Environmental Science - EVS 3000, Section 8666, Spring 2015
T 4-5 (10:40-12:35) & R 5 (11:45-12:35), Black Hall, Room 315

Syllabus

Instructor: Danny Coenen
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Office: Phelps 001 (basement)
Office hours: R 8:40 – 9:20 or by appt.

Course Description
Interactions of humans and their environments, Earth's resources, pollution and environmental management.

Objectives
1) Developing foundational knowledge for the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) undergraduate environmental science degrees (B.S. or B.A.), with specific science content on ecology, Earth's resources (biotic, fuels, minerals), pollution (air, water, land), climate change, environmental management, and valuation.
2) Understanding the complex relationships between humans and the environment.
3) Understanding major environmental problems, their causes, consequences, and possible solutions.
4) Understanding material and energy resources, and associated environmental constraints.
5) Understanding interdisciplinary approaches to evaluating and developing solutions for environmental problems, taking into account scientific and socioeconomic information, and political constraints.
6) Developing and applying technical writing skills, focusing on synthesis of scholarly sources, APA reference/citation formatting, and value-neutral writing.

Prerequisites
It is your responsibility to read and understand this syllabus in its entirety, and be familiar with the UF Honor Code. UF e-mail and Sakai should be checked daily for announcements and other notifications. You must own or have access to a computer capable of playing HTML5 video files. You must watch and understand the following video on academic honesty, citing sources, and proper paraphrasing by the end of the drop-add period: http://mediasite.video.ufl.edu/Mediasite/Play/adaa44500eaf460a84f238e6b9a558f9.
The best time for SNRE majors to take EVS 3000 is during the second semester of your sophomore year or the first semester of your junior year, when you have completed or are in the process of completing general education and pre-professional requirements, and before taking the more specialized core requirement courses for the environmental science degree.

Attendance
On-time attendance is mandatory. You are permitted two unexcused absences without grade penalty. Additional unexcused absences or repeated tardiness will incur an attendance/participation grade penalty. If you accumulate more than eight unexcused absences during the semester, you will automatically be assigned a failing course grade.
Absences due to academic conferences, religious holidays, and certain university-sponsored events will be excused if appropriate written documentation is provided ahead of time. Absences due to illness will be excused if a doctor’s note is provided in a timely manner. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to...
make yourself aware of all due dates and collect notes from a fellow student. You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time unless you have arranged for an extension with the instructor. If you experience truly extenuating circumstances resulting in longer absences, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

**Make-up Policy**
Make-up work should be arranged prior to the due date of the assignment. In case of emergencies, arrangements for completing make-up exams or assignments should be made upon return to class.

**Required Readings**

Additional required readings will be made accessible via Sakai. You are expected to be able to give brief, coherent (3-5 minutes) oral summaries on the major points of assigned readings during class. Comprehension of assigned readings will be checked via occasional quizzes that may or may not be announced ahead of time.

**Grading**
Your final grade for this course will be based on a 100-percent (1000 points), non-curved scale and will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>140 pts</td>
<td>Attendance, quizzes, homework, in-class activities, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>250 pts</td>
<td>Multiple choice, short answer, and essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>250 pts</td>
<td>Cumulative, during finals week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Essay</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>Initial assessment of technical writing skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
<td>Proposing the subject and basic thesis of your paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
<td>2-3 pages, preparation for Student Interest Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper First Submission</td>
<td>60 pts</td>
<td>First submission of paper for instructor feedback</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Final Submission</td>
<td>230 pts</td>
<td>5-7 pages + references</td>
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**Grading scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.0-100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-91.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88.0-89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.0-87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-81.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78.0-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.0-77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0-71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68.0-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.0-67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.0-61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.0-59.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific grading criteria for each assignment will be provided via Sakai. You are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course and retaining all returned, graded work until the semester is over. Should the need arise for a re-submission of papers or a review of graded submissions, it is your responsibility to make available these materials. In case of a grading dispute, you
will need to notify the instructor via e-mail within three days of the date when the score is posted or the assignment is returned in class.

**Attendance/Participation:** Your attendance/participation grade consists of being physically and mentally present, arriving on time, contributing to in-class discussions, activities, quizzes, homework, and/or special projects. Repeated unexcused absences, tardiness, and inappropriate classroom behavior will result in a reduction of your grade. Sleeping during class will be counted as an absence.

**Exams:** All information covered in readings and presented in class (incl. online lectures, videos, discussions, and student contributions) is potential exam material. Exams will consist of a mixture of question styles, including but not limited to multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final exam is cumulative and will be held during finals week.

