ESCI 1301 – Introduction to Environmental Science  
Spring 2024 (CRN 24805)  
T&Th 9:00AM-10:20AM  
Geology Building, Room 123

Instructor: Dr. Mark Engle (he/him) maengle@utep.edu - UTEP email is my preferred communication, not Blackboard message  
Office: Geology Building 302A  
Office hours: Tuesday 8AM-9AM. Otherwise, email me.

ESCI 1301 is introduction to environmental science, emphasizing the multi-disciplinary approach required to document, understand, and solve environmental problems. Topics include such large-scale challenges as global warming, deforestation, and energy consumption, as well as more local problems such as water and air quality, organic and inorganic toxins, and human health. Material of regional and current interest is incorporated.

Required Textbook

Essential Environment  
Withgott & Laposata 6th edition

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

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 upon approval by COS.

Attendance/Lectures:  
Attendance, which is key to success in this class, is mandatory. Given on-going and very real concerns about COVID-19, please do not physically come to class if you are feeling
Rather, please email me at least 24 hours prior to the start of class and I will forward you a Zoom link. However, I will not be recording the Zoom meetings and will not continuously provide them. I have found that students who attend remotely generally perform much worse in the class than students that attend the live lectures.

To encourage attendance, I will describe assignments in the lectures (either a concept sketches or something else). In addition, I will use the iClicker software to ask questions of you during class. Your response to those questions will be recorded and included in your final grade.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade is based on your total score from the categories described below.

Grade Distribution (percentage of total points):

100%–90% = A  89%–80% = B  79%–70% = C  69%–60% = D  59% and Below = F

1) Homework and reading assignments: Reading assignments are required; homework and quizzes will be given out according to schedule. The weekly assignments will need to be uploaded to Blackboard by Friday at 5 PM for the week assigned. Each assignment or concept sketch will be worth 10 points towards your final grade. There will be no make-ups or extensions on assignments! Please see extra credit section below as an alternative.

2) Notes 20%: In-class personal notes for the lectures are required for this class. The notes can be electronic or hand-written, with lecture slides provided on your Blackboard every week. Submit by 5 PM Friday each week via BlackBoard. Each lecture’s worth of notes are worth 5 points towards your final grade. There will be no make-ups or extensions on notes submission! Please see extra credit section below as an alternative.

3) Three exams – each exam is worth 50-100 points towards your final grade. See schedule for tentative dates. There will be no makeup exams!!!

4) During regular lectures I will ask questions of you using the cloud-based iClicker software. This will help me understand what you know, give everyone a chance to participate in class, and increase how much you learn when we are in class together. This will also provide you with feedback on how well you are comprehending course concepts and help you master challenging concepts. The use of iClicker in this course will account for 100 points toward your final grade.

Extra Credit

There are three extra credit projects that are each worth 10-20 points towards your grade. Please note the assignment deadlines.
1. VIDEO SUMMARY (Due Feb 19 at 5 PM): Watch a Nova, Discovery, National Geographic, or other television, video, documentary, or online special, with an environmental science focus. Write a 2-page summary (letter sized paper, 1.5 spaced, size 11 font, 1” margins), including any relevant information and your thoughts on it. Please don’t use an AI to write it (usually fairly obvious). Worth 10 points.

2. RESEARCH PAPER (Due Apr 1 at 5 PM): Pick an item you own that is composed of earth-derived materials and write a 3-page research paper (letter sized paper, 1.5 spaced, size 11 font, 1” margins, length not including references, figures, or tables) about it. The report needs to include a list of: 1) what materials it is made of (e.g., car tires are made of rubber, which comes from oil); 2) what countries the geologic materials are mined, processes, and recycled in (Google the U.S. Geological Survey’s Mineral Yearbooks); 3) where the item was made and how it was transported to you (think about what fuels were used to get it to you); and 4) can the item be recycled, is it recycled and if so, where is it recycled?; and 5) how this exercise had made you re-think your behaviors. Make sure to include a title, figures or photographs (1 minimum), and references (3 minimum, 2 may be webpages). Make sure to proofread your paper and don’t use AI to write it. Worth 20 points.

3. PAMPHLET (Due Apr 22 at 5 PM): Pick a local hiking trail, nature path, or scenic drive in the El Paso region. Create a pamphlet describing the geology, ecology, biology or other environmental science themed characteristics along the trail that could be used by others to learn about the local region. Your pamphlet should include a title, text, photos, figures, and references (make sure it has all 5!). You should go hike the trail (which will be the fun part!) and observe the features you observe along your hike. Worth 20 points.

