

Principles of Environmental Science/Environmental Studies

BIO K180/ENV K101; Fall 2015; Monday Nights 6:30-9:15 PM; Room D221

Instructor:

Elizabeth K. Timpe

Office Hours: upon appointment

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Text*:

Environmental Science: Toward a Sustainable Future, 12th ed.

Richard T. Wright, Dorothy E. Boorse

(ISBN 0321811534)

**The purpose of the assigned textbook reading is to give you another version of the material. You are not expected to know everything in the chapters assigned; however, you should go over your lecture notes outside of class, and use the textbook to fill in places where your notes are lacking.*

Course Description

This is an introductory course in environmental studies that introduces ecological principles and a global perspective on environmental problems such as deforestation, global climate change, droughts, floods, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and pollutants. It describes, in detail, the study of the biological, chemical, and physical aspects of the environment and related issues, highlighting sound science, sustainability, and stewardship. Additionally, this course emphasizes a global and cross-cultural perspective on issues pertaining to environmental science, including discussions on human population expansion, environmental racism, socioeconomic stratification, global stewardship, social modernization, and establishing a framework for achieving a sustainable future.

Course Outcomes

The student will:

- Develop an understanding of their own personal impact on the environment.
- Develop a global perspective of environmental issues.
- Evaluate the relationship between human population growth and other environmental problems.
- Show an understanding of the political, social, and economic factors in environmental management.
- Describe the structure and function of ecosystem components .
- Evaluate solutions to human population problems.

Course Goals

Students will have a greater understanding of how interconnected the environment is and how humans are connected to the environment. Students will learn to recognize that different environments do not exist in isolation, that actions by nature and humans can have positive and negative consequences. Students will explore their own actions and beliefs about the environment and environmental issues.

Class Schedule

Day	Date	Chapter	Lecture Topic	Assignments
1	Aug 31	1; 2	Introduction to course; Framework for a Sustainable Future; Economics, Politics and Public Policy;	Film: A FIERCE GREEN FIRE HW: Ecological Footprint Assignment (Due Sept 14th)
2	Sept 14	3; 4	Basic Needs of Living Things; Populations and Communities	
3	Sept 21	5; 7	Ecosystems: Energy, Patterns, and Disturbance; The Use and Restoration of Ecosystems	
4	Sept 28	8; 9	The Human Population; Population and Development	
5	Oct 5	6; 10	Wild Species and Biodiversity; Water: Hydrologic Cycle and Human Use	Film: TAPPED
6	Oct 19	11	Soil: The Foundations for Land Ecosystems; Review	Film: DIRT! HW: 1st Film Reaction Paper (Due Nov 2nd)
7	Oct 26		MIDTERM (Chapters 1-11)	
8	Nov 2	12; 13	The Production and Distribution of Food; Pests and Pest Control	Film: FED UP
9	Nov 9	14	Energy from Fossil Fuels	Film: GASLAND/GASLAND 2 HW: Transportation Use and Expense Assignment (Due Nov 23rd)
10	Nov 16	15	Nuclear Power	
11	Nov 23	16; 17	Renewable Energy; Environmental Hazards and Human Health	
12	Nov 30	18; 19	Global Climate Change; Atmospheric Pollution	
13	Dec 7	20; 21	Water Pollution and Its Prevention; Municipal Solid Waste: Disposal and Recovery	Film: PLASTIC PARADISE HW: Trash Log and Report (Due Dec 14)
14	Dec 14	22; 23	Hazardous Chemicals: Pollution and Prevention; Stewardship for a Sustainable Future; Review	HW: 2nd Film Reaction Paper (Due Dec 21st)
15	Dec 21		FINAL EXAM (Chapters 12-23)	

*Information on assignments (e.g., current topics and movie reaction papers, transportation use assignment, trash log) will be provided to you closer to the due date on *Blackboard*.

Grading

Letter Grade	Point Range
A	93-100+
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-83.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
F	59.9 and below

Assignments & Exams	Percentage
Midterm (Chapters 1–11)	25%
My Ecological Footprint Assignment (http://www.earthday.org/footprint-calculator)	5%
3-page Film Reaction Papers (x2) (1 on <i>A Fierce Green Fire</i> , <i>Tapped</i> , or <i>Dirt!</i> ; 1 on <i>Fed Up</i> , <i>Gasland</i> , or <i>Plastic Paradise</i>)	10% each, 20% total
Transportation Use and Expense Assignment	5%
Trash Log	10%
Final (Chapters 12–23)	25%
Attendance and Class Participation	10%

FAQs

- 1) Are lectures posted online?** *Yes. They will be available on Blackboard Learn shortly before the scheduled lecture.*
- 2) Do you provide a study guide?** *Yes. Check Blackboard two weeks before the exam.*
- 3) Are there opportunities for extra credit?** *Maybe. It will depend on the class' performance on the first exam.*
- 4) Is attendance mandatory?** *Yes! If there is an emergency or illness, contact me BEFORE class so that I can make arrangements to provide you with any missed materials.*
- 5) What's the easiest way to get into contact with you?** *Email. The email I check most frequently is my etimpe@gmail.com account.*

Classroom Policies

Attendance

In order to keep up with the accelerated pace of this course (15 sessions), as well as to earn the maximum amount for your course participation grade, attendance is expected of each student. Of course if you fall ill or have an emergency, please notify me via email **BEFORE** the missed class period and I will make sure to pass along all necessary information. **There will be no makeups allowed for missed exams!**

Blackboard

Important information pertaining to this course will be posted on *Blackboard Learn*, including announcements, assignment instructions, lecture slides, study guides, grades, etc. Please check regularly!

Cell Phones

As a member of the learning community, each student has a responsibility to other students and the instructor who are members of the community. When cell phones ring and students respond in class or leave class to respond, it disrupts the class. Therefore the use of cell phones (including texting) in non-emergency situations is prohibited during class. Cell phones must be turned off or put in a silent (vibrate) mode and ordinarily should not be taken out during class.

Late/Missed Work

All assignments are due by the date posted in the syllabus, unless otherwise specified. Worked turned in 1-week late will receive a 10% grade reduction. After this time the assignment will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.

Digication

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

Academic Conduct

Academic misconduct in any form is in violation of the Student Code and will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, copying or sharing answers on exams, plagiarism, and having someone else do your academic work. Depending on the act, a student could receive a failing grade on a particular assignment/test, a failing grade for the course, or be suspended or expelled.

For your knowledge, cheating and plagiarism are defined below:

Cheating is defined as the giving of assistance to another or the receiving of assistance from another person, another examination paper, other written material, or any source not explicitly permitted by the instructor; is cheating. Thus, you may not look at another's paper or answers; you may not show your paper or answers to another or leave your paper or answers around for others to look at; and, you may not verbally read or reveal your answers to another. It is also cheating to have access, without the instructor's approval, to examination, quiz, or test questions prior to the administration of the examination, quiz, or test. Plagiarism is the submission or presentation of ideas or work in any form that are not one's own without appropriate acknowledgement of the source(s). Even with the acknowledgement, close paraphrasing can constitute plagiarism. You may quote the work of others if properly referenced.

Students with Learning Disabilities

If you need special accommodations for testing (e.g., extra time), please let me know as soon as possible.

Please go on the college website at <http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/SecTier/stuserv.html> to view all student resources and related information, as well as the student handbook.