Environmental Studies majors devise an individualized four-course cluster of electives that together comprise a disciplinary or thematic specialization sequence—for example, climate change policy, environmental justice, the built environment, environmental chemistry, sustainable food and agriculture, environmental ethics, etc. Students are responsible for designing their own major cluster in consultation with a faculty advisor in the spring semester of their sophomore year. One of these four electives in the cluster must be among those listed by the Program as a research methods course, although students may petition to count another course toward this requirement.

The study of living systems is an integral component of environmental studies, and therefore all students majoring in environmental studies will need to complete at least one course designated by the Program as a “living systems” course (this may be within their specialization cluster or as one of their 200-level foundational courses).

The following list of clusters is by no means exhaustive. When submitting your course cluster, please remember to include a brief written explanation of how your courses fit together, as demonstrated by the first five examples. To show the range of possibilities, some lists below contain more than four courses.

**Postcolonial Geographies**

This cluster considers the histories and after-effects of colonialism. **AFR 233** Colonialism, Capitalism and Climate Crisis explores how capitalism furthered colonial expansion and set in motion processes of global climate change. **AFR 234** Race, Land, Settler Capitalism introduces key themes for understanding colonial history in global context. **ENVI 233** rethinks the Americas through an attention to ecocultural world writing. **ENVI 332** (De)Colonial Ecologies explores how colonial expeditions reframed ideas of humanness and nature.

**Environmental Security**

This cluster explores the relationship between environmental knowledge/policymaking and multiple forms of insecurity (conflict, social instability, warfare). **ENVI 251** Science and Militarism in the Modern World contemplates the imbrication of environmental knowledge and transnational militarism. **ENVI 354** Drugs, Empire, & Environment considers the global circulation of drugs and the emergence of new forms of environmental knowledge and global power/conflict. **ENVI 478** Cold War Landscapes investigates the environmental changes augured by the Cold War. **ANTH208** The U.S. and Afghanistan: A Post-Mortem offers a case study of the US’s longest war to explore the meaning of warfare in the contemporary moment.

**Black Geographies**

The Black Geographies cluster emphasizes the worldmaking visions of the peoples of Africa and the African Diaspora. **AFR 211** Race, Environment, Body considers the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on communities of color. **AFR133** Plantation Economy and the Poetics of Caribbean Economic Thought explores the role of plantation economies in the economic (under)development of the Caribbean. **HIST205** The Making of Modern Africa explores the place
of the African continent in contemporary global history. ENVI231 reframes global climate change from the vantage of the African continent.

**Critical Development Studies**

This cluster explores development as a complex mix of ideas and institutions that seeks to make change in the world. Development studies cuts across economics, policy, history, a social theory to critically examine forms of improving life. ENVI234 offers an introduction to the economics of the Global South, exploring the possibilities and limitations of economic growth as development. ENVI349 Race, Development, and Food Sovereignty explores agricultural development as both a form of domination and a form of opposition to land-based exploitation. ENVI297 Global Sustainable Development explores the emergence of sustainability as a global environmental standard and the successes and failures of different sustainable development projects. ECON231 The Economics of Inequality explores the economic drivers of inequalities in wealth, education, health outcomes, and proximity to environmental hazards.

**Environmental Economics**

1 methods course choice (not an exhaustive list of the possibilities):

ECON 255: Econometrics
or
POEC 253 Empirical Methods in Political Economy
or
ENVI 214 Geographic Information Systems

and 3 topic/theme appropriate courses: (this is not an exhaustive list of the possibilities):

ECON 110: Principles of Microeconomics
ENVI/ECON 213 Intro to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (must be replaced with another course if ENVI/ECON 213 was taken as the Social Science/Policy Foundational course)
ECON 238: Sustainable Economic Growth

**Environmental Justice**

AFR 211 Race, Environment, and the Body
ENVI 214 / GEOS 214 Mastering GIS (methods req)
ENVI 307 Environmental Law
LATS 385 / HIST 385 Latinx Politics in New York City and Beyond

