

Seminar: Exploring Virginia's Environment

EVPP 692 (1.0 Credit) / EVPP 991 (2.0 credits) Spring 2025
100% online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Groover
Virtual Meeting Time will occur at
Wednesday 7:20 pm - 9:10 pm

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

The Exploring 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 in February 2025. Contact Dr. Groover by email by Feb 1 for your requested topic. First to request gets first choice. Please email me your 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.

Registered students will receive the link to sign-in for the meetings each week.

Please leave your computer camera on during each class.

PREDICTED COURSE SCHEDULE
(to be completed by Feb 1 and subject to student's schedules)

Dates	Content	Assigned To
Jan 22	Course Introduction	Dr. Groover
Jan 29	A look at Virginia Land & Use	Dr. Groover
Feb 5	State Government Agencies involved in Environmental Issues	
Feb 12	Non-Government Environment Groups	
Feb 19	Current land-use conflicts	
Feb 26	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia's Coast	
Mar 5	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia Inland	
Mar 12	Water Pollution Issues	
Mar 19	Water Supply & Planning	
Mar 26	Air Pollution Issues in Virginia	
Apr 2	State Biota & Biodiversity Issues	
Apr 9	Solid Waste Issues	
Apr 14	Hazardous Waste Issues	
Apr 23	Energy Issues in Virginia	
Apr 30	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 due in 2 weeks	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 due in 2 weeks	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.