

Environmental Science - EVS3000, Section 8666, Spring 2017
T 4 (10:40-11:30) & R 4-5 (10:40-12:35) in Black Hall, Room 315

Syllabus

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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, 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, scientific reference/citation formatting, and value-neutral writing.

Prerequisites

- Having passed CHM2045, CHM2047, or CHM2095, or receiving instructor permission is required to take this class.
- It is your responsibility to read and understand this syllabus in its entirety, and be familiar with the UF Honor Code.
- You must own or have access to a computer capable of playing Adobe Flash and 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>.
- UF e-mail and Canvas should be checked daily for announcements and other notifications.

The best time for Environmental Science majors to take EVS3000 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.

Required Textbook

Environmental Science: Systems and Solutions, 5th edition by McKinney, Schoch & Yonavjak (2012). Boston, Massachusetts: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. Companion web site:

<http://environment.jpup.com/mckinney/5e/>

Additional required readings will be made accessible via Canvas.

Grading Policies

Your final grade for this course will be based on a 1000-point scale and will be weighted as follows:

Grade Component	Points	Percent	Notes
Attendance/Engagement	200	20	Attendance, homework, in-class activities, etc.
Quizzes	120	12	Four quizzes throughout the semester, 30 pts each
Exam 1	200	20	Multiple choice, short answer, and essays
Exam 2	200	20	Multiple choice, short answer, and essays
Diagnostic Essay	80	8	Technical essay on topic TBD (1000-1200 words)
Student Interest Paper	200	20	Literature review/synthesis paper (2200-2700 words)

Grading scale

Grade	Points	Percent	Grade	Points	Percent	Grade	Points	Percent
A:	930-1000	93.0-100.0%	B-	800-829	80.0-82.9%	D+:	670-699	67.0-69.9%
A-	900-929	90.0-92.9%	C:	730-769	73.0-76.9%	D:	630-669	63.0-66.9%
B+:	870-899	87.0-89.9%	C+:	770-799	77.0-79.9%	D-	600-629	60.0-62.9%
B:	830-869	83.0-86.9%	C-	700-729	70.0-72.9%	E:	0-599	0.0-59.9%

An additional grade, "R" (for re-write), may be given on writing assignments. A grade of R indicates that the submitted paper does not comply with assignment instructions for reasons including, but not limited to being too short or incomplete, containing excessive typographical and/or grammatical errors, or other structural issues that preclude effective information dissemination. Should you receive a grade of R, you will have 72 hours to resubmit a proper version of the paper for up to 70% of the maximum points that may be earned for the assignment.

Specific grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on Canvas. 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 make these materials available. In case of a grading dispute, you will need to notify the instructor via e-mail within one week of the date when the score is posted or the assignment is returned to you.

Attendance/Engagement: Your attendance/engagement grade consists of being physically and mentally present, arriving on time, being prepared, and contributing to in-class discussions, activities, 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. Students are strongly encouraged to participate during each class meeting by asking relevant questions, engaging in discussion, or sharing personal experiences on the topic.

Quizzes: There will be four online quizzes during the semester to assess student progress in comprehending and applying course materials. These may be announced on short notice.

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.

Diagnostic Essay: This is a 1000-1200-word technical paper on a topic to be determined. This paper allows students to apply their technical writing skills to a topic in environmental science and receive feedback for needed improvement to excel at writing a comprehensive scientific literature review.

Student Interest Paper: This is a 2200-2700-word analytical synthesis of peer-reviewed literature in which you will comprehensively explore a pre-approved topic of your personal interest in more detail than we have time to cover in class. It is designed to help you 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 scientific style, and improve your ability to communicate scientific concepts, processes, and relationships clearly and professionally in writing.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Key Dates (subject to change)

Diagnostic Essay due	Thursday, February 23, 9 pm, via Canvas
Exam 1	Thursday, March 2, in class
Student Interest Paper Topic Proposal due	Thursday, March 14, 9 pm, via Canvas
First submission of Student Interest Paper due	Thursday, March 30, 9 pm, via Canvas
FINAL Student Interest Paper due	Wednesday, April 19, 9 pm, via Canvas
Exam 2	Monday, April 24, 12:30 - 2:30

