Course Approval Form

For instructions see:
http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/catalog-revisions/course/

Action Requested:  
X Create new course  
□ Inactivate existing course  
□ Reinstall inactive course  
□ Undergraduate

Course Level:

College/School: COS
Submitted by: Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers
Ext: 35805
Email: lvisser@gmu.edu

Department: ESP

Subject Code: EVPP
Number: 401
Effective Term:
Fall  
X Spring  
Year 2017
□ Summer

Title: Current
Banner (30 characters max w/ spaces)  
Integrated Environ Assessment
New  
Integrated Environmental Assessment

Fulfills Mason Core Req? (undergrad only)
□ Currently fulfills requirement  
X Submission in progress

Credits:  
X Fixed  
□ Variable
Repeat Status:  
X Not Repeatable (NR)  
□ Repeatable within degree (RD)  
□ Repeatable within term (RT)
Maximum credits allowed:  
□ 3

Grade Mode:  
X Regular (A, B, C, etc.)  
□ Satisfactory/No Credit  
□ Special (A, B, C, etc. +IP)
Schedule Type:  
X Lecture (LEC)  
□ Lab (LAB)  
□ Recitation (RCT)  
□ Internship (INT)
Independent Study (IND)  
Seminar (SEM)  
Studio (STU)

Prerequisite(s):
60 credit hours completed

Corequisite(s):

Restrictions Enforced by System: Major, College, Degree, Program, etc. Include Code.

Are there equivalent course(s)
□ Yes  
X No
If yes, please list:

Catalog Copy for NEW Courses Only (Consult University Catalog for models)

Description (No more than 60 words, use verb phrases and present tense)

Present strategic planning at the regional level, and focuses on the methods, format, and content of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), also referred to as a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS). Students will conduct research and develop their own SEA for Shenandoah National Park (NP).

Indicate number of contact hours:
When Offered: (check all that apply)  
□ Fall  
□ Summer  
X Spring

Hours of Lecture or Seminar per week:
3

Hours of Lab or Studio:

Approval Signatures
Course Proposal Submitted to the College of Science Curriculum Committee (COSCC)

The form above is processed by the Office of the University Registrar. This second page is for the COSCC’s reference. Please complete the applicable portions of this page to clearly communicate what the form above is requesting.

FOR ALL COURSES [required]
Course Number and Title: EVPP 401: Integrated Environmental Assessment

Date of Departmental Approval:

FOR INACTIVATED/REINSTATE COURSES [required if inactivating/reinstating a course]
- Reason for Inactivating/Reinstating:

FOR MODIFIED COURSES [required if modifying a course]
- Summary of the Modification:
  - Text before Modification (title, repeat status, catalog description, etc.):
  - Text after Modification (title, repeat status, catalog description, etc.):
  - Reason for the Modification:

FOR NEW COURSES [required if creating a new course]
- Reason for the New Course:

This course is meant to become an additional synthesis course in the BS in Environmental Science and the BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Students in these programs
should have the opportunity to become introduced to and gain experience with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), an instrument to enable the consideration of environmental issues early in the planning process. The SEA is in essence a tool for integration and synthesis, and thus is very well suited for a synthesis course. The course is being presented this spring (2016) as one of the EVPP 490 Special Topics in Environmental Science and Policy.

- Relationship to Existing Programs:

This course is meant to become an additional synthesis course in the degree programs for the BS in Environmental Science and the BA in Environmental and Sustainability Studies.

- Relationship to Existing Courses:

No overlap has been found with other courses in these degree programs.

- Semester of Initial Offering: Spring 2016 (as EVPP 490)
- Proposed Instructors: Dr. Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers
- Insert Tentative Syllabus Below
Syllabus

Integrated Environmental Assessment

EVPP 490-004 (21622)

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

Spring 2016
Syllabus Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA)
Spring 2016

Introduction
Welcome to the course Integrated Environmental Assessment! Wildlife & ecosystem conservation, park management, tourism, relationships with residents & stakeholders, (inter-)national environmental policy – all of these issues are highly relevant for Shenandoah National Park (NP), and its role in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

In the course Integrated Environmental Assessment you will bring together all of these ecological and social aspects by developing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the NP. The SEA is an instrument that can support decision-making processes for complex policies, programs or plans, of which Shenandoah NP is an example. On the basis of such a SEA you will indicate relevant future policy options for the park. The course includes a combination of (guest) lectures, field trip(s), and a written assignment on the SEA. You will also present the results of the SEA.

Instructor
Dr. Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers
Email: ivissere@gmu.edu
Phone: (703) 993-5805
Office: David King Hall room 3019
Office hours: on appointment

Course prerequisites
60 credit hours completed

Course Relationship to Existing Programs
The course can be taken by any student meeting the prerequisite demands, but is especially designed to be part of the following undergraduate programs. However, check with your advisor on the relevance in your specific program.

