

ENVP U6112 Urban Ecology

Professor Matthew Palmer

Course Overview

This course facilitates learning about how ecology can inform land use decisions and applied management strategies of natural resources (e.g, water, air, biodiversity), particularly in urban environments. Towards that end, this course covers topics ranging from applied ecology and conservation biology to sustainable development. It uses a cross disciplinary approach to understanding the nature of ecology and biological conservation, as well as the social, philosophical and economic dimensions of land use strategies. The course will focus on applications and problem-solving in issues related to urban development.

The specific objectives of the course are:

- To contribute ecological perspectives an interdisciplinary approach to address environmental problems in urban areas.
- To develop skills needed to recognize and analyze the relationships among the scientific, technological, societal and economic issues that shape environmental research and decision-making.
- To prepare environmental management and policy professionals to use research in a data based decision-making process that is firmly grounded in scientific knowledge and rigorous methodology.

Course Structure

Each section of the course includes the examination of key questions and concepts that will be illustrated by lectures, class discussion, and readings.

Course lectures intend to present a broad overview of the issues in ecology, sustainable development, and land use affecting individuals, populations and landscapes. Students will be expected to do the assigned reading before class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class.

Attendance at lecture and labs is required. Students will not be able to make up missed labs unless they request permission from the professor and TAs beforehand.

Grading

Participation: 10%

Lab reports and response papers: 40%

City project presentation: 25%

City project paper: 25%