

**ESCI 1301 – Introduction to Environmental Science – Spring 2024**

**Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-1:20 – UGLC 346**

**Instructor - James Kubicki**

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**Office hours - By appointment in-person or online**

**Teaching Assistant – Amorita Armendariz - [amarmendariz@miners.utep.edu](mailto:amarmendariz@miners.utep.edu)**

**PASS Leader – Miranda Smith-Polette -  
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**Required Textbook – *Essential Environment* – Withgott & Laposata 6th ed.**

**The drop date for courses is March 28, 2024.**

**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 Friday. 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.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Notes, Packback &amp; Exams</b>
1/16	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	
1/18	Ch. 1	Science & Sustainability	Notes & Packback 1 due
1/23	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	
1/25	Ch. 5	Environmental Policy & Justice	Notes & Packback 2 due
1/30	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	
2/1	Ch. 2	Biogeochemical Cycles	Notes & Packback 3 due
2/6	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	
2/8	Ch. 3	Evolution, Biodiversity & Ecology	Notes & Packback 4 due

2/13	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	
2/15	Ch. 4	Species Interaction & Community Ecology	Notes & Packback 5 due
2/20	Ch. 6	Human Population	
2/22	Ch. 6	Human Population	Notes & Packback 6 due
2/27	Ch. 7	Food & Soils	
2/29	Ch. 7	Food & Soils	Notes & Packback 7 due Happy Leap Day!
3/5		<b>Review</b>	
3/7		<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	
3/19	Ch. 12	Surface Water	
3/21	Ch. 12	Groundwater	Notes & Packback 7 due
3/26	Ch. 13	Atmosphere	
3/28	Ch. 13	Air Pollution	Notes & Packback 8 due
4/2	Ch. 14	Climate Change - Paleoclimate	
4/4	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Greenhouse Effect	Notes & Packback 9 due
4/9	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Models & Feedbacks	
4/11	Ch. 14	Climate Change – Impacts	Notes & Packback 10 due
4/16	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	
4/18	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy – Petroleum/Gas	Notes & Packback 11 due
4/23	Ch. 15	Non-renewable Energy - Nuclear	
4/25	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy – Solar & Wind	Notes & Packback 12 due
4/30	Ch. 16	Renewable Energy - Biomass	
5/2		<b>Review</b>	
		<b>Final Exam – To be arranged</b>	

**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](http://sa.utep.edu/cass)

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Fax: (915) 747-8712

E-Mail: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

Student Success Help Desk (SSHD) at [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@utep.edu). The email will create a ticket and one of the dedicated staff members will contact and assist students immediately.

[https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html](https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html)



**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](https://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto: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>

## 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 **Friday 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**