

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (ESCI 1301) Summer 2014

Lecture: Monday through Friday Fri. 9:30-12:20 AM, GEOL 116

Instructor: Dr. Richard Langford Geology 401, 747-5968, email: langford@utep.edu
Office Hours: Mon., Weds. 12:30-2:20 MTWRF

Text for lecture (required): *Essential Environment: The Science behind the Stories*, 4th Edition, J. Withgott and M. Laposata, Addison Wesley, 2012, ISBN 978-0-321-75290-1

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

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS CLASS IS RUNNING FOR A VERY FEW NUMBER OF DAYS. IF YOU MISS A CLASS, ITS UP TO YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU KEEP UP. WE WILL HAVE LECTURE 3 HOURS A DAY AND I'LL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AND ADDITIONAL HELP FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS. **HOWEVER, ITS GOING TO REQUIRE MORE WORK AT HOME BY YOU AND YOU WILL BE HAVING TO TEACH YOURSELF MORE THAN IN A TYPICAL CLASS**

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. Understand how scientists view the “web of life” in the environment.
- 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?

- daily exams either in class or on blackboard (given each Friday at beginning of class!)
 - homework or in-class assignments/activities
 - other activities (e.g, trip to a museum, attending a presentation)
- (see grading details that follow)

Course Outline (lectures)

NOTE THIS SYLLABUS IS APPROXIMATE IN WHAT WE WILL COVER EACH DAY

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Week of:	Topic	Chapters	
May 20	Understanding our environment, Earth systems and cycles	1, 2	
May 21	Evolution and ecology	3	
May 22	Ecology and biomes	4	
May 23	Environmental Economics and Policy, Human Population	5	
May 24	Agriculture, Food, Soils	6,7	
May 28	Forests/Health/Toxicology Biodiversity/Forests	7/8/9/10	
May 29	Geology Geologic Hazards/Water	10/11/12	
May 30	Water/Air	11/12	
May 31	Climate Change/ Energy (renewable/nonrenewable)	14/15/16	
June 1	Final Exam time Make up and turn in projects		

Grading:

Exams (9 on blackboard and in class)	250 points
Homework/in-class activities	50 points
Total	300 points
A= above 275 points	
B= 250-275 points	
C= 220-250 points	
D= 180-220 points	
F=below 180 points	

A note on exams:

There will be 9-exam (no mid-term or final. Some of these will be in-class and most will be on the Web. WE WILL DROP THE LOWEST EXAM SCORE IN CLASS, AND THE LOWEST TWO ON THE WEB. THIS IS BECAUSE THERE WILL BE ABSENCES AND COMPUTER ISSUES RELATED TO BLACKBOARD. I'll try to make sure that instructions are clear, but you need to make sure that you follow the instructions in blackboard). The test on the last day can be taken. If you fall behind, we will use the final exam time on Saturday the 1st as a makeup test and lecture time. The tests will include multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, matching and short answer. The multiple choice and matching questions will be instantly graded so you know how you did. I will grade the short answer and fill in the blank as soon as possible. Some questions will involve the interpretation of diagrams or graphs. I will post an study guides on each chapter in Blackboard before I cover material in class so you can use the study guide, the class power points, and your book to prepare for the upcoming classes and exams.

Exam policy: If you miss an exam for any reason you must contact me within 24 hours of the exam. No make-up exams will be given for reasons other than illness (doctor's note needed), absence with instructor's prior approval, or when a student is on official University business (documentation required).

Attendance: I will not take attendance in lecture, but it is very important you come to class. Some of the material I will talk about will not be in the book. Also in-class activities and quizzes will count for 50 points of your grade.

