

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

PROGRAM AREA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. Catalog Description of the Course.

ESRM 410. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (3) [Note new title: Analysis changed to Assessment]

Three hours of lecture per week.

Prerequisites: BIOL 330, ECON 362, ESRM 328 and 329

This course will introduce students to methods and procedures designed to assess and minimize human impacts on natural systems. Topics to be covered include the components of environmental impact reports and assessments, and the processes involved in preparation and approval. Also addressed will be the issues related to mitigating environmental impacts.

2. Mode of Instruction.

	Units	Hours per Unit	Benchmark Enrollment
Lecture	___3___	___1___	___25___
Seminar	_____	_____	_____
Laboratory	_____	_____	_____
Activity	_____	_____	_____

3. Justification and Learning Objectives for the Course.

- To introduce students to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), why they are required, and what techniques are used to make assessments;
- To inform students how EIA is applied to local, state, national and international problems; and
- To allow students to conduct their own impact assessments through a series of short case studies.

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

- Describe the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and their implications within the framework of federal and state land and resource decision making;
- Describe other regulatory forces which drive the environmental industry and their relationship to NEPA and CEQA;
- Identify the primary components of an impact assessment and analysis as it pertains to a project under study; and
- Identify and obtain data that may be used to describe baseline environmental conditions within a project setting pursuant to NEPA and CEQA;

It is anticipated that this course will be an elective for the ESRM major and minor

4. Is this a General Education Course

NO

If Yes, indicate GE category:

A (English Language, Communication, Critical Thinking)		
B (Mathematics & Sciences)		
C (Fine Arts, Literature, Languages & Cultures)		
D (Social Perspectives)		
E (Human Psychological and Physiological Perspectives)		

5. Course Content in Outline Form.

Introduction to environmental law
 Historical framework for environmental protection
 Introduction to NEPA and CEQA

