

**ESCI 1301 -- INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ()
CRN 16015 and 17015**

Richard Langford Geology 401B, 747-5968, email: langford@utep.edu

Lecture: Tues., Thurs. 12:00-1:20 PM, UGLC 220

Office Hours: Tues., Thurs. 1:30-2:30 PM or by appointment

TA Xuyang Liu -- xliu3@miners.utep.edu

Required Text: *Essential Environment: The Science behind the Stories, 5th Edition*, J. Withgott and M. Laposata, Addison Wesley, 2012, ISBN 978-0-321-98457-9

Supplemental lecture material (e.g., copies of power points, knowledge surveys, group assignments, handouts, supplemental readings, links to useful websites) will be available at the class Blackboard site

IF you are in CRN 17015 is part of your learning community along with ESCI 1101 (13456) (W 1:30-4:20) and UNIV 1301 (CRN 11185) (MWF 11:30-12:20). You must remain registered in all sections through the census day. Several assignments in this class will be shared/expanded upon for other courses in this learning community.

Goals for Knowledge – at the end of this course you should:

- know basic vocabulary of environmental science
- understand and apply the principles of the scientific method
- understand the foundations of environmental science including chemistry and physics of matter, energy flow, and biogeochemical cycles
- learn how evolution, biological diversity, ecology and species interactions drive natural ecosystems
- understand how economics, politics and public policy influence human interactions with the natural environment
- understand the environmental challenges that face the U.S. and the world including: global climate change, population growth, consumption of non-renewable energy resources, land use, and degradation of soil, air and water

Goals for Skills – at the end of this class you should:

- be able to make and read basic charts and graphs
- locate key features on maps
- be able to converse with scientists or the general public on basic issues related to the environment
- be able to assess information and issues related to environmental science both in our local community and at a global level

How will I determine if you have reached these goals?

- bi-weekly in-class exams (see schedule)
- quizzes

Introduction to Environmental Science

- in-class assignments/activities
- reading reflections
- other activities (e.g, trip to a museum, attending a presentation)
- (see grading details that follow)

Course Outline (lectures)

NOTE: This syllabus is an approximation of what we will cover. Please check Blackboard for updated reviews/knowledge surveys of material that will be emphasized on exams. These will usually be posted the Friday before the exam.

Week of:	Topic	Chapters	Exams
Aug. 28	Understanding our environment	1	
Sept 4,	Environmental systems and cycles	2	
Sept. 11	Environmental Economics and Policy Environmental Justice	5	
Population and Community Ecology			
Sept. 18	Evolution, biodiversity and population ecology	3	Sept. 21
Sept. 25	Community ecology and biomes	4	
Human Population, Food, Soils			
Oct. 2	Human Population	6	
Oct. 9	Agriculture, Food, Soils	7	Oct. 10
Water: surface and groundwater			
Oct. 16	Water/Environmental Justice	12	
Oct. 20	Groundwater	12	
Atmosphere, Air Pollution			
Oct. 24	The Atmosphere and Air Pollution	13	Oct 27
Climate Change			
Nov. 6	Climate Change	14	
Nov. 13	Climate Change	14	Nov. 16
Energy			
Nov. 20	Energy (renewable/nonrenewable)	15	
Nov. 27	Energy (renewable/nonrenewable)	16	Nov. 30
Other			
Dec. 5	Local Environmental Issues		
Dec. 7			Dec 7
Dec 12	100 :3:45		Fnial Exam

Other Important Dates:

- November 3 – last day to drop class with “W”
- Nov. – 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

Introduction to Environmental Science

Grading:

Exams (6 in-class, 1 during finals week, 40 points each)	280 points
Reading reflections (14 x 5 points each)	70 points
In-class activities, homework	140 points
Quizzes (5 x 5 points each)	40 points
<u>Total:</u>	<u>500 points</u>

A= above 476 points

B= 424-476 points

C= 371-423 points

D= 318-370 points

F=below 318 points

A note on exams:

There will be six in-class, tests every second week. Exams will be given on the Thursdays indicated in the syllabus. The last test will be given during the final exam period AND there will also be an opportunity to take an optional exam if you missed any exam or want to try and improve your grade (I will replace your lowest exam grade if you score higher on the optional exam, if you score lower it will not count against you). All of the 7 regular exams will include multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, and short answer questions. Some questions will involve the interpretation of diagrams or graphs. I will usually post knowledge surveys on Blackboard before we cover the material in class activities. Then I will then update the knowledge survey the Friday before the next exam to help you to prepare for the exam. Just reading the book over and over will not help you to study! Try to organize a study group or come to special group study sessions with the teaching assistant. Please come on time for all class activities and exams. *Once the first person hands in their exam no one walking in late will be allowed to take the exam.*

Exam policy: If you miss an exam for any reason you must contact me within 24 hours of the exam. I will be happy to work with you to schedule an exam early, however, make-up exams will be only be given for illness (doctor's note needed), absence with instructor's prior approval when a student is on official University business (documentation required. Make-up exams will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience. Please note that make-up exams are more difficult than a regular exam (e.g., more essay questions, graphs to interpret, etc.). The optional exam given during finals week is your opportunity to replace any exam you missed for any reason.

