Environmental managers must be able to comprehend and apply the best available science in their daily management activities, and when called upon, inform and guide policymakers so that their decisions will result in policies that are environmentally sound, practical, and effective. Thus it is essential that environmental managers themselves have a thorough understanding of the fundamentals of ecological science. The objectives of this course are to:

- Develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts of modern ecology
- Understand how organisms interact with both biological and physical aspects of their environment including climate change
- Apply ecological knowledge to environmental management
- Use critical thinking in analyzing and addressing contemporary ecological issues
- Advance written and oral communication skills for presenting scientific material