

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs BIOL1132D_090: Environmental Science: 3 Hrs	
Department of Life and Health Sciences	Division of Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Donna Hamilton
Office Location:	Room 250, Founder's Hall (Building 2)
Office Phone:	(972) 338-1522
Email Address:	Donna.hamilton@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 8:00 - 10:00 am Thursday: 8:00 - 9:00 am (Or by appointment)
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	Room 101, Founder's Hall (Building 2)
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday and Thursday 11 am - 12:20 am
Course Catalog Description:	Interdisciplinary approach to understanding basic concepts in environmental science including critical scientific thought, biodiversity, resource management, pollution, global climate change, resource consumption and population growth. Emphasis on how these concepts affect and are affected by human society. Includes laboratory. May not be counted toward a major or minor in biology. <i>Note: May be used to satisfy a portion of the Natural Sciences requirement of the University Core Curriculum.</i>
Prerequisites:	None
Co-requisites:	BIOL1132D Laboratory
Required Text:	Essential Environment; 5 th edition; Withgott and Laposata; You must also purchase the online code for Mastering Environmental Biology.
Recommended Text and References:	
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com
Course Goals or Overview:	
	The goal of this course is to introduce students to environmental science and to give students the background information needed to critically think about current environmental issues. Topics will include basic ecology, a review of environmental policy, and resource management theories. The course will include discussions of current environmental and conservation challenges, many of which do not have a clear-cut solution. Students should be willing and able to voice and defend their opinions on these subjects as well as be respectful of the opinions of others. Students will be evaluated based on exam performance and research paper.
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Demonstrate the ability to assimilate and critically think about biological and scientific processes/theories.
2	Demonstrate the ability to assimilate and critically think about environmental policy and legislation.
3	Explain the various roles of organisms in their environment, and discuss the interrelatedness of living organisms, environmental processes, and human cultural and societal needs.
4	Be able to accurately explain the conflicting social, economic, and biological needs of humanity and other living organisms.

5	Identify the major attributes and characteristics of the earth's major ecosystems and explain the role they play in economically important ecosystem services and biotourism.
6	List and discuss various personal and corporate actions that can mitigate or reverse the negative impact of human activities on the biosphere; explain various tradeoffs related to sustainable stewardship of the earth's biodiversity and its resources.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated by the instructor during class or via Blackboard

Lecture Schedule

TOPICS	Timeline	Other Deadlines
Chapter 1: Science and Sustainability: An Introduction to Environmental Science	Week of 1/19/2015	Pre-Survey; Quiz 1
Chapter 2: Environmental Systems: Matter, Energy and Ecosystems Chapter 3: Evolution, Biodiversity and Population Ecology	Week of 1/26/2015	HW 1; Quiz 2/3
Chapter 5: Economics, Policy and Sustainable Development	Week of 2/2/2015	HW 2, HW 3; Quiz 5
Test 1	Week of 2/9/2015	HW 5; Research Paper Thesis Statement due
Chapter 6: Human Population Chapter 8: Biodiversity and Conservation Biology	Week of 2/16/2015	Quiz 6/9
Chapter 10: Environmental Health and Toxicology	Week of 2/23/2015	HW 8, HW 9; Quiz 10
Chapter 11: Geology, Minerals and Mining	Week of 3/2/2015	HW 10; Quiz 11
Test 2	Week of 3/9/2015	HW 11; Research Paper Bibliography due
Spring Break	Week of 3/16/2015	
Chapter 12: Fresh Water, Oceans, and Coasts	Week of 3/23/2015	Quiz 12
Chapter 13: Atmospheric Science, Air Quality, and Pollution Control	Week of 3/30/2015	HW 12; Quiz 13
Chapter 14: Global Climate Change	Week of 4/6/2015	HW 13; Quiz 14
Test 3	Week of 4/13/2015	HW 14; Research Paper Rough Draft due
Chapter 15: Nonrenewable Energy Sources, Their Impacts, and Energy Conservation Chapter 16: Renewable Energy Alternatives	Week of 4/20/2015	Quiz 15/16
Chapter 17: Managing Our Waste	Week of 4/27/2015	HW 15, HW 16; Quiz 17
Chapter 18: The Urban Environments: Creating Sustainable Cities	Week of 5/4/2015	HW 17; Quiz 18; Research Paper Final due
Test 4	Finals Week	Post- survey; HW 18

Grades Possible:

Lecture Points		
Pre and Post Survey	2 @ 25 points each	50
Homework	15@ 10 points each	150
Quizzes	12@ 10 points each	120
Attendance	12@ 10 points each	120
Research Paper Thesis	10 points	15
Research Paper Bibliography	15 points	20
Research Paper Rough Draft	25 points	25
Research Paper Final	50 points	50
Exams	4@ 100 points each	400
Lab Points		250
Total		1200

Note: The lab is worth 21% of your final overall grade for the course. However, you must receive a passing grade (60% or higher) in the laboratory to receive a passing grade in the class. Students must pass both the lecture and the lab independently to pass the course (i.e. if you fail the lab, you automatically fail the entire course and if you fail the lecture, you automatically fail the course).

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from this office. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. Disability Services is located in the Student Life Office in DAL2, Suite 200 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number is (972) 338-1775.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy:

Collaborative efforts on completing the assignments are encouraged so long as all member of the collaboration contribute equally. As with all other graded assessments, cheating will not be tolerated. While collaborations are encouraged, each student must submit their own work, which cannot be identical to the work submitted by the other members of the collaboration. Assignments should be turned in on time. Assignments should be turned in on time. **Late assignments are NOT ACCEPTED.**

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). If a student knows in advance that they will miss an exam, they must take the exam prior to the exam date. **There is no make-up exam for an unexcused, missed exam.** Students should arrive on time to take the exam. On exam day, once the first exam is turned in, no more exams will be distributed to students that arrive late to the exam period. Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a 0 on the exam, and the instructor may pursue further disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is required because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration

of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.

Use of Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom:

You are allowed to take notes using laptops/iPads/other electronic devices. You are allowed to record the lectures. The instructor reserves the right to ask you to discontinue use of an electronic device, if it becomes disruptive to others in the classroom.

Food/Drink Policy

No food or drinks are allowed in the classroom or the laboratory, except for water.