environment
  - Adamkiewicz
- HSPH EH 252: High Performance Buildings for Health, Comfort and Sustainability
  - Allen
- HSPH EH 297: Atmospheric Environment
  - Koutrakis

### At MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
- MIT 11.004J: People and the Planet: Environmental Histories and Engineering
  - Knox-Hayes
- MIT 11.169: Global Climate Policy and Sustainability
  - Knox-Hayes
- MIT 11.304J: Site and Environmental Systems Planning
  - Ocampo

### Not Currently Offered
- GSD 5469: Environmental Planning & Sustainable Development
  - Forsyth
- GSD 6337: Changing Natural and Built Coastal Environments
  - Apfelbaum, Parsons
- HKS IGA-457: International Climate Change Policy
  - Stowe
- HSPH EH 285: Industrial Ecology and Life Cycle Assessment
  - TBD
  - Hsu
- MIT 11.373: Science, Politics and Environmental Policy
  - Knox-Hayes, Solomon
- MIT 11.5945: Urban Ecology: Plants, People, and Climate Change
  - Del Tredici