**EVS 3000 Writing Sequence:** The sequence of writing assignments in EVS 3000 is designed to develop and apply literature research, synthesis, and technical writing skills. You will learn to distinguish between scholarly and non-scholarly sources, citing those sources in proper APA style, and improve your ability to communicate scientific concepts, processes, and relationships clearly and professionally in writing. The various assignments conclude with the Student Interest Paper, a literature review-type term paper. It is an opportunity for you to explore a pre-approved topic of your personal interest in more detail than we have time to cover in class. The writing sequence consists of the following assignments:

- **Diagnostic Essay:** A brief 2-page essay for initial feedback on your technical writing skills.
- **Student Interest Paper (SIP) Topic Proposal:** A brief topic proposal along with an initial list of three scholarly sources.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** Identifying, cataloging, evaluating, and summarizing scholarly sources for the SIP.
- **SIP First Submission:** Submission of your finished SIP for instructor feedback.
- **SIP Final Submission:** Final submission of your SIP with corrections applied.

**Key Dates (subject to change)**

- Diagnostic Essay due: Tuesday, February 10, midnight, via Sakai
- SIP Topic Proposal due: Tuesday, February 17, midnight, via e-mail
- Midterm Exam: Tuesday, February 24, in class
- SIP Annotated Bibliography due: Friday, February 27, midnight, via Sakai
- SIP First Submission due: Tuesday, March 24, midnight, via Sakai
- SIP Final Submission due: Tuesday, April 14, midnight, via Sakai
- Final Exam: Friday, May 1, 12:30 – 2:30 pm

**Late Work**

You are responsible for submitting assignments by their due dates and times. For each day your writing sequence assignments are late, I will subtract 10% from your assignment grade. If the assignment is more than five days late, you will be given a score of 0. I highly recommend starting work on assignments early to preclude unexpected emergencies or late-semester stress from compromising your grade. Extensions may be granted in exceptional cases if requested in writing along with relevant documentation at least two full days prior to the deadline. If extended deadlines are not met, late penalties will be assessed based on the original, not the revised due date!
**Paper Formatting Guidelines**

All papers and written assignments must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, 1.5-spaced with 1” margins on all sides, and page numbers on the bottom right of each page. In-text citations and bibliography must follow APA 6th edition style. Do not use cover pages. A good paper must have a rational structure (consisting of at least an introduction, a discussion and a conclusion), avoid logical fallacies, minimize grammatical and typographical errors, use consistent and professional formatting, take advantage of interdisciplinary reasoning, and reference multiple recent peer-reviewed sources. Synthesize (analytically compare and contrast) information from your sources whenever possible rather than merely paraphrasing and summarizing them. Papers must be written in value-neutral language and professional voice – avoid first-person address and direct quotes. Failure to follow these instructions or supplying sufficient scholarly sources will result in significant reductions of your grade. If you experience difficulties in the paper writing process are encouraged to contact the instructor for advice or visit the UF Writing Studio (see Campus Helping Resources below). Most papers and assignments will be submitted via Sakai or e-mail. Any papers sent digitally must be in .doc (Word 1997-2003), .docx (Word 2007/2010/2013) or .rtf (Rich Text) format, with proper file extensions.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

University of Florida students are bound by the UF Honor Code, available in its full form at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/). You are required to read and understand the Honor Code in its entirety. Violations include, but are not limited to, insufficient paraphrasing, cheating, failure to cite all sources, other forms of plagiarism, bribery, and misrepresentation. Any and all honor code violations – whether intentional or not – will result in notification of the Dean of Students Office, and significant academic sanctions, which may include failure of the assignment, a failing grade for the class, and suspension or expulsion from the University. 

**PLAGIARISM, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL, IS A SERIOUS, POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING FORM OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.**

On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*"

**Office Hours**

Please take advantage of office hours to discuss any questions or concerns. The instructor may also summon a student to his office hour. If you cannot be present for the regularly scheduled office hour, the instructor will make every attempt to accommodate you at an alternate time.

**Students with Disabilities**

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting special accommodation should contact the Students with Disability Resource Center in Reid Hall, room 001. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing or academic performance are strongly encouraged to talk to the instructor or take advantage of the university’s counseling resources, available at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- **University Counseling Center & Wellness Center**, 3190 Radio Rd., 392-1575. Personal and career counseling, as well as therapy for anxiety, stress and mental health issues. 
  [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/)
- **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. 
  [http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)
  [http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/)
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. Sexual assault counseling
- **Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling

Course Alterations

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary to alter the information given in this syllabus during the semester. All changes to the syllabus will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep up with any syllabus changes.

Topic Outline

Introduction (in class)
Fundamental Concepts (online)
The Biosphere (online/in class)
Distribution of Life on Earth (in class)
Biogeochemistry (online)
Resilience, Adaptive Cycles, Alternate Stable States (in-class)
Human Population Growth, Demographics (in class)
Tragedy of the Commons (in class)
People & Natural Resources (online)
Secondary Research & Technical Writing (in-class)
Conserving Biological Resources (in class)
Land and Resource Management (online)
Mineral Resources & Mining (in class)
Fundamentals of Energy, Fossil Fuels & Nuclear Energy Sources (online/in class)
Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources (in class)
Water Resources (in class)
Pollution Control, Toxicology & Risk (online)
Water Pollution (online)
Air Pollution: Local and Regional (in class)
Food and Soil Resources (online)
Climate Change (in class)
Municipal Solid Waste & Hazardous Waste*
Future Perspectives and Challenges*
* = Time permitting