

Environmental Protection through the years--What's it all about?

Class Day/Time and Semester:

Spring 2026—Monday, 9:00-10:30am

Location:

MAB2

Instructor Name:

Mary Yeargan

Instructor Contact Information:

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Course Overview/ Description

Everyone wants a clean, healthy environment. How often do you throw out the trash, pour yourself a glass of water, take a deep breath, or flush the toilet? Do you ever consider what it takes to ensure your safety? We have come a long way since the groundbreaking laws of the 1970s and still have a lot to learn and do. We will discuss how industries, municipalities, and private citizens are regulated and think about how we all can be better. Our topics will include air, waste, water, wetlands, and environmental cleanup.

WEEK	TOPIC	NOTES
1 02/02/2026	Introductions and Brief History of Environmental Regulation	PowerPoint and interactive class discussion
2 02/09/2026	Drinking Water	Private well, private supplier, or municipal supply. What is the quality and how do you find out. PowerPoint and interactive class discussion
02/16/2026	NO CLASS	
3 02/23/2026	Stormwater	How to prevent flooding and what is the quality of stormwater—should you let kids play in it? PowerPoint

		and interactive class discussion.
4 03/02/2026	Domestic and Industrial Wastewater	Flush it and/or down the drain, treatment, and treated water discharge— where does it go? Car washes, factories, food processing plant, oil and gas wells, and on and on. PowerPoint and interactive class discussion.
5 03/09/2026	Wetlands	Once a dumping ground and “waste land”, our greatest asset for water purity and flood protection. PowerPoint and interactive class discussion and possible fieldtrip.
03/16/2026	NO CLASS	
6 03/23/2026	Solid Waste	Where does our garbage go? Landfill, Incinerator, biogas production, composting and recycling? PowerPoint and interactive class discussion.
7 03/30/2026	Air	Stationary and mobile sources. How is our health protected? PowerPoint and Possible Guest Speaker.
8 04/06/2026	Superfund--Waste Cleanup -- Brownfields	Federal and Local Programs and local cleanup locations. PowerPoint and interactive class discussion.
9 04/13/2026	Environmental Leaders	Ray Anderson. An environmental epiphany and lessons in putting your money where it counts. Other environmental leaders. PowerPoint and interactive class discussion.