



Chaminade
University
OF HONOLULU

Chaminade-Flex Course Syllabus

[Chaminade University Honolulu](#)

3140 Waialae Avenue - Honolulu, HI 96816

Course Number: FLEX-ENV-100

Course Title: Introduction to Environmental Issues

Department Name: Environmental Studies

College/School/Division Name: School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Term: Flex term begins the first of the month and extends up to ten weeks (if enrolled in a Flex Accelerated course coded FLEX-ENV-100-2) or four months (if enrolled in a Flex Standard course coded FLEX-ENV-100-9).

Course Credits: 3 credits

Class Meeting Days: Asynchronous, at your own pace

Class Meeting Hours: Asynchronous, at your own pace

Course Website Address (Canvas): <https://chaminade.instructure.com/>

Instructor Name: Dr. Marissa Fukunaga, EdD, ATC

Email: marissa.fukunaga@chaminade.edu

Office Location: Online (*Zoom or Google Meets link*)

Office Hours: By appointment only

University Course Catalog Description

An interdisciplinary course in which students are introduced to the ethical issues, tools and techniques involved in environmental and sustainability problem-solving. Students are presented with a series of real (often Hawaiian) environmental problems that they will investigate, attempt to understand in entirety and devise a solution or solution-strategy for. This hands-on approach will allow students to discover the many disciplines and techniques involved in ameliorating real environmental challenges.

Course Overview

This course will introduce students to major environmental issues and equip them with tools necessary for effective environmental problem-solving. The course will examine topics such as: climate change, pollution, deforestation, overpopulation, biodiversity loss, management of resources, and ownership of the land and sea. The course will also present regional (including Hawaiian) and international environmental problem case studies for students to investigate and critically analyze as they learn how to navigate environmental problem-solving.

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith
2. Provide an integral, quality education
3. Educate in family spirit

4. Educate for service, justice and peace
5. Educate for adaptation and change

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Olelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) E ola au i ke akua ('Olelo No'eau 364) May I live by God
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Olelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Olelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Olelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Olelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon completion of the Environmental Studies program, students will be able to:

1. Authenticate their commitment to service, justice and peace through experiential project-based activities that enhance the condition of the integral ecology, care for creation and value all voices.
2. Apply analytical methods and skills from multiple disciplines to environmental problems.
3. Participate in, plan and execute environmental change-making strategies that employ scientific, political, socio-cultural, artistic, educational and economic skills and knowledge.
4. Design and describe new futures and ideas that solve environmental problems and foster sustainability.
5. Pursue throughout their education the ever-changing knowledge and skills that prepare them for the adaptation and change essential to environmental problem solving.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

By the end of our course, students will be able to:

1. Identify major terrestrial and marine environmental issues - historical, present-day, and future.
2. Develop an awareness for the complexity of environmental issues, as well as the intersectional roles of ethics, science, education, politics, and the media in environmental problem solving.
3. Understand the significance of different worldviews and perspectives and how they contribute to or complicate environmental problem solving.
4. Learn how to generate and implement ideas that may effectively address environmental issues in the present and future.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
Marianist Values	2,5	3,4	1,3,4	2,5

Program Learning Outcomes	5	1,2,3,4	1	2,3,4,5
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Course Prerequisites

ENV-100 serves as an introductory course for three majors at Chaminade University: Environmental Studies, Environmental Science, and Community & Public Health (Environment & Health Track). This course also satisfies the General Education Core – Critical Thinking requirement.

Required Learning Materials

Both textbooks are available in the bookstore; a copy of each is in the Library on reserve.

- The Global Casino: An Introduction to Environmental Issues, 7th Edition, by Nick Middleton
- Environmental Ethics: A Very Short Introduction, by Robin Attfield

*Supplementary material will be provided in each Module, in the form of articles and videos.

Course Website: <https://chaminade.instructure.com/>

Hardware Requirements: Canvas is accessible from both PC and Mac computers with a reliable internet connection. You will also need to be able to access audio and video files. Subsequently, you should have access to speakers or headphones that allow you to hear the audio.

Software Requirements: You will need to have some ability to listen to audio in an mp3 format, watch videos in mp4 format, stream online videos, and read .pdf files. There are a number of free software online that can be downloaded for free. If you need assistance with locating software please feel free to contact the Chaminade Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855.

Technical Assistance for Canvas Users:

- Search for help on specific topics or get tips in [Canvas Students](#)
- [Live chat with Canvas Support for students](#)
- Canvas Support Hotline for students: +1-833-209-6111
- Watch this [video to get you started](#)
- [Online tutorials](#): click on “Students” role to access tutorials
- Contact the Chaminade IT Helpdesk for technical issues: helpdesk@chaminade.edu or call (808) 735-4855

Tutoring and Writing Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua ‘Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to: biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua ‘Ike’s website (<https://chaminade.edu/advising/kokua-ike/>) for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click Account – Notifications – TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua ‘Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Assessment

Student’s work will be evaluated for:

- ❖ Knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, videos, research, and other activities
- ❖ Ability to apply the knowledge to address current issues in society

- ❖ Understanding of the subject matter from different perspectives
- ❖ Demonstration of the following 4 Core Competencies:
 1. Written Communication
 2. Quantitative Reasoning
 3. Critical Thinking
 4. Information Literacy

Grading Scale

Letter grades are given in all courses except those conducted on a credit/no credit basis. Grades are calculated from the student's daily work, class participation, quizzes, tests, term papers, reports and the final examination. Students should anticipate receiving grades/feedback within 3-5 weekdays. Please don't hesitate to contact the instructor if there is a delay beyond this timeframe.