**Environmental Policy**

ENVI 307 Environmental Law
ENVI 206 -- Global Environmental Politics
ENVI/ECON 387 (F) Economics of Climate Change
STAT 201 Statistics and Data Analysis (Methods)
Conservation and Biodiversity

ENVI 240T Conservation and Climate Change
ENVI 339 / BIOL 329 Conservation Biology
ENVI 255 / GEOS 255 Environmental Observation (methods req)
MATH 410 / BIOL 214 Mathematical Ecology

Environmental History

ENVI 246 Race, Power, and Food History
HIST 304 / ENVI 304 Sacred Custodians: Environmental Conservation in Africa
HIST 471 Comparative Latina/o Migrations
ANSO 205 Ways of Knowing (methods req)

Urban Environmental Studies

1 Methods Course: (not an exhaustive list):
ENVI 214 Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
POEC 253 Empirical Methods in Political Economy

Choose 3 Electives: (not an exhaustive list; may also include courses from study abroad):
ENVI 221/AMST/LATS 220 Introduction to Urban Studies
ENVI 224/ANTH 214 The Rise and Fall of Civilizations
ENVI 242/CLAS 242/ANTH 242 The Country and the City in the Classical World
ENVI 306/HIST 307/AFR 313 A History of an African City
ENVI 313/AMST 312/LATS 312 Chicago
AMST 408 Envisioning Urban Life

Environmental Planning and Design

1 Methods Course (not an exhaustive list):
GEOS/ENVI 214 Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems
STAT 201 Statistics and Data Analysis
POEC 253 Empirical Methods in Political Economy

Choose 3 Electives (not an exhaustive list; may also include courses from study abroad):
ENVI 388/ECON 388 Urbanization and Development
SOC 216 The City
HIST 385 Race and Inequality in US Cities
ENVI 491/HIST 491/AMST 490 The Suburbs
ENVI 221 Introduction to Urban Studies
ARTS 220 Architectural Design 1
ARTS 211 Architectural Design 2
ARTS 215 Sustainabuilding
GEOS 206 Renewable Energy and Sustainable Campus
AMST 490 The Suburbs

Agriculture, Food, and the Environment
ENVI 246 -- Race, Power, and Food History
ENVI 230 -- Geographies of Food Justice
PHLH 220 -- International Nutrition
ENVI 216 -- Philosophy of Animals
BIOL 154 -- The Tropics: Biology and Social Issues
AFR 349 / ENVI 349 -- Race, Development, and Food Sovereignty
AFR 211 -- Race, Environment, and the Body

The Environment and the Global Economy
ENVI 249 -- Food, Agriculture, and Globalization
ENVI 206 -- Global Environmental Politics
ENVI 297 -- Global Sustainable Development
ENVI 238 -- Sustainable Economic Growth
ENVI 376 -- Economics of Environmental Behavior
ENVI 387 -- Economics of Climate Change
ENVI 234 -- Economics of Developing Countries
ENVI 261 -- Science and Militarism in the Modern World

Environmental Humanities
ENVI 348 -- Beyond Cli-Fi: Climate Histories & the Arts of Resilience
ENVI 323 -- World's End: Literary Ecologies of the Limit
ENVI 303 -- Cultures of Climate Change
ENVI 233 -- Latin American Environmental Literature and Culture
ENVI 244 -- Environmental Ethics
ENVI 311 -- Tropical Ecologies: Francophone Caribbean Literature and the Environment
ARTH 214 -- Environmentalism in Contemporary Art and Politics, 1960s to Present
RLSP 214 -- "Ecologismo": Literature, Culture and the Environment in Latin America
ENGL 312 -- Ecocriticism

Landscape Studies
ENVI 243 -- Reimagining Rivers
ENVI 208 -- Saharan Imaginations
ENVI 421 -- Latinx Ecologies
ARAB 308 -- The Nile
ENVI 491 -- The Suburbs
ENVI 420 -- Sustainable Architecture
ENVI 217 -- Landscape, Place and Power
CLAS 242 -- The Country and the City in the Classical World
AFR 234 -- Race, Land and Settler (Racial) Capitalism: Ongoing Topics in (Dis)/(Re)possession
ENVI 479 -- Cold War Landscapes