

ESCI 1301 – Introduction to Environmental Science - Fall 2023

M&W 12:00-1:20 – Physical Sciences 115

Instructor - James Kubicki

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Office hours - By appointment in-person or online

Teaching Assistant – Amorita Armendariz - amarmendariz@miners.utep.edu

PASS Leader – TBA –

Required Textbook – *Essential Environment* – Withgott & Laposata 6th ed.

The drop date for courses is November 3, 2023.

After that date, the College of Science will not approve any course withdrawals. If the student withdraws from all courses for medical or other reasons, there can be exceptions.

Any cheating or plagiarism will be dealt with according to University policy (see statement at the bottom of the syllabus).

Notes - 30% - Take notes on each lecture and submit by 5 PM Friday each week as a Word or PDF file via Blackboard.

Packback Homework - 30% - Connect to Packback website via Blackboard.

Submit before 5:00 PM each Wednesday. Answer Professor question, 1 response to 1 student question, and ask your own question (1 point each)

Exams – 40% - Mid-term & final 20% each. Final is not cumulative.

Date	Reading	Lecture Topic	Homework Packback & Exams
8/28	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	
8/30	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	Packback 1 due
9/6	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	
9/11	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	
9/13	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	Packback 2 due
9/18	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	
9/20	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	Packback 3 due
9/25	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	
9/27	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	Packback 4 due

10/2	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	
10/4	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	Packback 5 due
10/9	Ch. 6	Human Population	
10/11	Ch. 6	Human Population	Packback 6 due
10/16	Ch. 7	Food & Soils	(Lecture on Blackboard I will be at a conference)
10/18		Exam #1	
10/23	Ch. 12	Surface Water	
10/25	Ch. 12	Groundwater	Packback 7 due
10/30	Ch. 13	Atmosphere	
11/1	Ch. 13	Air Pollution	Packback 8 due
11/6	Ch. 14	Climate Change - Paleoclimate	
11/8	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Greenhouse Effect	Packback 9 due
11/13	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Models & Feedbacks	
11/15	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Impacts	Packback 10 due
11/20	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	
11/27	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	
11/29	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy - Nuclear	Packback 11 due
12/4	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy – Solar & Wind	
12/6	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy - Biomass	Packback 12 due
		Final Exam – TBA	

Disabilities: I will make reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for

Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: sa.utep.edu/cass

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Fax: (915) 747-8712

E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Packback requires a \$39 paid subscription

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmigrD68>

Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward **30%** of your overall course grade.

There will be a **Wednesday deadline** for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- **Insert your class's posting requirements per deadline period here - you can find this info in your Packback Community for reference!** (<https://app.packback.co/my->

[communities/upcoming-communities\)](#)

- **Ex: 1 Question, worth 1 point**
- **2 responses, worth 1 point each**
- **All posts must achieve a minimum of 50 Curiosity Points to receive full credit**

How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through **Blackboard** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click "Packback" within **Blackboard** to access the community.
2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
3. **In order for your grade to be visible in Blackboard**, make sure to only access Packback via **Blackboard**