

Fiscal Unit/Academic Org	ASC Administration - D4350
Administering College/Academic Group	Arts and Sciences
Co-administering College/Academic Group	
Semester Conversion Designation	New Program/Plan
Proposed Program/Plan Name	Environmental Arts and Humanities Minor
Type of Program/Plan	Undergraduate minor
Program/Plan Code Abbreviation	EAH-MN
Proposed Degree Title	

Credit Hour Explanation

Program credit hour requirements		A) Number of credit hours in current program (Quarter credit hours)	B) Calculated result for 2/3rds of current (Semester credit hours)	C) Number of credit hours required for proposed program (Semester credit hours)	D) Change in credit hours
Total minimum credit hours required for completion of program				12	
Required credit hours offered by the unit	Minimum				
	Maximum				
Required credit hours offered outside of the unit	Minimum				
	Maximum				
Required prerequisite credit hours not included above	Minimum				
	Maximum				

Program Learning Goals

Note: these are required for all undergraduate degree programs and majors now, and will be required for all graduate and professional degree programs in 2012. Nonetheless, all programs are encouraged to complete these now.

- Program Learning Goals**
- To reflect critically on the natural environment and humans' role in it; communicate qualitative analyses of issues related to said environment; apply ecocritical theories and make informed judgments about the basis of our environmental knowledge.

Assessment

Assessment plan includes student learning goals, how those goals are evaluated, and how the information collected is used to improve student learning. An assessment plan is required for undergraduate majors and degrees. Graduate and professional degree programs are encouraged to complete this now, but will not be required to do so until 2012.

Is this a degree program (undergraduate, graduate, or professional) or major proposal? No

Program Specializations/Sub-Plans

If you do not specify a program specialization/sub-plan it will be assumed you are submitting this program for all program specializations/sub-plans.

Pre-Major

Does this Program have a Pre-Major? No

Attachments

- Proposed Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Environmental Arts and Humanities.docx: Environmental Arts & Humanities Minor Proposal
(Program Proposal. Owner: Hanlin,Deborah Kay)
- EAH minor advising sheet.docx: EAH Minor Advising Sheet
(Semester Advising Sheet(s). Owner: Hanlin,Deborah Kay)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Hanlin,Deborah Kay	02/14/2022 01:50 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/17/2022 04:08 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/17/2022 04:09 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Cody,Emily Kathryn Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hanlin,Deborah Kay Hilty,Michael Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Steele,Rachel Lea	02/17/2022 04:09 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Proposed Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Minor in Environmental Arts and Humanities

Matthew H. Birkhold

February 11, 2022

1. Required Information

Name of minor: Environmental Arts & Humanities

Proposed implementation date: Autumn 2022

Academic unit responsible for administration: College of Arts & Sciences

The Environmental Arts & Humanities minor will be overseen by a Steering Committee made up of faculty working in the environmental arts and humanities. The Sustainability Institute has agreed to offer administrative support to the Steering Committee. One member will serve as the committee chair and act as the minor program coordinator. Matthew H. Birkhold, associate professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature will serve as the first chair. The chair will serve a three-year term. The chair will work with the minor advisor and Sustainability Institute to update available approved courses each semester and make decisions about ad hoc student requests.

A faculty Oversight Committee will meet at least once a semester to discuss the minor, focusing on enrollments from various colleges, courses that are listed on the advising sheet and whether they are still offered (if not, they will be removed), and whether new courses should be added to the minor. We will reach out to departments in Arts & Humanities every year with a request to add courses that fit the objectives of the minor. Members of the Oversight Committee include:

Matthew H. Birkhold, Germanic Languages and Literature

Thomas S. Davis, English

Bartow Elmore, History

Amy Youngs, Art

Norah Zuniga-Shaw, Dance

The Sustainability Institute has also agreed to host a website with information about the Environmental Arts & Humanities minor, including an up-to-date list of approved courses offered each semester.

As discussed with Mary Ellen Jenkins, the College of Arts and Sciences will assign a staff advisor for the new minor program.

2. Rationale

An Environmental Arts & Humanities minor in the College of Arts & Sciences will fill a critical gap in Ohio State's constellation of offerings in environment and sustainability without duplicating existing programs. In so doing, the proposed program will improve current strengths in sustainability education and naturally fit into the new General Education requirements.

