

BIOL 692/EVPP 991
Important Individuals and Ideas in Ecology and Environmental Science
Spring 2000 - Tues 7:20-9:10
Robinson A205

Course Description and Goals: The topic of this seminar is Important Individuals and Ideas in the Development of Ecology and Environmental Sciences. Due to the diversity of our program I view this topic in a broad context. The goals of the course are: (1) to give students practice in synthesizing material from diverse sources and making oral and written presentations, (2) develop their understanding of the historical context of the development of scientific ideas.

Course Content and Instructional Methods:

The first couple of weeks of seminar will consist of lectures by the instructor giving an overview of the topic. During this period students will choose topics of interest to them and prepare a 30 minute presentation to be given to the class in the later half of the semester. Thus the course content will consist of an overview by the instructor and in depth presentations on specific topics by the students.

Students must select as a topic either an individual or an idea. If an individual is selected, the presentation (and paper) should include discussion of their life, their works, and their relationship to their times and to the state of scientific knowledge at the time. If an idea is selected, then the historical development of the idea, key individuals in developing the idea, and its relationship to the larger sphere of ecology/environmental science should be discussed. The instructor will provide a list of suitable individuals and ideas, but students are invited to suggest their own.

Date	Topic
Jan. 25	University Closed
Feb. 1	Overview, Introduction to History of Ecology and Envir. Sci.
Feb. 8	Introduction to History of Ecology and Environmental Science (con't)
Feb. 15	NO CLASS - Work on Proposals for Topics
Feb. 22	Proposals for Topics and Requested Presentation Date are Due
Feb. 29	Completion of Introduction/Topic Proposals Returned with Comments
Mar. 7	NO CLASS - Work on Presentations
Mar. 14	NO CLASS - Spring Break
Mar. 21	Student Presentations (2)
Mar. 28	Student Presentations (2)
Apr. 4	Student Presentations (3)
Apr. 11	Student Presentations (3)
Apr. 18	Student Presentations (3)
Apr. 25	Student Presentations (2)
May 2	NO CLASS - Papers Due for EVPP 991 students

Methods of Evaluation: Master's students should register for BIOL 692 and Ph.D. students for EVPP 991. All students are expected to participate in all classes, make a 30 minute presentation on their topic, and submit an one page outline or synopsis and reference list to the class at the

time of their presentation. The reference list must contain at least 10 journal articles or books that they have incorporated into their presentation. Students will be asked to evaluate all presentations using a standard form. EVPP 991 students must also write a 15 page paper (double spaced, 12 pt font) with at least 20 references to journal articles or other academic literature.

Instructor:

R. Chris Jones
Professor of Biology
3015 David King Hall
(703) 993-1127 (phone) (703) 993-1046 (fax)
rcjones@gmu.edu
<http://osf1.gmu.edu/~rcjones/index.htm>
Office Hours: TW 11-1 or by appt.