

COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

ESCI 1301 – Introduction to Environmental Science – Spring 2023

M&W 9:00-10:20 – GEOL 123

Instructor - James Kubicki

Phone: 747-5501 e-mail: jdkubicki@utep.edu

Office hours - By appointment in-person or online

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

PASS Leader – Valeria Behar - vbehar@miners.utep.edu

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

The drop date for courses is March 30, 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% - Homework on Packback website -
<https://www.packback.co/> (See bottom of syllabus for instructions.)**

Community Lookup Key: 14112758-e61a-47fc-ae82-35f923f128eb

Submit before class (9:00 AM) 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
1/18	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	
1/23	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	
1/25	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	Packback 1 due
1/30	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	
2/1	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	Packback 2 due
2/6	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	<i>Via Zoom</i>
2/8	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	Packback 3 due
2/13	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	
2/15	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	Packback 4 due
2/20	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	
2/22	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	Packback 5 due
2/27	Ch. 6	Human Population	
3/6	Ch. 7	Food & Soils	Packback 6 due
3/8		Exam #1	
3/20	Ch. 12	Surface Water	
3/22	Ch. 12	Groundwater	Packback 7 due
3/27	Ch. 13	Atmosphere	<i>Via Zoom</i>
3/29	Ch. 13	Air Pollution	Packback 8 due
4/3	Ch. 14	Climate Change - Paleoclimate	
4/5	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Greenhouse Effect	Packback 9 due
4/10	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Models & Feedbacks	
4/12	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Impacts	Packback 10 due
4/17	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	
4/19	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	Packback 11 due

4/24	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy - Nuclear	
4/26	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy – Solar & Wind	Packback 12 due
5/1	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy - Biomass	
5/3		Review	
		Final – To be arranged – 123 GEOL	

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 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.

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Packback Requirements:

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

There will be a Weekly Wednesday at 2:00PM MST deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 30, worth 1pt of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 30, worth 2pts of each assignment grade

How to Register on Packback:

An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://app.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.
Community Lookup Key: **b538bc0b-9a99-4144-a2dc-e704605d81ad**
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

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=OV7QmkrD68>