

COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

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Status: Permanent
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A. Identification:

1. Subject: Environmental Studies (ENV)
2. Course Number: 111
3. Course Title: Local Environmental Issues
4. Credit Hours: 3
5. Catalog Description: Learners will examine their local biophysical environment, survey the regional history and economics, and then assess local environmental issues that may affect the health and well being of the local environment. Topics of concern vary depending on specific location and issues of concern. Learners may submit comments of concern to appropriate government officials. Field trips required. Prerequisites: ENG 100 or placement beyond prerequisite or Consent of Instructor. May be taken for S/U credit. Three lecture.

B. Course Goals:

To provide learners with: an understanding of the biophysical history of their region, a background in the ecology of the regional biome, a review of the history of their region, an opportunity to examine contemporary environmental issues and give input to local governmental officials, and a local forum for discussing the future of their community.

C. Course Outcomes: Students will:

1. investigate the natural history of their region including geology, climate and biotic communities;
2. survey regional history to provide context for current environmental solutions;
3. catalogue the local plant communities and describe their evolutionary history;
4. distinguish those limiting factors that will control the rate of growth in both the biotic and social-economic arenas;
5. construct an economic and demographic portfolio of their local community;
6. predict and describe what types of sustainable activities can be developed within their biotic and social-economic community;
7. and examine in depth 4 to 5 issues of direct community concern. Issues may be include, but are not restricted to:
 - a. rates of human population growth;
 - b. water quantity and availability;
 - c. water quality;
 - d. impacts to other natural resources (e.g. forest, wetlands, etc);
 - e. environmental preservation;
 - f. building codes and restrictions;
 - g. planning and zoning ordinances;
 - h. private use of property;
 - i. and use of governmental property, ex. forest thinning, mining, water usage.
8. and present to class a problem concerning and possible solutions to an environmental issue (as approved by instructor).

D. Course Outcomes Assessment will include:

1. comprehensive final exam;
2. and instructor evaluation of student presentation an issue of community concern and a plan for the possible resolution of the issue.

E. Course Content will include:

1. biophysical base of the local environment:
 - a. regional geology/geography;
 - b. regional biomes;
 - c. ecological processes

2. history of region:
 - a. archaeology/ ethnography;
 - b. land-use history; historic development patterns;
 - c. human perspectives on how land should be used;

3. economics of region:
 - a. demographics;
 - b. types of jobs available;
 - c. educational patterns and services;
 - d. effects of tourism;

4. four to six issues of concern (may be instructor edited)
 - a. rates of population growth;
 - b. water quantity and quality;
 - c. other natural resources;
 - d. environmental preservation;
 - e. building codes and restrictions;
 - f. planning and zoning ordinances; subdivisions;
 - g. private use of property;
 - h. and use of government lands.

5. issues related to surrounding communities:
 - a. private vs. public lands;
 - b. Native American lands;
 - c. and neighboring counties.

Note: This course is intended to be taught in the local region of the clientele, (e.g. Doney Park, Mountainaire, Page, Williams, downtown Flagstaff) in coordination with members of the local City and/or County Government. Other guest speakers such as the Forest Service, Park Service, local business representatives, etc. may be invited.