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Earth Systems Science - A Global Perspective
A graduate course on global change issues

Michigan State University
Spring Semester, 1996

Michigan State University has been selected to participate in NASA's Cooperative University-based Earth Systems Science Education (ESSE) program. As part of this program, a graduate course will be offered Spring Semester, 1996. The course is being developed by a consortium of faculty from different disciplines including Stuart Gage, Michael Velbel, Patrick Webber, David Long and Bryan Pijanowski.

This 2-credit course will have two components. First, a weekly lecture series will feature invited speakers with expertise and knowledge about global change issues. The second component will involve participation in a weekly 2-hour workshop-laboratory. A systems approach will be used to investigate issues such as global climate dynamics, biogeochemical cycles and human impacts.

During the course, student groups will study, discuss and evaluate global change issues and models and will participate in the development of new earth systems science concepts associated with global change. Students will be provided access to computing and technology associated with global change and will use information and knowledge developed at MSU, at NASA as part of the ESSE program and by the Consortium of International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) which is charged by NASA with development of access to information associated with social dimensions of global change. Students will also have on-line access to the World Wide Web to explore and gather global change information, models and imagery. The class will develop an MSU-ESSE Web Page based on knowledge generated during the special seminars and workshops.

Students interest in participation and details for enrollment in this Earth Systems Science Education (ESSE) graduate course should contact Stuart Gage via E-mail (23027shg@msu.edu). Enrollment may not exceed 25 students due to limited laboratory space. Grades will be based on student participation in the group projects. Classes will be held in Room 150 Natural Science Building in the Natural Science Computing and Technology Teaching Laboratory.