

# ENVS 500A: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

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## In Workflow

1. ENVS Committee Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
2. ENVS Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
3. SSIS College Committee Chair (wickelgr@csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Dean of Undergraduate (gardner@csus.edu)
8. Dean of Graduate (cnewsome@skymail.csus.edu)
9. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
10. Registrar's Office (k.mcfarland@csus.edu)
11. PeopleSoft (PeopleSoft@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Wed, 28 Sep 2022 23:41:54 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Committee Chair
2. Wed, 28 Sep 2022 23:44:40 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
3. Fri, 18 Nov 2022 13:35:53 GMT  
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Rollback to Initiator
4. Mon, 12 Jun 2023 18:27:23 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Committee Chair
5. Tue, 12 Sep 2023 20:15:30 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
6. Sun, 08 Oct 2023 00:18:50 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Rollback to ENVS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
7. Wed, 11 Oct 2023 20:42:09 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
8. Tue, 24 Oct 2023 22:09:44 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Rollback to ENVS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
9. Tue, 24 Oct 2023 23:12:19 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
10. Wed, 25 Oct 2023 05:19:22 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
11. Wed, 25 Oct 2023 16:42:34 GMT  
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean
12. Wed, 01 Nov 2023 23:15:43 GMT  
Katie Hawke (katiedickson): Approved for Academic Services
13. Wed, 06 Mar 2024 21:38:09 GMT  
Janett Torset (torsetj): Rollback to ENVS Chair for Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair
14. Wed, 04 Sep 2024 17:03:48 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
15. Wed, 18 Sep 2024 21:12:53 GMT  
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Rollback to ENVS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
16. Tue, 24 Sep 2024 20:38:42 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
17. Wed, 25 Sep 2024 17:57:57 GMT  
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
18. Mon, 30 Sep 2024 16:41:45 GMT  
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 21:32:53 GMT

## Viewing: ENV5 500A : Environmental Studies Culminating Experience

Last edit: Wed, 25 Sep 2024 17:48:01 GMT

Changes proposed by: Ajay Singh (219697401)

### Contact(s):

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Wayne Linklater	wayne.linklater@csus.edu	9162786671

### Catalog Title:

Environmental Studies Culminating Experience

### Class Schedule Title:

Culminating Experience

### Academic Group: (College)

SSIS - Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

### Academic Organization: (Department)

Environmental Studies

### Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?

No

### Catalog Year Effective:

Fall 2024 (2024/2025 Catalog)

### Subject Area: (prefix)

ENV5 - Environmental Studies

### Catalog Number: (course number)

500A

### Course ID: (For administrative use only.)

TBD

### Units:

3

### Is the ONLY purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?

No

### In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?

Fall, Spring, Summer

### Does this course require a room for its final exam?

No, final exam does not require a room (Last Class)

### Does this course replace an existing experimental course?

No

### This course complies with the credit hour policy:

Yes

### Justification for course proposal:

ENV5 500 is a culminating experience class for the new Environmental Studies Masters of Science program. It may be satisfied by the completion of a graduate project or thesis, consistent with Plan A and Plan B, respectively (as per the Master's Culminating Experience Requirement). The culminating experience serves to evaluate student's prior and current learning in a career-salient format and in a specialist sub-discipline of environmental studies that is aligned with the student's opportunity, aspiration, and interest.

Graduate research (thesis or projects) in environmental sub-disciplines vary in the complexity and workload involved in their design, implementation and completion. Some require the measurement of phenomenon in natural environments that impose additional complexities. Others, such as those focused on questions of history or policy, are more straight-forward. Some theses and projects

have already well-established methods, while others begin with methodological or sampling uncertainties. Still others originate or involve work in or with other organizations. Others do not. To accommodate all this variation (providing for diversity of opportunity and students), we have designed the culminating experience to have two potential tracks requiring 'ENVS 500A only' for 3 units or 'ENVS 500A and then ENVS 500B' in a subsequent semester for 6 units. The decision about the topic, content, objectives, and therefore track of the culminating experience is decided by the student and faculty in consultation with the graduate coordinator before the thesis or projects beginning. The last 3 units of ENVS 500 are taken to coincide with the last semester of the degree.

The ENVS 500A and ENVS 500B courses provide structure and a timeline to help students start and complete the culminating project, either a written thesis or project. In this course (ENVS 500A), students will work with a faculty advisor to meet objectives that include but are not limited to developing a thesis/ project outline and chapters, setting deadlines, and working toward completion of the culminating project. Because of the variety of approaches to completing these required units, and because faculty advisors will tailor workload based on student thesis or projects, syllabi will be tailored to student and thesis/project topic requirements.

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 90 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

Supervisory course(s): Students will work with individual faculty to develop culminating project objective(s) and work toward completion of culminating thesis or project.

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

Yes

**Prerequisite:**

Advanced to candidacy or permission of the graduate coordinator.

**Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?**

Yes

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Letter

**Approval required for enrollment?**

No Approval Required

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Supervision

**Supervision Classification**

S3/CS#25 - Practice Teaching/Workstudy/Thesis Project/Independent Study (S-factor=.5 WTU per student enrolled)

**Supervision Units**

.5

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:**

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	APPLICATION: Demonstrate professional written and oral communication skills in a thesis or project's presentation to peers, scholars, and community.	Advisor(s) meeting summaries Project or thesis component drafts Presentation of thesis or project Completed Thesis or Project
2	ANALYSIS: Determine a solution to an environmental challenge by applying graduate-level skills in research methodology and natural and/or social scholarly competency.	Project or thesis component drafts Presentation of thesis or project Complete Thesis or Project
3	SYNTHESIS: Develop a thesis or project demonstrating depth and breadth of knowledge in theory, research, and content relevant to an environmental sub-discipline.	Presentation of thesis or project Completed thesis or Project
4	EVALUATION: Appraise thesis or project outcomes to identify what aspects might have been or could be improved.	Project or thesis component drafts Presentation of thesis or project Completed thesis or Project
5	EVALUATION: Defend the project or thesis work to professional standards recognized by peers and mentors.	Advisor(s) meeting summaries Project or thesis component drafts Presentation of thesis or project

**Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:**

Syllabus\_ENVS\_500\_template - revised 23 Oct (additional revision 24 Sep, 2024).docx

**For whom is this course being developed?**

Majors in the Dept

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

Yes

**Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?**

Yes

**Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:****Programs:**

MS Environmental Studies

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.

I/we agree

**University Learning Goals****Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

Disciplinary knowledge

Communication  
Critical thinking/analysis  
Information literacy  
Professionalism  
Intercultural/Global perspectives  
Research (optional)

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

**Is this a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course?**

No

**Reviewer Comments:**

**Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr) (Fri, 18 Nov 2022 13:35:53 GMT):** Rollback: see email on 11/17/22

**Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum) (Sun, 08 Oct 2023 00:18:50 GMT):** Rollback: pls see email

**Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum) (Tue, 24 Oct 2023 22:09:44 GMT):** Rollback: per request

**Janett Torset (torsetj) (Wed, 06 Mar 2024 21:38:09 GMT):** Rollback: Rolled back at the request of the department.

**Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr) (Wed, 18 Sep 2024 21:12:53 GMT):** Rollback: See email on 9/18/24

Key: 14822