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 sections with activities interspersed between them. Many studies have found this is the best way to learn and retain material. Also, once you leave the university who is going to give you lectures on what you need to know? This may be different from what you are used to. I want you to read the chapter before you come to class and look over the study guide and power points so that we can spend more class time exploring how the chapter relates to what is going on here in the El Paso region, the nation and the world. There are three main ways I will encourage your participation in class: a) think/pair/share activities – I will ask you to turn to someone next to you and discuss an important topic, and will call on various groups to provide their answers at the end of the discussion time, b) voting with color card – each of you will be given a voting card and I will explain how to use them. I expect you to bring them to every class since we will be voting several times each class – voting cards mean you don't have to buy an expensive clicker – it's low tech but works well! If you lose your card you may print out another from the Blackboard site. You must insure the card has the proper colors (use crayons/markers if you don't have access to a color printer), c) open questions to the full class – I hope you will feel confident/comfortable at some point early in the semester to directly interact with me and provide answers to the questions I pose in class.

Class assignments: We will have a couple of homework assignments to help you understand the material. They will typically be due 1 or two days after assignment.

Contacting me: The best way to contact me is by phone at 747-5968, which I usually keep forwarded to my cell. I don't often check the Blackboard site.

Blackboard: I post copies of lectures, review sheets, and homework assignments on the blackboard site. I will also use Blackboard to post your exam, quiz, homework, and extra credit scores. I will try my very best to post exam scores as soon as possible.

If you haven't used Blackboard much, here are some instructions:

*Go to the UTEP home page (www.utep.edu)

*Click on My.UTEP.edu Login located right below the UTEP banner

*Sign on to My UTEP (box at upper right)

*Click on BLACKBOARD right below banner

*Click on the ESCI 1301 course that should show up in your course list (in the middle panel)

*Click on "Course Content" on the Course Tools tab

You will find folders with labels such as "Reviews" "Lectures", etc.

You will also see announcements of on-line quizzes.

*To see your grades click on "My Grades" on the My Tools tab

How to ace this class:

Before each class:

Read the assigned chapters, look over the power points and review guide

Identify concepts that are central to the issues to be covered

Make a list of questions of points in the book, readings, graphs, etc. list the things you don't understand.

During each class:

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Bring your book. I may discuss figures or diagrams that will be easier to see in the book. You can also bring a copy of the power points (either printed out or on your laptop, tablet, etc.) and take notes on it

Be an active participant, sometimes I will ask the class to answer questions, discuss topics, etc.
After each class:

Review and update your notes. Do you still have questions? If so, be sure to ask them in the next class or email me.

Look at the review guides and make sure you can answer the practice exam questions.

Study by rewriting your notes, forming a study group to ask each other questions, drawing pictures, talking to yourself, whatever works best for you.

Finally, be careful in taking the quizzes to make sure you have answered each question.

Academic Honesty: The Geological Sciences Department has gone to great lengths in order to make learning the material easier than engaging in scholastic dishonesty, which is defined in the UTEP Student Handbook and also at <http://www.utep.edu/dos>. Proven violations of these detailed regulations may result in any of the consequences outlined in the Student Handbook.

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* and you may be reported to the Dean of Students if I suspect you of plagiarism. I regularly randomly compare students' papers for similar wording and conduct internet searches on suspicious text. If you plagiarize as a professional it can cost you your job!

Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability and believe you may need accommodations in my class you are encouraged to contact the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 915-747-5148 or dss@utep.edu within the first two weeks of class. They are located in room 106 or the East Union Building. I will work with you and DSSO to find accommodations that will help lead to success in my course.

Phones, Computers and Disruptive Activities: Cellular phones and pagers are to be turned off or placed in silent mode during class. I encourage you to bring a laptop or tablet if you want to take notes on it or view the power points as I cover them in class. Laptops should not be used to surf the web, write emails, or other non-class related activities. If you interrupt the class by talking loudly/excessively, texting or using your computer for non-class activities I will ask you to stop and give you a warning. If this activity happens a second time during the semester I will ask you to leave class for the rest of the day. These activities are distracting to the students around you who would like to give the class their full attention. On the days of exams or quizzes you must put away all cell phones, pagers and laptops prior to the start of the exam/quiz.