

## **Environmental Studies at Bates College**

### **Information for candidates for the temporary position in the humanities – February 2010**

Environmental Studies (ES) at Bates is an interdisciplinary program. All aspects of the major are overseen by a program committee that is comprised of three full-time faculty with appointments in the ES program (Holly Ewing, natural sciences; Sonja Pieck, social sciences, and the humanities position that is open), a Learning Associate/part-time lecturer (Camille Parrish), and faculty members from other departments (Jane Costlow, Russian; Lynne Lewis, Economics; Rebecca Sommer, Biology; Tom Wenzel, Chemistry).

Since its inception, the ES program has emphasized the significance of the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to the field of environmental studies. Our curriculum and major requirements are structured to insure that all majors get some introduction to these three broad areas.

The ES major requirements include a set of core and concentration courses. The core consists of courses taught by the three faculty members appointed within ES. It is intended to provide interdisciplinary breadth to students and to foster connections among cultural, social and scientific perspectives. Each full-time faculty member appointed within ES teaches a required course within the core. ENVR 205: Environment and Culture is taught by the faculty member who provides a humanities perspective. The specific topics to include in ENVR 205 are left to the discretion of the individual teaching the course. The core also has an upper-level elective and capstone seminar requirement. The content and design of elective courses is left to the discretion of the instructor.

The concentration is intended to provide an area of focus sufficient to prepare a student to complete a senior thesis. There are ten concentrations for students to choose from, three of which primarily include courses from the humanities. Courses offered by the humanities appointment within ES are important components of these concentrations. As course offerings from faculty change over time, concentrations are revised to accommodate new relevant courses and to remove those no longer viable due to lack of course offerings.

Faculty members at Bates teach five courses a year. Courses may be offered during fall or winter semester and during short term, a five-week period in which students take only one course. The person in the temporary position will teach ENVR 205 each academic semester, will offer two upper-level courses a year, will teach one short-term unit each year, and will advise senior thesis projects for students in the humanities concentrations. It is anticipated that the upper-level courses will count both as the additional 200/300-level course for breadth in the core (see <http://abacus.bates.edu/acad/depts/environ/curriculum/es-structure-of-a-major.html>) and within one or more of the humanities-focused concentrations.

Further questions about the ES program or the faculty position in the humanities can be directed to the chair of the program: Tom Wenzel ([twenzel@bates.edu](mailto:twenzel@bates.edu)).