

Methods in Environmental Science
ESCI 2301 (27677, 27678)
BIO 326/309, W 1:30-4:30
Spring 2016

Instructors:

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Office Hours: by appointment

Dr. Lixin Jin, Office: GEOL 221A, Tel: 747-5559, email: ljin2@utep.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Dr. Elizabeth Walsh, Office: BIOL 218, Tel: 747-5421, email: ewalsh@utep.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Required Textbook: NONE

Goals:

In this sophomore-level course, team projects will be designed to solve local environmental problems, and through hands-on experiences, students will be trained to carry out field work , including collecting data using state-of-the-art instruments and techniques, analyze their own data as well as larger, more complex datasets. Through these experiences students will be involved in environmental outreach activities to the local community.

The objectives are to:

1. Increase awareness of specific environmental issues;
2. Demonstrate how new scientific knowledge is established and hypotheses are tested;
3. Encourage team work and group discussion; and
4. Improve analytical, writing and oral skills.

Tentative Schedule

- All are Wednesdays, except the last Friday – as indicated.

Date	Topic
Jan. 20	Experimental design (Lougheed)
Jan 27	Statistics (Lougheed)
Feb. 3	Quiz 1; Intro to soil salinity (Jin)
Feb. 10	Soil salinity field trip (Jin)
Feb. 17	No UTEP classes on Feb. 17.
Feb. 24	Soil salinity (Jin)
Mar 2	Soil salinity (Jin)
Mar 9	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 16	Quiz 2; Review
Mar. 23	Ecoinformatics field trips (ALL DAY)

Mar. 30	Ecoinformatics (Lougheed)
Apr. 6	Ecoinformatics (Lougheed)
Apr. 13	Water quality and biodiversity (Walsh)
Apr. 20	Water quality and biodiversity field trip (Walsh)
Apr. 27	Water quality and biodiversity field trip (Walsh)
May 4	Quiz 3; Water quality and biodiversity (Walsh)
Fri, May 6	<i>Synthesis, evaluation</i>
May 9	Exam week (final exam); Wed. 4:00-6:45

Grades:

Reports and In-class assignments (45%).

Quizzes (3 @ 5% each) (15%).

Final exam (comprehensive) (25%).

Attendance, participation and peer evaluation (15%).

Lecture notes, instructions, rubrics for reports and grades will be posted on Blackboard.

Course policies:

Class participation:

You are expected to come to class prepared to answer questions about the assigned readings or other materials.

E-mail and Blackboard:

You are required to provide the teaching team with a UTEP e-mail address and check your UTEP e-mail and Blackboard daily. We will use your UTEP e-mail to contact you and you will use your UTEP e-mail to contact us as well. *Do not use Blackboard for e-mail.*

Dropping the course:

Students may drop the class and receive a W (withdrawal) on their transcript prior to April 1st, 2016. You must consult the Instructor prior to dropping. Due to the University's six-drop rule, dropping the course may not be in your best interest. After April 1st, a drop will result in an F on your transcript. Receiving either a W or an F in any course may prevent you from meeting the satisfactory Academic Progress requirements necessary to receive financial aid.

Student Conduct:

Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' [Rules and Regulations](http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm), available at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>. All students are expected to behave as courteous, responsible adults. We will have frequent discussions and students are expected to tolerate and respect the opinions of others.

Cellular and electronic devices:

Cell phones and other electronic and recording devices must be turned off during class time to minimize classroom disruptions and protect the integrity of test-taking situations. This means you cannot make calls, send text messages, or use social

media during class. You may use your laptop or tablet to take notes in class, but this privilege will be revoked if the devices are used inappropriately.

Students who fail to follow this rule may incur disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the class and upon repeated offenses, the course.

Final Exam:

[From the online Schedule of Classes] “Exemption from final examination may not be given. Final examinations are scheduled to be two hours, forty-five minutes in length and take place during the final examination period. It is the policy of the university not to administer a second final examination in the course. It is also university policy that students shall not have more than two final examinations in a single day. In the unlikely event that the examination schedule results in a student having three final examinations on a single day, the faculty member upon the request of the student shall reschedule the second of that student’s three examinations.”

Academic Integrity:

All graded assignments must be entirely the work of the *individual* student. *“Plagiarism” means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one’s own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.* (from the Regents’ [Rules and Regulations](#)) Plagiarism is a serious violation of university policy and will not be tolerated. All cases of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students for further review.

Disability accommodations:

If you have or suspect you might have a disability and need an accommodation you should contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. Students are responsible for providing any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.