Environmental Science
This course begins with an introduction to systems science, the Laws of Thermodynamics and an examination of Earth systems, including the energy, rock, hydrologic, carbon and nitrogen cycles and interactions between them. Much of the course is centered around water: glacial landforms and the Ice Age, stream processes, fluvial landforms, wetlands, groundwater, river systems and the development of human civilization, and human impacts on water resources. The course also deals with ecology, ecosystems and populations and how these are manifested in diverse biomes around the world. Research papers and presentations give students opportunities to explore topics of their own choosing that connect to topics addressed in class. Field trips are an integral part of the course.