Combining methods and insights from diverse humanities disciplines, the environmental arts and humanities explore interrelationships between humans and their environments. It emphasizes qualitative and creative methods and critical reading and writing, and it focuses on questions of values, cultures, and epistemologies, as well as historical contexts and parallels for present environmental concerns. Environmental arts and humanities constitutes a well-established academic field, represented by professional societies, journals, and publication series, and it forms an essential part of most academic programs in environment and sustainability.

The environmental arts and humanities serve vitals mission within the academy and in the world. On the one hand, they constitute perhaps the most innovative and vibrant field of the humanities in the 21st century. Environmental topics encourage innovative interdisciplinary approaches in the humanities and attract outsized scholarly and public interest. The modern transformation of the environment and its attendant risks have forced humanist scholars to rethink the foundations of their disciplines: to revise historical narratives, reinterpret art and literature, and rethink values and ethics. On the other hand, the humanities play a crucial role in meeting contemporary environmental challenges. Confronting issues from climate change to biodiversity loss involves not only further scientific and technological progress. It also involves understanding the historical sources of our current predicament, reflecting on the origins and limits of our knowledge, communicating with other cultures and values, and grasping the ethical implications of environmental choices. In this way, the environmental humanities provide essential training for our citizens, environmental scientists, and decision-makers

The Environmental Ars & Humanities minor builds on existing strengths and makes effective use of existing resources. Taken separately, each humanities department at Ohio State has limited faculty, courses, and undergraduate enrollment focused on the environment. Joined together in a common program, Ohio State has one of the strongest environmental humanities faculty in the country, with the potential for a robust curriculum and significant student cohort of environmental humanists. Through the proposed minor, we can realize that potential, while furthering Ohio State's initiative to address the human dimensions of grand challenges. The proposed program requires no new hires or facilities and may draw enrollment into a number of smaller courses already offered. Moreover, it encourages the many faculty already teaching subjects in the environmental humanities to coordinate their course offerings and collaborate on curricular development. Also it may create new opportunities to employ underutilized resources in regional campuses, including the Mansfield campus Ecolab, the Wooster/ATI campus Secrest Arboretum and Gardens, the Prairie Nature Center on the Marion campus, the Newark Earthworks Center, the Tecumseh Natural Area on the Lima campus, and the Stone Laboratory on Lake Erie. There will also be opportunities to partner with other emerging sustainability education efforts, like the proposed collaboration between the Environmental Professionals Network program and the Ohio Field School run through the Center for Folklore Studies. Through this design, the program will also create a number of project-based and experiential learning opportunities.

Finally, offering a minor in Environmental Arts & Humanities will allow Ohio State to compete with national peer institutions and become a leader in the state of Ohio. Many research universities and top-tier colleges already have an environmental studies program with a significant humanities component. Programs at benchmark institutions, including the University of Wisconsin, attract national recognition and enrollment. Ohio State already has the faculty and resources for a

comparable program, which could advance the university's goal of eminence in the field of environment and sustainability.

3. Relationship to Other Programs / Benchmarking

No Environmental Arts & Humanities program currently exists at Ohio State. This minor has not been previously submitted for approval.

Existing majors in Arts & Sciences related to the environment include, among others: Atmospheric Science, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Evolution and Ecology, Geography, Microbiology, Sociology, and Zoology.

Existing minors and certificates at the university related to the environment include, among others: Agricultural Systems Management; Agronomy; Animal Sciences; Entomology; Environmental Economics; Environmental Science; Food, Culture and Society; Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife; Horticulture; Human and Animal Interactions; Hydrogeology; Marine Science; Mycology; Petroleum Geology; Planetary Science; Plant Pathology; Production Agriculture; Rural Sociology; Science and Environmental Communication; Society and Environmental Issues; Soil Science; Sustainable Agriculture; and Turfgrass Management.

By and large, these programs explore questions about the environment from quantitative and scientific approaches. Environmental Arts & Humanities, in contrast, is grounded in qualitative and creative methods that challenge the values, principles, and epistemologies underlying the ways these existing programs investigate environmental concerns. The title of the FAES minor "Human and Animal Interactions" is indicative of the kind of thinking that Environmental Arts & Humanities is committed to breaking down; after all, *homo sapiens* are a species of primate and thus animals. Environmental Arts & Humanities aims to collapse the artificial distance created between humankind and the natural world. Examining the environment from a humanistic and creative perspective sheds new light on the subject. Training our students to think in this manner will help Ohio State fulfill its mission to educate students through a comprehensive array of academic programs and prepare our students to be engaged citizens that improve the global community.

