

General Education Student Learning Outcomes Human Values and Social Contexts: Population and Environment

Preamble

Courses included in the Population and Environment sub-category help students to understand how humankind interacts with our finite physical and biological environment. This understanding can be fostered in different ways. Some courses may emphasize technical, scientific problems and solutions. Others may focus on institutional, historical, and political dimensions, and others may focus on the cultural, ethical, and philosophical issues underlying current environmental problems. Courses fulfilling this requirement should address at least one of the following:

1. the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life;
2. the pervasive role of human population growth on environmental quality and the quality of life, both in industrial and developing countries;
3. the influence of historical, cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political factors on population growth and environmental quality;
4. the ethical and philosophical assumptions underlying environmental policies and thinking about nature and the place of humans in nature;
5. possible sustainable solutions to the population/environment problems.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing the general education area of Population and Environment will be able to do at least one of the following:

1. Recognize and understand the role of both local and global environmental change on the quality of human life,
2. Describe the influence of diverse factors, such as philosophical, cultural, religious, economic, educational, and political, on population growth and environmental quality,
3. Understand the concepts and principles necessary to evaluate contemporary issues of population growth, natural resource conservation, and environmental protection,
4. Interpret diverse types of information about environmental issues, to develop their own perspectives on these issues, and to communicate these perspectives effectively,
5. Understand and describe technical and/or scientific approaches for addressing problems that arise in the relationship between human population and the environment.