

**Syllabus**  
**ENVS 461 Environmental Research**  
**Summer II**  
**(1-6 Credit Hours)**

*“The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be.”*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

**CLASS LOCATION & MEETING TIMES:** There are no formal class meeting times, as students are engaging in field experiences. Faculty and students correspond via email and telephone and meet as needed at the field site.

**LECTURERS:** Clarissa Mathews (cmathews@shepherd.edu), Peter Vila (pvila@shepherd.edu), Jeff Groff ([jgroff@shepherd.edu](mailto:jgroff@shepherd.edu)), Sytil Murphy (smurphy@shepherd.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** To be arranged with Instructor and student.

**TEXTBOOK:** None

**PREREQUISITES:** Permission of Department Chair

**DESCRIPTION:** (1-6cr) Individual research undertaken with supervision and mentoring by a Shepherd University faculty member or in conjunction with an internship at an external environmental organization, agency or industry in which students can apply their environmental background in a practical form. External internships require prior approval from the Department Chair. Environmental Research may be taken during any semester. Previously titled Environmental Internship (3cr). This course may be repeated to a maximum of 6 credits.

**LEAP GOALS:** Shepherd University has adopted goals from the American Association of Universities and Colleges (AAC&U) Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) initiative (<http://www.aacu.org/leap.index.cfm>) with minor modifications. This course utilizes Goal No. 1: Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES/COMPETENCIES:** Shepherd University has adopted learning outcomes that pertain to each LEAP Goal. The following are the main Learning Outcomes we expect students to achieve in this course. At the end of the semester students should have:

- Developed a research question in the form of both a null and alternate hypothesis.
- Undertaken scientific research and collected data that specifically addresses the articulated hypotheses, either via field data collection or a meta-analysis that consists of an extensive review of published, peer-reviewed journal articles.

- Developed a dataset that will be analyzed utilizing a range of basic parametric and non-parametric statistical tests. This data set will be the basis for the student's Capstone Research thesis, completed in ENVS 462.

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) All ENVS 461 students will compile a written journal documenting all activities undertaken as part of the course. The journal is to be submitted to the summer Faculty Advisor for review and will be graded as a component of the course. Students should be detailed in emphasizing their specific role and contribution to the research project and activities in which they participated.
- 2) Preliminary Requirements: A Preliminary Evaluation Form must be completed by the on-site supervisor (at the internship facility) and delivered to the Shepherd Faculty Advisor. In addition, the student needs to arrange for a site visit or teleconference (determined by Faculty Advisor) by their Faculty Advisor.
- 3) Final Requirements: A Final Evaluation Form must be completed by the on-site supervisor (at the internship facility) and delivered to the Shepherd Faculty Advisor.

#### **COURSE TIMELINE/DUE DATES:**

- 1) Preliminary Requirements are due on the second Friday of July.
- 2) Final Requirements are due on the last class of the Summer II Semester.

**GRADING PROCEDURES:** Course grades will be based on the following:

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Written Journal                       | 20% |
| Preliminary Report or Evaluation Form | 30% |
| Final Report or Evaluation Form       | 50% |

Final Grades for the course will be assigned according to the following criteria: A=100-90%, B= 89-80%, C=79-70%, D=69-60%, F=59-0%.

**SCHOOL CALENDARS:** Semester calendars may be found at:

<http://www.shepherd.edu/register/calendar.html>

This calendar includes important dates such as:

- Last Day to Add/Drop or Late Register
- Last Day to Change a Course from Credit to Pass/Fail Status
- Last Day to Change a Course from Credit to Audit Status
- Last Day to Withdraw from first half-of-semester class
- First – and Last - Day of Mid-term Exams
- First – and Last - Day of Academic Advisement
- Last Day to Withdraw

Final exam calendars may be found at:

[http://www.shepherd.edu/register/finals\\_schedule.html](http://www.shepherd.edu/register/finals_schedule.html)

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:** Disability Support Services at Shepherd University believes that every student should succeed, and works closely with students to meet their needs. Students requesting any disability related accommodation should contact the Disability Coordinator at 304-876-5453. This includes students with learning disabilities needing classroom accommodations, students requesting specific housing accommodations for health-related reasons, and all other disability accommodations. Accommodations need to be documented and provided to instructors. Please see <http://www.shepherd.edu/mcssweb/dss/default.html> for more information

If you have a disability that requires specific accommodations please start by contacting the Disability Coordinator (Student Center Suite 216 Email: [cjohns12@shepherd.edu](mailto:cjohns12@shepherd.edu) - Phone: 304.876.5453). Do this as early in the semester as possible; we can then work out a plan to meet your learning needs. All discussions will remain confidential.

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES:** Free tutoring is available for any course at the Academic Support Center found at the Scarborough Library Lower Level Room 103: [www.shepherd.edu/ascweb/](http://www.shepherd.edu/ascweb/); 876-5221; 8:00 am–4:30 pm.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the Shepherd University Student Handbook (<http://www.shepherd.edu/students/studenthandbook.pdf>).

At times, the class will collect, share, and discuss data in lab. However, lab reports or any assignments that are turned in must represent your own work; all data analyses including tables and graphs and writing must be your own.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** You must attend your classes regularly and engage in the requirements for each class; otherwise, your financial aid may be revoked either partially or in full. This would result in an amount due by you to the University immediately. Please refer to [www.shepherd.edu/faoweb/](http://www.shepherd.edu/faoweb/) and click on the large red “Attendance” button for more details.

It is the responsibility of the student to make up any missed work, assignments, and information covered in class.

**COURSE POLICY CLARIFICATION:** Course policy as stated in this document may be clarified or updated by the Instructor during the semester.

## Internship Evaluation Form. Please circle one: **Preliminary** or **Final**

**Student:** Fill-in your name, the date when this form is to be returned and the Faculty Advisor name and email below.  
Provide this form to your On-Site Supervisor along with a stamped envelope addressed to your Shepherd University Summer Faculty Advisor.

**To the on-site supervisor:** A discussion with the student concerning this evaluation should be held before returning this completed form. Please be candid in your assessment, as this is important for the student's career development!  
**Please return completed form by \_\_\_\_\_.** **Thank you!**

Form can be faxed to 304-876-5028 c/o \_\_\_\_\_ or email to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator's Signature

**Please rank the student's performance from 0 - 5 (poor - exceptional).**

**Does the student:**

**Poor**

**Exceptional**

1) Show interest in work assignments? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

2) Work well with co-workers? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

3) Effectively organize work assignments? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

4) Complete an appropriate amount of work? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

5) Learn tasks quickly? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

6) Show initiative? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

7) Ask for assistance when needed? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

8) Accept constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

9) Notify the supervisor if they will be absent or late for work? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

10) Perform assigned tasks well? ----- 0 1 2 3 4 5

**Please provide additional comments on the reverse. Your response as supervisor will greatly facilitate our evaluation of the student intern's performance and abilities.**

1) Was the student knowledgeable in the field of study in which the internship was undertaken?

2) Did the student undertake instruction well and complete tasks in a timely fashion?

3) Compared to other interns you have worked with, and based on your knowledge of internship experiences, how would you rank this individual on a 1 to 10 scale? (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) Please justify this ranking.

**Thank you for the time and effort you have contributed in this evaluation and throughout the student's intern experience!**