Public and private institutions across Ohio and the United States offer programs similar to the one proposed here. Often, these programs are listed under a different name, such as "environmental citizenship," "environmental studies," or "humanity and nature studies." Of the many institutions that offer an Environmental Studies degree, several include an explicit track in Environmental Arts & Humanities. These have been listed below. Others do not offer a specific track in Environmental Arts & Humanities, but their Environmental Studies degrees have a strong emphasis on the humanities.

Ohio Programs

The following institutions offer a degree similar to the proposed major:

- Denison University (as concentration within an Environmental Studies major)
- Kenyon College (as focal area in Environmental Studies major)
- Oberlin College

- Ohio Wesleyan University
- University of Cincinnati
- Wittenberg University

National Programs

The following colleges and universities offer majors in Environmental Humanities:

- James Madison University
- Sewanee
- Sterling College
- Stony Brook University
- University of Rochester

The following institutions offer a major in Environmental Studies with a specialized track in Environmental Humanities:

- Bowdoin College (as second major)
- Davidson College
- Tufts University
- University of Kansas
- University of Wisconsin (as second major)

The following institutions offer majors equivalent to the proposed major:

- Colorado College (Environment & Society)
- Northland College (Humanity and Nature Studies)

The following institutions offer a major in Environmental Studies that includes a humanities component comprising four or more courses:

- Amherst College
- Swarthmore College
- University of New England
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Wisconsin
- Ursinus College
- Whitman College

And several offer minors and certificates in environmental humanities. Beyond the above-mentioned institutions, these include:

- Arizona State University
- University of California – Santa Barbara
- University of Delaware

4. Student Enrollment

According to the Environmental and Social Sustainability Lab survey, there is “strong demand among students” for both academic learning and professional development in sustainability and resilience. However, of the 44 majors and 19 minors identified in the 2019 Sustainability Education and Learning Committee Report as core sustainability programs at Ohio State, none offers comprehensive, interdisciplinary humanistic training in issues related to sustainability and resilience. Based on conversations with students and informal surveys, we anticipate that the program will draw students from three sources: students currently enrolled in humanities programs; students with a broad interest in environmental studies pursuing degrees in the environmental sciences or social sciences; students in SENR and environmental engineering. We anticipate around 15 students would begin the minor in its opening year and approximately 25 would join each year thereafter.

5. Curricular Requirements

Minor description for college bulletin:

Environmental Arts & Humanities is an interdisciplinary field of study that combines methods and insights from the arts and humanities to explore the interrelationships between humans and their natural environments. It teaches students how to critically answer questions of value, representation, culture, and epistemology related to sustainability and environmental knowledge.

ASC minor advising sheet, Appendix 1.

List of current faculty, Appendix 2.

Educational Learning Outcomes (ELOs; Competencies)

Students completing the minor in Environmental Arts & Humanities will be able to:

1. Reflect critically about the natural environment and the role of humans as citizens, consumers, or environmental actors in a complex, interconnected world
2. Communicate through written, oral, and/or other creative expression qualitative analyses of issues related to the natural environment.
3. Apply contemporary theories and make informed judgments about the basis of our environmental knowledge.

Proposed Curriculum

The curriculum for the minor will require completion of 12 credit hours or four courses included in the list of approved classes. Courses must be selected from at least three different academic units. There are no required courses for the minor. At least 6 credit hours must be upper-level courses as defined by the College of Arts and Sciences. Students pursuing the minor may overlap up to 6 credit hours of GEs and may count up to 6 credits of overlapping courses with their major program. No more than one half of the credit hours in the minor can be transfer credit. A minimum of a C- is required in all minor classes to count toward the degree and no more than three credits of work graded on a S/U basis may count towards the minor. Coursework graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count toward the minor.

Students may petition the Environmental Arts & Humanities Steering Committee to alter requirements and to seek approval for courses they feel are closely related to the curriculum goals of the minor but not on the approved course list. Special topics courses, when the content is appropriate, may be counted toward the minor with the approval of the Steering Committee. Independent research/fieldwork or internship (3 credits maximum) and related study abroad credits (3 credits maximum) may be counted toward the minor with the approval of the Steering Committee.