Course Policies

Attendance Policy: On-time attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted two unexcused absences without grade penalty. Additional unexcused absences incur a score of zero for the day's Class Attendance and Engagement. Point deductions may also be incurred for repeated tardiness. If a student accumulates more than eight unexcused absences during the semester, they will receive an automatic grade of E for the course. Absences due to academic conferences, religious holidays, and certain university-sponsored events will be excused if appropriate documentation is provided ahead of time. Absences due to illness will be excused if a doctor's note is provided within one week of returning to class. Undocumented illnesses will not be excused. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates via the course e-learning site and/or contacting the instructor. Students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via e-mail and approved by the instructor prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, the instructor may waive this requirement at his discretion.

Make-up Policy: Work missed due to excused absences can be made up. For absences excused ahead of time, the instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule. In case of documented illnesses or emergencies, arrangements for completing make-up exams or assignments should be made upon return to class. If experiencing truly extenuating circumstances resulting in longer absences, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to develop a plan to make up missed work. Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues must be accompanied by the ticket number from e-Learning Support Services when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. The instructor must be e-mailed within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up. Please refer to the section of Campus Helping Resources in this syllabus for contact information for the e-Learning Support Services. More information regarding class attendance and make-up policies for class work are consistent with University of Florida policies and can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Late Work: You are responsible for submitting assignments by their due dates and times. For each day written assignments are submitted late, I will subtract 10% from the assignment grade. If the assignment is more than five days late, a score of 0 will be entered. I highly recommend starting work on assignments early to preclude unexpected emergencies or late-semester stress from compromising your grade. Deadline extensions may be available on certain assignments if requested ahead of time via e-mail. If extended deadlines are not met, late penalties will be assessed based on the original, not the revised due date! Finally, please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss problems with the course material or performance in class. Your performance and success are important to the instructor and University of Florida, so please contact the instructor to discuss your concerns as soon as they arise.

Office Hours: Please take advantage of office hours to discuss any questions or concerns. Making an appointment ahead of time via e-mail is recommended. The instructor may also request that a student visit 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.

Course Communications and Technology: The preferred way to get ahold of me outside of class and office hours is via e-mail addressed to dcoenen@ufl.edu. All students are expected to check the course web site on Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) on a daily basis. Grades are posted there.

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 the EVS3000 style manual available on the course web site. 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 language and formatting, take advantage of interdisciplinary reasoning, and reference multiple recent peer-reviewed sources. Synthesize (analytically compare and contrast) information from multiple sources throughout the paper rather than merely paraphrasing or summarizing your sources one by one. Papers must be written in value-neutral language and professional voice – avoid first and second-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). All papers and writing assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Any papers submitted digitally must be in **.docx** format, with the proper file extension. Other file formats, including PDF files, will not be accepted.

University of Florida Policies

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. University of Florida students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment”.” The UF Honor Code is available in its full form at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>. It specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You should be sure to read and understand the Honor Code in its entirety. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any conditions that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

The instructor emphasizes that **PLAGIARISM, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL, IS A SERIOUS AND POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING FORM OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT.**

Software Use

All UF faculty, staff and students are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Upon registering, the DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted by visiting 001 Reid Hall, calling 352-392-8565, or visiting their web site at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when the evaluations are available. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

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/>
- ❖ *Dean of Students Office*, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromises their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues (including mental health crises). <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/care>
- ❖ *Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- ❖ *Writing Studio*, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <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. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>
- ❖ University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Topic Outline

Detailed dates, readings, and other assignments will be posted on Canvas.

Introduction

Fundamental Concepts

The Biosphere

Distribution of Life on Earth

Biogeochemistry

Resilience, Adaptive Cycles, Alternate Stable States

Human Population Growth, Demographics

People & Natural Resources

Conserving Biological Resources

Land and Resource Management

Mineral Resources & Mining

Fundamentals of Energy, Fossil Fuels & Nuclear Energy Sources

Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources

Water Resources

Pollution Control, Toxicology & Risk

Water Pollution

Air Pollution: Local and Regional

Food and Soil Resources

Climate Change

Municipal Solid Waste & Hazardous Waste*

* = Time permitting

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 and/or posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with any syllabus changes.