

Tompkins Cortland Community College  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: FSS 132**

**Year: 2024-2025**

**Course Title: Freshman Seminar in Environmental Studies**

**Credit Hours: 1**

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

### **Course Description**

This is a required first semester course for students in the Environmental Science A.S. degree program. Students are introduced to the broad scope of Environmental Studies as an academic discipline, career options in this field, and transfer opportunities in both the natural and social sciences. Prerequisites: Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 099 and RDNG 099 if required by placement testing. 1 Cr. (1 Lec.) Fall semester.

### **Course Context/Audience**

Intended for students in the first semester of the Environmental Studies (ENVS) program, this course will introduce students to the program's goals, provide a foundation for achieving program learning outcomes, and foster academic success. The course will be divided into three sections: Scope of ENVS, transfer considerations, and careers in environmental studies.

### **Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations**

**Writing:** W1 If required, the student must be concurrently enrolled in ENGL 099. Very limited writing, e.g., short written responses of a paragraph or less.

**Math:** M0 Course requires very little or no math.

**Reading:** R1 If required, the student must be concurrently enrolled in RDNG 099. The course requires very limited reading of shorter pre-college materials and limited beginning college-level materials that will also be covered extensively in class.

### **Course Goals**

The goals of this course are:

1. To develop an understanding of the broad scope of Environmental Studies as an academic discipline. Students will learn about the various sub disciplines and how they can possibly apply their interest in environmental issues in the natural and social sciences.
2. To understand the process of transfer.
3. To explore the career options in the field of environmental studies.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Begin to understand the complexity of environmental issues and articulate a multi-disciplinary approach to solving environmental problems (Supports Goal 1).
2. Demonstrate a broad understanding of the transfer process (Supports Goal 2).
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how electives can be chosen to address transferring to their specific colleges of interest (Supports Goal 2).
4. Begin to connect their educational goals with career goals including the basic degree requirements for the various types of careers in the field of ENVS (Supports Goal 3).

## Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Scope of ENVS	33%
Successful transfer (including college culture)	33%
Careers in ENVS	33%

## Topics

- What is ENVS?
- College Success
- Transfer considerations
- Career planning

## General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
Students will be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.</li><li>➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.</li><li>➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.</li><li>➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.</li></ul>	Not addressed
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</li><li>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</li></ul>	As a course in the ENVS program, students will begin to understand the complex interplay between physical and social factors that make ENVS a multidisciplinary field.

**Instructional Methods**

Lecture, discussion, student presentations.

**Methods of Assessment/Evaluation**

Method	% Course Grade
Attendance and Participation	25%
Written response to "What is ENVS?"	25%
Transfer Presentation	25%
Career Presentation	25%

**Text(s)**

No text is required for this course.

**Bibliography**

Soule, M.E. and D. Press. 1998. What is environmental studies? Bioscience 48(5):397-405.

**Other Learning Resources**

<b>Audiovisual</b> No resources specified
<b>Electronic</b> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ( <a href="http://www.bls.gov/">http://www.bls.gov/</a> )
<b>Other</b> TC3 Career and Transfer Services