Program Description

What are the benefits of joining a learning community? The courses offered as part of the learning community will fulfill two graduation requirements (LAE’s) – one each in the scientific understanding and social foundations categories. The First Year Seminar is required of all incoming students. In addition, students considering a major in environmental science or conservation science may find that this learning community fulfills requirements for the major as well. As another bonus, through class participation and assignments that link environmental ideas to the “real world,” you will become familiar with fellow students who share your interest in the environment.

For more information about Learning Communities at Muskingum College, please contact:

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http://www.muskingum.edu/home/academicaffairs/learningcommunities.html

Application Process: To apply to this learning community, please contact Leigh Williamson at the email or phone number above.

*Note: Admission to People in the World is limited to 12-14 students during the Fall 2007 semester.

People in the World

What impact have people had on the environment? Has it been positive, or negative, or both? Is it easier to destroy the environment than to protect it? Why?

This fall, we invite incoming students to participate in a learning community entitled People in the World, which will address some of these questions. Students participating in this learning community will take a series of classes which will link together to cohesively address larger questions regarding the environment. This opportunity is open to all incoming students, regardless of major.
Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, you will be able to:

- evaluate the role of humans in shaping the environment and environmental processes
- appreciate the variety of different questions and methodologies that varying academic disciplines use to study the Earth and the environment
- be prepared for further work in Environmental Science, Geology, Political Science, or any other major at the College.

Courses linked for the “People in the World” Learning Community

**IDIS 100** – First Year Seminar (1 credit) – provides students with a common academic experience during their first semester. The course offers an extended orientation to the academic environment within a context of common readings, assignments, and activities. The course also introduces students to academic resources on campus.

**POLS 131** – Introduction to World Politics: Understanding the Political World (3 credits) – provides the basic concepts in the study of politics in any society and an understanding of their interaction in the distribution of power and the processes of decision making.

**GEOL 110** – Environmental Geology (4 credits) – focuses on the interaction between humans and the geologic environment. Geologic phenomena such as flooding, volcanoes, earthquakes, shoreline and soil erosion are examined. Environmental problems to be discussed include groundwater pollution, geologic constraints on sewage and solid waste disposal, resource utilization, acid rain and the greenhouse effect. Students will gain a strong understanding of how geology influences many of these environmental problems. This course also involves laboratory work and field trips.

What will we do?

- Readings/classroom discussion of environmental issues
- Service learning activities
- Guest speakers
- Group projects
- Field trips

Who is this program designed for?

The “People in the World” learning community is intended for incoming freshmen interested in studying the Earth and Environment. The only requirement is concurrent registration in IDIS 100, POLS 131, and GEOL 110 to ensure that each participant has something to bring to the table when it comes time to discuss the issues.