

Seminar: Environmental Topics for Virginia

EVPP 991 (2.0 credits) FALL 2021

100% online

Instructor: Dr. Richard Groover

Virtual Meeting Time will occur Tuesday 4:30-6:20 pm

This seminar course is structured to help students understand what environmental issues are occurring in Virginia, and specific to Virginia.

The Environmental Topics for Virginia course will be divided into nine parts or units:

Current Land-use and Related Issues

State Government Agencies handling Environmental Issues

NGOs involved in Environmental Issues

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

Water Issues in Virginia

Air Issues in Virginia

State Biota Current Status

Solid and Hazardous Waste Issues

Energy Issues in Virginia

This is a synchronous 100% online course. Each week the students will have pre-meeting homework 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 20-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.

Each EVPP 991 student will also be required to present their 20-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. 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 20-minute lecture on their selected topic and a submitted written document on a Virginia environmental topic. Available assignment presentations will begin on September 7. Contact Dr. Groover by August 31 for your requested topic.

Dates	Content
August 24	Welcome to the course and discussion of the syllabus
August 31	Current Land-use and Related Issues
September 7	State Government Agencies involved in Environmental Issues <i>This can have TWO student presenters</i>
September 14	Non-Government Groups involved in Environmental Issues <i>This can have TWO student presenters</i>
September 21	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia's Coast
September 28	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Inland Virginia
October 5	Water Issues in Virginia
October 12	Air Issues in Virginia
October 19	State Biota Current Status <i>This can have TWO student presenters, one on plants one on animals</i>
October 26	Solid and Hazardous Waste Issues

November 9	Energy Issues in Virginia
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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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Content
Aug 24	Course Introduction
Aug 31	Current Land-use and Related Issues
Sept 7	State Government Agencies involved in Environmental Issues
Sept 14	Non- Government Environment Groups
Sept 21	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia's Coast
Sept 28	Climate Change Impacts Specific to Virginia Inland
Oct 5	Water Issues in Virginia
Oct 12	Air Issues in Virginia
Oct 19	State Biota Current Status
Oct 26	Solid and Hazardous Waste Issues
Nov 9	Energy Issues in Virginia
Nov 16	What would you tell the next Governor And Scorecard available on State Elected Persons

Nov 30	Summary written documents are due
Dec 7	Wrap-up Session

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

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

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

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