

Seminar: Addressing Virginia's Environment

EVPP 692 (1.0 Credit) / EVPP 991 (2.0 credits) FALL 2022

100% online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Groover
Virtual Meeting Time will occur at
Tuesday 4:30-6:20 pm

This seminar course is structured to help students understand what environmental issues in Virginia, and specifics on how they are addressed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Addressing Virginia's Environment course will be divided into nine parts or units:

State Government Agencies handling Environmental Issues

NGOs involved in Environmental Issues

Current Land-use and Related Issues

Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia (coastal and inland areas)

Water Pollution & Supply in Virginia

Air Pollution Issues & Response in Virginia

State Current Biota & Biodiversity

Solid and Hazardous Waste Handling

Energy Strategies in Virginia

This is a synchronous 100% online course. Each week the students may have pre-meeting homework or readings that will prepare them for better conversation and understanding about the weekly topic, especially when the class has its online meetings and discussions. Lectures from the instructor plus other materials will be provided. Students will sign-up for and deliver a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation on their selected topic, one per student.

All students will be graded on their discussion involvement and relevant inclusion of related topics.

EVPP 692 students will submit a written research outline focusing on the Virginia issue they selected. Each 692 student will also be required to present their 30-minute ZOOM presentation that covers her/his assigned topic. **The Written Outline (for EVPP 692 students):** This detailed

summary outline of the issue chosen topic should have complete sentences (not phrases) and will be submitted for a grade. Literature cited will be required.

Each EVPP 991 student will also be required to present their 30-minute ZOOM presentation that covers her/his assigned topic. EVPP 991 students will be required to submit a summary paper about their assigned Virginia topic, which will be graded. **The Written Paper (for EVPP 991 only):** The summary paper (maximum of 5,000 words) should be properly written, referenced, and formatted to explain her/his assigned topic. Literature cited will be required.

No textbook is required. However, my book *The Environmental Almanac of Virginia, second edition* (found in the GMU library) might be a good starting point. Students must have reliable computer access to the course, which will run via posted ZOOM links. No sessions will be held in-person on campus.

Grading procedure: Participation in the weekly meetings and discussion will be observed and graded. Each student will be graded on their oral presentation and submitted document. Weekly participation in discussions will also be graded. Please note the grading information below.

Students will sign-up and deliver a 30-minute lecture on their selected topic and a submitted written document on a Virginia environmental topic. Available assignment presentations will begin on August 30th. Contact Dr. Groover by email by August 24 for your requested topic. First to request gets first choice. Please email me the first, second and third choice.

Students should not be overly concerned about the full magnitude of their assigned topic, but should present a summary which what might be considered with suitable detail to present the topic within the time limit for the oral presentation and the limits for the written document.

Honor Code: Adherence to the *GMU Honor Code* is expected of all students, and especially for their materials submitted for grading. Review the Code if you don't know it.

Instructor Contact Information: **Dr. Richard Groover**

Email: rgroover@gmu.edu Phone: 804-381-1968. Students are expected to communicate with the Instructor regarding any issues that might not allow the student to be an active and engaged student.

PREDICTED COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Content	Assigned To
Aug 23	Course Introduction	Dr. Groover
Aug 30	State Government Agencies involved in Environmental Issues	
Sept 6	Non-Government Environment Groups	
Sept 13	Current Land-use and Related Issues	
Sept 20	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia's Coast	
Sept 27	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia Inland	
Oct 4	Water Pollution Issues	
Oct 11	Water Supply & Planning	
Oct 18	Air Pollution Issues in Virginia	
Oct 25	State Biota & Biodiversity Issues	
Nov 1	Solid Waste Issues	
Nov 15	Hazardous Waste Issues	
Nov 29	Energy Issues in Virginia	
Dec 6	Wrap-up Session	

Often assigned readings will be issued and class discussions will occur the following week.

Participation in discussions will be graded.

Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

EVPP 692 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussions	400
Final detailed outline of the selected topic	400
Oral Presentation of the selected topic	200
Total	1000

A = 900 – 1000
B = 800 – 899
C = 700 - 799

EVPP 991 Students

Category	Point distribution
Participation/Discussions	400
Final written Summary/Paper of the selected topic	400
Oral Presentation of the selected topic	200
Total	1000

Any student absence from the course meetings should be communicated asap before the absence occurs, with the instructor, via email.