Grades are interpreted as follows:

- A Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative
- B Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner
- C Average grade indicating a competent grasp of subject matter
- D Inferior work of the lowest passing grade, not satisfactory for fulfillment of prerequisite course work
- F Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no credit given

Course Policies

Course Approach

This course is utilizing Chaminade's FLEX model, meaning the only due dates you have are 1) your course completion Schedule, which is due by 11:59pm on the 7th of your first month in this class; and 2) all other assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the last day of class (10 weeks or four months after your initial start date, depending on your start date). The FLEX model provides you with the convenience and ability to work at your own pace and complete assignments when it is convenient for you. You can work as fast as you want, meaning you can complete the course in as little as ten weeks (FLEX Accelerated), or up to four months (FLEX Standard).

Communication Guidelines

Email

- Use the Chaminade email account provided.
- Always include a subject line.
- Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.

Discussion and Community of Practice Guidelines

- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others' ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of others thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be positive and constructive when responding to others' posts.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Grades of "Incomplete"

Students who have more than three weeks of non-participation, fail to submit assignments or comply with other requirements, are advised to withdraw from the course in order to avoid a final course grade of "F." Grades of "Incomplete" will only be given in cases of documented extraordinary circumstances. Please go to the Catalog, as policies are subject to be updated.

Writing Policy

APA formatting is accepted.

Instructor and Student Communication

Questions for this course can be emailed to the instructor at marissa.fukunaga@chaminade.edu. Please enter the course name in the subject of all email communication. Emails will be answered within 24 hours if sent Monday through Friday. Emails sent after 5 PM on Friday may not be answered until the following Monday. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours on a weekday, please resend your email.

Additional Services

Disability Access

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kōkua 'Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

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Chaminade University Policies

Student Conduct Policy

Campus life is a unique situation requiring the full cooperation of each individual. For many, Chaminade is not only a school, but a home and a place of work as well. That makes it a community environment in which the actions of one students may directly affect other students. Therefore, each person must exercise a high degree of responsibility. Any community must have standards of conduct and rules by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website under Student Life.

For further information, [please refer to the Chaminade Catalog](#).

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University of Honolulu does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including in admission and employment. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at the [Chaminade University Title IX Office Contact Information and Confidential Resources website](#). On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found here at [CAMPUS CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES](#).

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the [Campus Incident Report form](#). Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: [Notice of Nondiscrimination](#).

Attendance Policy

Flex students are expected to asynchronously attend and submit course work in classes they are registered in. Students should notify their instructors when illness or other extenuating circumstances prevents them from attending class and make arrangements to complete missed assignments. Notification may be done by emailing the instructor's Chaminade email address, calling the instructor's campus extension, or by leaving a message with the instructor's division office. It is the instructor's prerogative to modify deadlines of course requirements accordingly. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing may receive a failing grade.

Students with disabilities who have obtained accommodations from the Chaminade University of Honolulu Tutor Coordinator may be considered for an exception when the accommodation does not materially alter the attainment of the learning outcomes.

Federal regulations require continued attendance for continuing payment of financial aid. When illness or personal reasons necessitate continued absence, the student should communicate first with the instructor to review the options. Anyone who stops attending a course without official withdrawal may receive a failing grade or be withdrawn by the instructor at the instructor's discretion.

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers, presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

Suggested Course Schedule

Module #	Assignment Title	Days after enrollment due date
Module 1	Course Completion Plan	6
Module 1	The Physical and Human Environment	
Module 1	Assignment: Student Introduction	7
Module 1	Assignment: Presentation 1 Reflection	7
Module 1	Quiz: The Physical Environment	7
Module 1	Assignment: Presentation 2 Reflection	7
Module 1	Quiz: The Human Environment	7
Module 1	Assignment: Module 1 Reflection and Comprehension	7
Module 2	Sustainable Development and Urban Environments	
Module 2	Assignment: Reflection on Hawai'i and The Environment	14
Module 2	Assignment: Sustainable Development Virtual Lab	14
Module 2	Quiz: Sustainable Development and Urban Environments	14
Module 2	Assignment: Module 2 Reflection and Comprehension	14
Module 3	Deforestation and Desertification	
Module 3	Assignment: Tropical Deforestation Reflection	21
Module 3	Quiz: Tropical Deforestation and Desertification	21
Module 3	Assignment: Module 3 Reflection and Comprehension	21
Module 3	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 3)	21
Module 4	Freshwater and Marine Environments	
Module 4	Quiz: Freshwater and Marine Environments	28
Module 4	Assignment: Module 4 Reflection and Comprehension	28
Module 4	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 4)	28
Module 5	Climate Change and Biodiversity	
Module 5	Assignment: Reflection on Hawai'i and Climate Change	35
Module 5	Assignment: Biodiversity Loss Virtual Lab	35
Module 5	Quiz: Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss	35
Module 5	Assignment: Module 5 Reflection and Comprehension	35
Module 5	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 5)	35
Module 6	Transport and Waste Management	
Module 6	Quiz: Transport and Waste Management	42
Module 6	Assignment: Module 6 Reflection and Comprehension	42
Module 6	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 6)	42
Module 7	Natural Disasters and Takeaways	
Module 7	Assignment: Reflection on Hawai'i and Natural Disasters	49
Module 7	Quiz: Natural Disasters	49
Module 7	Quiz: The Global Casino, Conclusions	49
Module 7	Assignment: Module 7 Reflection and Comprehension	49
Module 7	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 7)	49

Module 8	Environmental Justice, Ethics, and Problem-Solving	
Module 8	Assignment: Module 8 Reflection and Comprehension	56
Module 8	Assignment: Participate in the Communities of Practice (Module 8)	56
Module 9	Environmental Issues Stakeholders and Careers	
Module 9	Assignment: Environmental Problem-Solving as a Stakeholder	63