Incomplete grades: All grades of Incomplete are accompanied by an Incomplete Contract that has been signed by the instructor of record, student, departmental chair, and the dean. Incomplete grades are only given for specific circumstances that do not allow a student to finish the course before grades need to be turned in.

Drop Date: The UTEP Fall 2016 drop deadline is NOV 3. The College of Science will not approve any drop requests after that date.

Introduction to Environmental Science

Attendance, Quizzes, Group Activities: I don't take attendance, but a lot of your grade comes from class group activities and reading reflections. If you aren't here, it hurts your grade. Some of the material we cover in class will not be in the book. Questions related to group activities and quizzes will be on exams. Note these quizzes/activities are 34% of your final grade. There are NO makeup quizzes. If you miss a group activity you can request that I email the activity to you and you can complete it outside of class for partial credit. It must be turned in before the start of the next class.

Class participation: I want you to be active and engaged in learning in this class, not just sitting back and taking notes. That is why I break up lectures into small chunks with group activities.

You should read the book assignments before class, you will be required to submit a reading reflection to the class Blackboard site every Tuesday by 8 AM on the material to be covered that week. Note that these reflections count 13% of your class grade. This way we can spend more class time exploring how the book material relates to what is going on here in the El Paso region, the nation and the world. PLEASE try to get a copy of the book as soon as possible %th and older additions are fine. You don't need the digital materials. !

Voting cards are provided to help with feedback in class. If you lose your card you may print out another from the Blackboard site. Use crayons/markers if you don't have access to a color printer,

Group activities – you will be assigned a group to work with all semester and hand in group work at least once a week.

Extra Credit Options: I will have a variety of extra credit options posted on the Blackboard site. These options allow you to find out more about environmental issues, volunteer/participate in local environmental activities, go on field trips, etc. Each completed option is worth 5 points (maximum of 20 points – equivalent to 4% of your grade in the class). In order to avoid a “last minute rush” on turned in extra credit assignments at the end of the semester I have set up the following deadlines:

Extra credit 1 – due no later than Sept. 20, 8 AM

Extra credit 2 – due no later than Oct. 18, 8 AM

Extra credit 3 – due no later than Nov. 1, 8 AM

Extra credit 4 – due no later than Nov. 22, 8 AM

Class Blackboard site

- 1) Will have copies of the Lectures to be presented each week.
- 2) Copies of knowledge surveys, and in-class assignments
- 3) You will use the site to turn in your reading reflections to the site each week before Tuesday at 8 AM
- 4) Extra Credit Material

- 5) Periodic grade-to-date updates and your final grade for the class

PLEASE try to access Blackboard as soon as possible. There is work you need to submit on Blackboard by The second Tuesday of Class.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty will be dealt within accordance to the procedures outlined in the student handbook and at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> .

Plagiarism: Using another person's ideas, words, drawings, etc. without giving proper credit (through a citation) is considered plagiarism. This includes anything from a book, magazine, technical report or journal, or website. It ALSO includes anything copied from another student's paper or from a paper you wrote for another class where you received credit for it. Plagiarism is considered *Academic Dishonesty*. If you plagiarize as a professional it can cost you your job! Please see additional material at the Blackboard site on how to properly cite references. Get help from Technology Support sooner rather than later.

Military status: If you are a military student with the potential of being called into military service and/or training during the course of the semester please contact me in advance and we'll work something out.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability and believe you may need accommodations in my class, contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu within the first *two weeks* of class. They are located in room 106 of the East Union Building. I will work with you and CASS to make sure you have everything you need to succeed.

Phones, Computers and Disruptive Activities: You are encouraged to bring your cell phones, laptops, and tablets to class to take notes or to investigate problems on the internet for group activities. But don't waste time on non-class activities in class. Please put cell phones on silent. Please note that studies have shown that students who text, watch movies, surf the web, etc. during class rather than paying attention usually score 3 to 4% lower in the course. If you interrupt the class by talking loudly, rudely, or otherwise bother your classmates, I will ask you to stop and give you a warning. If this disruptive activity happens a second time during the semester I will ask you to leave class for the rest of the day. During exams or quizzes you must put away all cell phones, tablets and laptops prior to the start of the exam/quiz.