Weekly schedule (subject to changes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Important Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Jan 16, 18)</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
<td>Science and Sustainability</td>
<td>Chapter 1 assignment due, Friday (Jan 19) at 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (Jan 23, 25)</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td>Biogeochemical cycles</td>
<td>Chapter 2 assignment due, Friday (Jan 26) at 5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 (Jan 30, Feb 1)</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Justice</td>
<td>Chapter 5 assignment due, Friday (Feb 2) at 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 (Feb 6, 8)</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
<td>Evolution, Biodiversity, and Ecology</td>
<td>Chapter 3 assignment due, Friday (Feb 9) at 5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (Feb 13, 15)</td>
<td>Exam I study guide</td>
<td>Exam I (Feb 8)</td>
<td>Ch. 1, 2, 3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (Feb 20, 22)</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
<td>Species Interactions and Community Ecology</td>
<td>Extra credit 1, due on Feb 19; Chapter 4 assignment due, Friday (Feb 23) at 5PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (Feb 27, 29)</td>
<td>Ch. 6, 7</td>
<td>Human Population/ Food and Soils</td>
<td>Chapter 6/7 assignment due, Friday (Feb 30) at 5PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Exam Study Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 (Mar 5, 7)</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
<td>Water Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (Mar 19, 21)</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
<td>Atmospheric Science and Pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 (Mar 26, 28)</td>
<td>Exam II study guide</td>
<td>Exam II (Mar 21)</td>
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<td>11 (Apr 2, 4)</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
<td>Climate Change: Paleoclimate, Greenhouse Effect</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 (Apr 9, 11)</td>
<td>Ch. 14</td>
<td>Climate Change: Models and Feedbacks, Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (Apr 16, 18)</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
<td>Non-renewable Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 (Apr 23, 25)</td>
<td>Ch. 16</td>
<td>Renewable Energy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (Apr 30, May 2)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Local Environmental Challenges</td>
<td></td>
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**Final Exam**
- **Date and Time**: TBA
- **Study Guide**: Exam III study guide

**Exam III**
- **Chapter**: Ch. 14, 15, 16

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**iClicker**
In order to participate in my iClicker sessions and ensure that your grades are properly reflected in Blackboard, see below for instructions:

- Log into Blackboard and click on the course for this class. Search for the iClicker icon on the Learning Modules Tab and click on it.
- Sign into your iClicker student account from the window that opens.

If you do not have an iClicker student account, create one by clicking "Sign Up!"
It’s free to create an account. You should use your university email address (username@miners.utep.edu) when creating your account. When asked to register a remote device, choose not at this time or skip.

- If you already have an existing account, DO NOT create a new one. If you do not remember your account email or password please contact the UTEP Technology Support HelpDesk.
- Clicking the iClicker link in my Blackboard course will ensure your iClicker grades show up in my Blackboard gradebook when I sync the grades.
- This will also add my iClicker Cloud course to your iClicker student account so you’ll be ready to participate in class.
• It is your responsibility to regularly check your iClicker grades for any discrepancies and bring them to my attention within 48 hours.

Note: Upon signing up for a new account you will see a message about a 14 day free trial. You will not need to purchase a subscription after the 14 day free trial is over because the use of iClicker is provided to you for free by UTEP.

How to participate in my iClicker sessions during each class.
• Each time our class meets, make sure you have selected my course from the main screen of your iClicker Student account.
• When I start a session, click the Join button that appears on your screen, then answer each question I ask in iClicker.
• For all question types except Multiple Choice, make sure you press Send/Enter.

Need help with your iClicker student app?
• If you are having issues connecting to the iClicker student app, check out these iClicker Connectivity Tips.
• Find answers to many of your questions by visiting iclicker.com/support at any time.
• Contact the UTEP Technology Support HelpDesk or email blackboard@utep.edu

Disabilities: I will make any 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.

Below are standard UTEP syllabus components that our class will follow for this semester

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When
having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

COURSE COMMUNICATION: How we will stay in contact with each other

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours**: I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student e-mail account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Announcements**: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Our class meetings are in-person. Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by the completion of the following activities:

- Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Participating in engaging discussions with your peers
- Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.
EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar’s Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing
information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted in this course.

COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources
- **Help Desk**: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources
- **UTEP Library**: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- **University Writing Center (UWC)**: Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS)**: Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- **History Tutoring Center (HTC)**: Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- **RefWorks**: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- **The Miner Learning Center**: Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- **UTEP Edge**: UTEP’s cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students’ assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources
- **Student Success Help Desk (SSHD)**: Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources my submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- **Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- **Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
• **Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

• **UTEP Food Pantry**: Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

UPDATED 1/5/24