

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SEMINAR  
(ENVS 4100-1)

**Society and the Environment: Contemporary Issues Seminar**

[www.pelagicos.net/classes\\_envs\\_seminar\\_fa10.htm](http://www.pelagicos.net/classes_envs_seminar_fa10.htm)

HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY	TIME: 17:15 – 20:10
OCEANIC INSTITUTE (OI)	DAY: Monday
FALL SEMESTER, 2010	ROOM: HLC AC204

**INSTRUCTOR**

David Hyrenbach, Ph.D.  
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**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon (HLC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lanai ) 16:00 - 17.00  
Weds (HLC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lanai ) 17:00 - 18.00  
Tues (CTSA 112, OI) 9:00 - 12:00

Other times, by appointment ...

**Course Description:** This capstone course for environmental science and environmental studies majors is a critical analysis of contemporary environmental issues. Class activities include formal seminars by guest speakers and students, informal group discussions, and a comprehensive review paper. Students will undertake a critical analysis and review of recent environmental science literature. The students will also select relevant readings and the class will critically discuss this material.

**Text:** There is no required textbook. Students will read the primary scientific literature.

**Course Requirements:** ENVS 3002 Applications of Environmental Science

**Student Learning Outcomes:** The learning outcomes of this course relate directly to the following objectives for the Environmental Science program to a significant extent:

*Environmental Science Knowledge Base:* You should have a working foundation of knowledge in the field of environmental science after completing this course. I assess the depth of your knowledge via your presentations, assignments, and review paper.

*Critical Analysis and Problem-Solving Skills:* You should be able to formulate possible solutions to complex problems related to photovoltaic systems after completing this course. I assess your critical analysis skills primarily through your presentations, assignments, and comprehensive review paper.

*Communication Skills:* You should be able to efficiently and effectively communicate technical information and analysis by completing this course. I assess your communication skills through your written and oral reports.

By completing this course, students will gain the skills to critically analyze peer-reviewed scientific literature in environmental science; and communicate technical information and analysis using both oral and written scientific formats.

**Relationship to the Five Themes:** This course will help students to better understand global systems. The knowledge and writing skills developed will also assist in research.

**Course Work:**

Students will undertake a critical analysis and review of recent environmental science literature. This effort includes writing a comprehensive review paper and presenting its findings to the class. Students will also select relevant readings and lead the class as they critically discuss this material. Assignments will be based on formal seminars by guest speakers and the instructor. Further detail will be provided in class.

**Writing:** This course has a substantial writing component, involving a comprehensive review paper and brief evaluations of scientific papers / presentations.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the following:

- Assignments – 20 paper / presentation evaluations (30 %)
- Presentation of papers and leading discussions (20 %)
- Comprehensive review paper (25 %)
- Presentation of comprehensive review paper (15 %)

Assignments will be submitted electronically (via email) and / or as paper copies (handed in class or delivered to OI via IC mail) – as specified by the instructor. Late work will be penalized by 10 % per day. All assignments must be turned in to complete the course.

**Grading Scale:** Grades will be based on the following scale:

100-90 A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D, <60 F

Students who officially withdraw receive a W grade.

**Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and participation are strongly encouraged. Although no marks are given just for attending class, completing the assignments will often require attendance and active participation.

**Academic Honesty:**

Directly quoting others, even with proper attribution of the source, is almost never done in scientific writing, so **there are no circumstances in which including someone else's writing in your papers will be acceptable in this course.**

Particularly, it is academically dishonest to **plagiarize**, which is defined as *trying to pass off someone else's intellectual work as your own*. Any single occurrence of academic dishonesty in any form whatsoever may result in a grade of FD for the course. The grade of FD represents an F for academic dishonesty and it will remain a permanent part of your academic record, not subject to HPU's normal retake policy. Students are expected to comply with HPU's academic honesty policies. All major writing assignments will be analyzed at Turnitin.com. For homework problems and any other take-home assignment, students may work with each other but must turn in their own answers to assigned problems. For additional information on plagiarism see the links in Campus Pipeline under the Libraries folder. Another excellent site explaining plagiarism (and how to avoid committing it) can be found at the Purdue University's Online Writing Laboratory web-site at the following URL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r\\_plagiar.html](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html)