Students may include up to three credit hours of variable credit courses in independent research/fieldwork or internship experience with the approval of the EAH Steering Committee.

A maximum of 3 approved study abroad credits may be used toward the minor.

Since the Environmental Arts & Humanities aims to break down artificial hierarchies and boundaries, we believe the structure of the minor should reflect the ideology of the program. The requirement that students take courses from at least three units is meant to ensure that students are exposed to a variety of materials and that academic units on campus can each participate and benefit from the minor. Some courses from outside of the Humanities and Arts have been included in the approved courses, including GEOG 3800: Geographical Perspectives on Environment and Society. After a careful review of the syllabi for these courses, the Steering Committee decided the methodologies used and the questions tackled in the courses were consistent with the Environmental Arts & Humanities. Currently, Arts courses are not as well represented as we would like; however, several new courses are being designed and, based on our conversations with faculty from these units, we believe that more courses will be included in the minor once it exists.

Approved courses:

- ART 5101: Aspects of Art and Technology II
- CHIN 4407: Eco-Literature in China
- COMP/ENGL 5189-S: Comparative Studies Field School
- ENGL 4321: Environmental Literatures, Cultures, and Media
- ENGL 3360: Ecopoetics
- ENGL/GEOG 3597.03: Environmental Citizenship
- GEOG 3800 Geographical Perspectives on Environment and Society
- ENR 3470 Religion and Environmental Values in America
- GERM/SCAN 2310: Nature in Nordic and Germanic Literatures
- GEOG 3800: Geographical Perspectives on Environment and Society
- GEOG 3801: Political Ecology
- HIS 2010: History of American Capitalism
- HIS 2040: History of Agriculture and Rural America
- HIST 2700: Global Environmental History
- HIST 2702: Food in World History
- HIST 2720: Big History
- HIST 2704: Water: A Human History
- HIST 2710 History of the Car

- HIST 3700 – American Environmental History
- HIST 3706: Coca-Cola Globalization: The History of American Business and Global Ecological Change, 1800-Today
- HIST 3715 Explorations of Science, Technology and the Environment in East Asia
- HIST 3724: History of the Arctic
- LARCH 2367 Making and Meaning in the American Landscape
- LARCH 5610 History/Theory I
- LARCH 5620 History/Theory II
- PHILOS 2340: The Future of Humanity
- PHILOS 2342: Environmental Ethics
- PHILOS 2458: Animals and Philosophy
- SOC 3460: Environmental Justice
- SPA 2332: Introduction to Andean and Amazonian Studies
- WGGST 2260 Queer Ecologies: Gender, Sexuality, and the Environment
- WGGST 3530 Women, Environment and Development

Appendix 1: ASC Advising Sheet

Attached

Appendix 2: List of Current Faculty

Below

Appendix 2: List of Current Faculty

Matthew Birkhold; associate professor of German; history and culture of ice and the poles, environmental law; full-time.

Katherine Borland; Associate Professor, Comparative Studies in the Humanities and Director, Center for Folklore Studies. Folklore, Citizen Science, Volunteerism, Collaborative Ethnography, Appalachian Ohio, Central America; full-time.

Nicholas Breyfogle; Associate Professor of History, the global history of water, environmental history, full-time.

Katra Byram; associate professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures; narrative and environment; human/nature relationship; full-time.

Kent “Kip” Curtis; Associate Professor of Environmental History. Mining history, history of environmental ideas, food systems and urban agriculture; full-time.

Thomas Davis; associate professor of English; modern and contemporary literature; Environmental Humanities; aesthetics; full-time.

Jennifer Eaglin; assistant professor of environmental history/sustainability, Focus on alternative energy development in Brazil, ethanol, cars, Latin American env history, full-time.

Bart Elmore; associate professor of environmental history; international ecological history; environmental history; full-time.

Eden Lin; associate professor of philosophy and core faculty member at the Sustainability Institute; ethics, well-being, and sustainability; full-time.

Rick Livingston; Associate Director, Humanities Institute; Senior Lecturer, Comparative Studies. American food cultures; environmental literature; rivers; full-time.

May Mergenthaler; associate professor of German, the function of light in the formation of modern poetry, ecological movements, the culture of desert plants; full-time.