- Environmental and Sustainability Studies, B.A.
- Environmental Science, B.S., all concentrations, but especially:
  - Conservation (CNSV)
  - Human and Ecosystem Response to Climate Change (HERC)

The class is intended to become a synthesis course in the BA Environmental and Sustainability Studies and the BS Environmental Science.

Scheduling
The course will be given 10.30-13.10 on Fridays in room L004 in Thompson Hall on the Fairfax campus. The excursions will last longer than regular lecture hours due to travel time. More information on the excursions will be provided in class.
Credits
3 credits

Profile and objectives of the course
Aim of the course is to improve the understanding of strategic planning at the regional level. Central focal areas of the course are Strategic Environmental Assessment and the case study, Shenandoah National Park. During the course, you will develop your own SEA for Shenandoah NP.

Learning outcomes are the following. After this course students are expected to be able to:

1. Discuss the ecological and socio-political aspects of nature conservation at the regional level
2. Analyze plans for nature conservation
3. Apply SEA to the field of nature conservation
4. Prepare a professional report of and orally present the results

Educational activities
The course includes the following activities:
- Preparing for and attending (guest) lectures and field trips
- Presenting the planning documents of Shenandoah NP
- Preparing short assignments on the literature
- Writing a report and presenting the findings

Examination and grading
In principle all activities of the course are mandatory. This is necessary since all aspects of the course are meant to provide input for writing the report. Participation in all lectures and field trips is a prerequisite for passing the course. One meeting can be missed due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, if you inform the instructor by email in advance.

The examination has the following elements:
1. Presence during lectures and field trips (no grade, but prerequisite to pass)
2. Short assignments on the literature (30% of the final grade)
3. Presentation of Shenandoah NP planning documents (10%)
4. Final exam part I: Report (50%)
5. Final exam part II: Presenting the report (10%)

The minimum grade to pass for all elements is 60 points. You will receive further instructions on the report during the course.
**Assessment strategy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>Short assignments</th>
<th>Presenting the NP plans</th>
<th>Report &amp; presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Discuss the ecological and socio-political aspects of nature conservation at the regional level</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Analyze plans for nature conservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Apply SEA to the field of nature conservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Prepare a professional report of and present the results</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Contribution to final grade (%) | 30 | 10 | 60 |

Scores will be summed to a 0–100 scale, and then converted into grades (A–F).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final weighted average score course</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Acknowledgement of risk for field trips**
The class will include field trips to Shenandoah NP. Transportation to the NP will be provided by GMU. The field trips will include some hiking and outdoor activities. More detailed information will be provided during the course.

**Academic integrity**
Plagiarism is not accepted. Students are required to be familiar and comply with the requirements of the GMU Honor Code. The software program SafeAssign will be used to check for originality where appropriate.

**Disability accommodations**
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474, http://ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.
Learning materials and resources

The main learning material for the course is the academic literature (see list below). Links to all publications are provided below, with some publications available through Blackboard. The powerpoint presentations of the lectures will be published on Blackboard after the lectures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Publication</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional reading</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Preliminary outline and schedule of the course program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Literature (literature in brackets is additional – not required material)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 22 | • Lecture: Introduction to the course  
              • Explaining assignment presentations Shenandoah planning documents | • Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers                     |                                                                                                              |
| January 29 | • Presentations Shenandoah planning documents  
              • Explaining literature assignments                                           | • Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers                     | • (NPS 2014; 2015)                                                                                           |
| February 5 | • Lecture: SEA and assignment                                          | • Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers                     | • Chaker et al. 2006  
              • Fundingsland Tetlow and Hanush 2012                                                                         |
| February 12| • Lecture: Forest management & invasive forest insects and diseases     | • Dr. Andrew Liebhold, US Forest Service       | • (FS, 2013)  
              • (Kovacs et al. 2013)  
              • Lovett et al. 2015  
              • Popkin, 2015                                                                                                 |
| February 19| • Lecture: Wildlife conservation                                       | • Dr. Jennifer Sevin, Virginia Tech           | • Jaeger 1980  
              • Spencer 2007                                                                                                  |
| February 26| • Lecture: Policy and political aspects                                | • Jim Northup, Superintendent Shenandoah NP   | • Adams and Hutton 2007                                                                                      |
| March 4    | • Lecture: Social aspects                                             | • Dr. Katrina Powell, Virginia Tech           | • Powell, 2007a; 2007b  
              • (Reich, 2001)                                                                                                  |
| Spring break March 7-13 |                                                               |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| March 18   | • SEA assignment                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| March 25   | • ALL DAY: Excursion Shenandoah NP headquarters                        |                                               | • Reid, 2004                                                                                                  |
| April 1    | • SEA assignment                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| April 8    | • ALL DAY: Excursion Shenandoah NP                                     |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| April 15   | • SEA assignment                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| April 22   | • SEA assignment                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| April 29   | • SEA assignment                                                       |                                               |                                                                                                              |
| May 6      | • Presentations  
              • Hand in SEA report (1 paper copy and on Blackboard)                     |                                               |                                                                                                              |