

## MES Spring Quarter 2008

**First-year core:** *Quantitative & Qualitative Methods* – Maria Bastaki & Linda Moon Stumpff  
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-10pm, Lab II 1223A CRN: 30374

**Focus:** As an interdisciplinary field of inquiry, Environmental Studies calls for a diverse set of interdisciplinary research approaches. This program offers an exposure to a range of qualitative research methods and qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods employed in the social and natural sciences. The program invites integration of such methods in interdisciplinary ways to more fully address the complexities of the social and natural environments they study. Additional goals of the program are for students to: 1) practice hands-on training in applying a range of qualitative and quantitative (descriptive and inferential statistics) methods to answer research questions; 2) use the software R to graphically display data and to perform statistical analysis; 3) select and apply appropriate analytical approaches to data for course poster project; 4) review a range of research that uses qualitative and quantitative methods; 5) learn to critically evaluate popular accounts of scientific research findings and be informed consumers of statistical information; and 6) gather tools necessary to construct successful and effective interdisciplinary thesis research

**Thesis-Essay Workshop** – Peter Dorman CRN: 30375

### Electives:

***Avian Monitoring & Research Methods*** – Alison Styring

Mondays 6-10 pm, Lab II 1223A, CRN: 30376

**Focus:** Birds are considered important indicators of habitat quality and are often the focus of conservation-oriented research, restoration, and monitoring. This elective is intended to expose students to a variety of field and analytical methods commonly used in bird monitoring and avian research. We will link theory to practice in the field, and students can expect to conduct fieldwork during most class meetings and on 2-3 Saturdays. Students will demonstrate their learning through active participation in all class activities; a detailed field journal; in-class, take-home, and field assignments; and a final paper. An understanding of avian natural history is important to any successful project, and students without a working knowledge of the common birds in the South Puget Sound region are expected to improve their identification skills to a level that will allow them to effectively contribute to class efforts both in the field and in class.

***Ecological Economics*** – Peter Dorman

Mondays 6-10 pm Seminar II B-2109 CRN: 30378

**Focus:** Ecological economics is a gray zone on the boundary between economics and ecological science. It applies economic thinking to ecological issues, but it also uses ecology as a perspective from which to critique economics. This program will survey a representative sample of ecological-economic topics: mainstream economic analysis of renewable and nonrenewable resources, the role of externalities, the economic value of natural capital, ecologically aware accounting and the nature of sustainable development. A broad theme will be the inherent tension between market- and profit-based economic institutions and ecological constraints. Students should have taken at least one, and ideally two, prior courses in introductory economics.

***Environmental Policy Making*** – Craig Partridge

Wednesdays 6-10pm, Seminar II A-2109, CRN: 30380

**Focus:** The goal of this course is to introduce students to the important concepts and to both theoretical and practical problems in the making and carrying out of environmental and natural resource policy in the U. S. Students will learn several approaches to understanding how, why, and by whom environmental policy decisions are made, and will gain experience with policy analysis and evaluation techniques, negotiation, and with the particular problems of policy implementation. This course takes a process approach to the topic, rather than a descriptive or prescriptive approach, and is aimed primarily at students who see themselves as future practitioners or researchers in this field. Some prior familiarity with the main categories of environmental and natural resource legislation and with the fundamental topics of political science will help students gain the most from this course.

