



ENR 5100 FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, & SOCIETY

Credit Hours: 3
Fall 2025, Block 2

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Course Format & Meetings

This is an asynchronous online course. All work will be completed asynchronously online with no required meeting times. This course is scheduled to meet for eight weeks, during the second half of the fall semester. Anticipate 15-20 hours of engagement with learning materials each week.

Course Prerequisites

There are no mandatory prerequisites for this course, but students are strongly encouraged to take ENR 5001 Orientation to Environment, Natural Resources, and Society prior to ENR 5100.

Course Description

This course, required of students in the MS Environment, Natural Resources, and Society (ENRS) online graduate program, provides you with language and conceptual frameworks for understanding a range of perspectives that stakeholders bring to ENRS issues. It will build your toolbox for interacting with others who bring different paradigms of thought, values, ways of knowing, and terminology into the “big tent” of environmental and natural resource studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Synthesize knowledge from multiple fields and disciplines—including ecological, social, legal, and economic—to analyze and address complex environmental and natural resource challenges.
2. Evaluate the interconnections between ecological, social, economic, political, and legal systems to develop well-informed, equitable, and sustainable solutions.
3. Employ technical and analytical skills, such as policy analysis or impact assessment, to support decision-making and problem-solving.
4. Facilitate or contribute meaningfully to collaborative problem-solving processes involving diverse perspectives.

5. Develop and deliver clear, persuasive, and audience-appropriate written, oral, and digital communications.

Course Materials

This course utilizes Open Access (OA) and Open Educational Resources (OER). No textbook or material purchases are required.

Grading

This course utilizes two types of evaluation, which together comprise your final grade: cornerstone and keystone assessments. Descriptions of each appear below. Because theories, iteration, and practice are equally important to achievement, results, and solutions in this field, the two categories are weighted equally. Your final letter grade earned for the course will be calculated using the University of Wyoming's grading system, found in the current [University Catalog](#).

Assignment Weights	Percent
Cornerstone Activities	50%
Keystone Activities	50%
Total	100%

Cornerstone Activities

Cornerstone, or formative, assessments are those activities and assignments that allow you to practice skills and test new ideas. Cornerstone activities will be graded as Complete/Incomplete or Met/Not Met with opportunity for revision. The goal of these activities is to simulate the authentic work environment and encourage you to develop your own expertise and mastery without the pressure of grades.

Keystone Activities

Keystone, or summative, assessments occur at the end of modules and/or the course. Keystone activities will be graded using points corresponding to letter grades. The goal of these is to determine your overall achievement of learning objectives.

Rubrics

In the case of both cornerstone and keystone activities, grading rubrics will be provided. Rubrics include details on how each assignment will be graded and are located under assignment prompts in the course shell. You are encouraged to review the rubric for each assignment prior to completing your work to understand how it will be assessed.

Late Work & Resubmissions

You are expected to complete and submit all coursework by the stated deadlines in WyoCourses. Late work may be submitted only with instructor approval granted at least 24 hours prior to the deadline and in accordance with college policies. Five percent of the total points possible will be auto-deducted at daily intervals for late submissions, unless otherwise indicated.

Select assignments may be considered for re-evaluation provided the original assignment was submitted on time. If revisions are requested, please return the revised assignment for re-evaluation within 72 hours. Late assignments are exempt from this Resubmission policy.

Expectations for Feedback

You can generally expect responses to emails and turnaround of grades as noted below:

- Emails and WyoCourses messages- Anticipated turnaround time for responding to emails and messages sent using WyoCourses inbox is within 36 hours. This may vary during holidays or work-related travel. I will communicate any special circumstances via WyoCourses Announcements.
- Cornerstone Activities (discussions, short assignments, etc.) - Anticipated turnaround for grading cornerstone assignments is within 1 week of the assignment deadline.
- Keystone Activities (exams & final assignments/projects, etc.) - Anticipated turnaround time for grading keystone assignments is within 2 weeks of the deadline.

Attendance & Participation Policies

You are required to log into the course online regularly, and at minimum three times weekly. By making time to check the course shell daily, you can be assured that you are staying current and participating fully in the learning experience.

Participation in an online asynchronous course includes active engagement in class discussions and activities in the form of sharing new ideas, examples, and resources, as well as constructive disagreement and incorporation of course materials and concepts in comments. This requires frequent monitoring of the discussion boards, timely responses, integration of course material and other sources, and ongoing conversations that extend, modify, and add to understanding, creating a vibrant learning community.

Participation through course activities and discussions to exchange knowledge, ideas, and thoughts is an integral, mandatory part of this course. Each activity and discussion includes specific information on how your participation is evaluated.

AI Technology Policy

Standards regarding AI technology use are evolving quickly in academic and professional settings. The current guidance for this course appears below.

Use Only with Prior Permission

You are permitted to use advanced automated artificial intelligence or machine learning tools on assignments in this course if the assignment prompt stipulates that AI use is permitted and/or encouraged, or if instructor permission is obtained in advance (for example, in the case of multilingual learners who want to explore AI for translation).

In cases where use of advanced automated artificial intelligence or machine learning tools on assignments is permitted, that use must be properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>" Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation convention.

Unless given explicit permission to use those tools, you are expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

Course Map

The course map below provides an overview of module titles, general description, and anticipated course calendar. Note that modules may begin and/or end midweek. Module start and end dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, based on learner progress. See WyoCourses Announcements and Calendar for the most current schedule.

Module	Title	Brief Description	Weeks
1	Welcome	This module sets the stage for your experience by introducing the course structure, expectations, key resources, and fellow learners.	1
2	Integration	Explore how complex environmental problems are understood and approached through different disciplinary lenses.	1-3
3	Tools	Discover a range of tools that ENR professionals use to analyze complex issues, support decision-making, and anticipate future scenarios.	3-5
4	Solutions	Synthesize research, stakeholder perspectives, and analytical tools to design practical responses to real ENRS challenges.	5-6
5	Stories	Convey information, theories, and solutions to different audiences, from policymakers to the public.	6-7
6	Insights	Apply research skills, tools, and perspectives to create a professional-quality response to a real ENRS challenge.	8