Piers Norris Turner; associate professor of Philosophy and director of the Center for Ethics and Human Values; environmental ethics and political philosophy; full-time.

Amy Youngs; Associate Professor of Art; new media art, ecosystem art; full-time.

Samuel White; associate professor of history; environmental history, global history, climate history, food in history; full time.

Norah Zuniga Shaw; Professor, Dance and ACCAD (Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design); ecology and performance, intermedia; full-time.

The Ohio State University
College of Arts and Sciences

Environmental Arts & Humanities Minor (EAH-MN)

Environmental Arts and Humanities

Faculty Coordinator: Matthew Birkhold
328 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Rd.
Columbus, Oh 43210
birkhold.22@osu.edu

Environmental Arts & Humanities is an interdisciplinary field of study that combines methods and insights from the arts and humanities to explore the interrelationships between humans and their environments. It teaches students how to answer questions of value, representation, culture, and epistemology related to sustainability and environmental knowledge and reflect critically about the environment and the role of humans as citizens, consumers, and environmental actors in a complex, interconnected world.

The minor in Environmental Arts & Humanities requires 12 credit hours of coursework. Students must choose a minimum of four courses from at least three different academic units.

Students may include up to three credit hours of variable credit courses in independent research/fieldwork or internship experience with the approval of the EAH Steering Committee.

Approved courses:

- ART 5101: Aspects of Art and Technology: Eco Art
- CHIN 4407: Eco-Literature in China
- COMP/ENGL 5189-S: The Ohio Field School: Place and Space in Appalachian Ohio
- ENGL 4321: Environmental Literatures, Cultures, and Media
- ENGL 3360 Ecopoetics
- ENGL/GEOG 3597.03: Environmental Citizenship
- ENR 3470 Religion and Environmental Values in America
- GERM/SCAN 2310: Nature in Nordic and Germanic Literatures
- GEOG 3800 Geographical Perspectives on Environment and Society
- GEOG 3801 Political Ecology
- HIST 2700: Global Environmental History
- HIST 2702: Food in World History
- HIST 2720: Big History
- HIST 2704: Water: A Human History

- HIST 2710 History of the Car
- HIST 3700 – American Environmental History
- HIST 3706: Coca-Cola Globalization: The History of American Business and Global Ecological Change, 1800-Today
- HIST 3715 Explorations of Science, Technology and the Environment in East Asia
- HIST 3724: History of the Arctic
- HIST 4705: Seminar in the History of Environment, Technology, and Science
- HIS 2010 History of American Capitalism
- HIS 2040 History of Agriculture and Rural America
- LARCH 2367 Making and Meaning in the American Landscape
- LARCH 5610 History/Theory I
- LARCH 5620 History/Theory II
- PHILOS 2340: The Future of Humanity
- PHILOS 2342: Environmental Ethics
- PHILOS 2458: Animals and Philosophy
- SOC 3460: Environmental Justice
- SPA 2332: Introduction to Andean and Amazonian Studies
- WGGST 2260 Queer Ecologies: Gender, Sexuality, and the Environment
- WGGST 3530 Women, Environment and Development

Environmental Arts & Humanities minor program guidelines

Credit hours required A minimum of 12 credit hrs. 1000 level courses shall not be counted toward the minor. At least 6 credit hours must be upper-level courses as defined by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Transfer and EM credit hours allowed A student is permitted to count up to 6 total hours of transfer credit and/or credit by examination.

Overlap with the GE A student is permitted to overlap up to 6 credit hours between the GE and the minor.

Overlap with major and additional minor(s)
• The minor must contain a minimum of 12 distinct hours from the major and/or additional minor(s).

Study abroad credits A maximum of 3 approved study abroad credits may be used toward the minor.

Grades required

- Minimum C- for a course to be listed on the minor.
- Minimum 2.00 cumulative point-hour ratio required for the minor.
- Course work graded Pass/Non-Pass cannot count in the minor.
- No more than 3 credit hours of coursework graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory may count toward the minor.

Minor approval Not required as long as students complete the courses as indicated on the minor program description.

Filing the minor program form The minor program form must be filed at least by the time the graduation application is submitted to a college/school advisor.

Changing the minor Once the minor program is filed in the college office, any changes must be approved by filing a petition for change in the minor through the faculty coordinator.