

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2015
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs	
BIOL1132_301/305: Environmental Science Laboratory: 0 Hrs	
Department of Life and Health Sciences	School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Irene T. Rodriguez
Office Location:	Room 253, Founders Hall (DAL2)
Office Phone:	(972) 338-1525
Email Address:	Irene.Rodriguez@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 - 10:00 am (or by appointment)
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	Room 255, Founders Hall (DAL2)
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Section 301: Friday 10:00 am – 11:50 am Section 305: Friday 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm
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:	BIOL1132 Lecture
Required Text:	None
Recommended Text:	None
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@fhg.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, lab reports, assignments, and oral presentation.
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.

Laboratory Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Points
1	Aug 28	- NO LAB -	-
2	Sep 4	Lab Introduction and Safety Lab 1. Environmental Ethics and the Scientific Method Lab Assignment 1: Cancer Cure or Conservation	10
3	Sep 11	Movie: <i>Gasland</i> Lab Assignment 2: Worksheet on the Movie: Gasland	10
4	Sep 18	Lab 10. Human Population and Environmental Impact Lab Report 1: Human Population and Ecological Footprint	20
5	Sep 25	Lab 2. The Carbon Cycle Lab Report 2: Photosynthesis	20
6	Oct 2	Lab 11. Resource Consumption Lab Report 3: Marine Fisheries LAB EXAM 1 – TAKE HOME	20
7	Oct 9	Lab 5. Preserving Local Ecosystems Lab Assignment 3: Worksheet on the Movie: Cane Toads LAB EXAM 1 – DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE LAB	10 40
8	Oct 16	Lab 3. The Flow of Energy through Ecosystems Lab Report 4: Flow of Energy through Food Webs	20
9	Oct 23	Lab 6. Water and Water Pollution Lab Report 5: Water Quality Analysis	20
10	Oct 30	Lab 4. Land Use and Resource Management Lab Report 6: Soil Analysis	20
11	Nov 6	Movie: <i>Crude Impact</i> Lab Assignment 4: Worksheet on the Movie: Crude Impact	10
12	Nov 13	- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS -	
13	Nov 20	- STUDENT PRESENTATIONS -	50
14	Nov 27	- NO LAB – Thanksgiving Holiday	-
15	Dec 4	- NO LAB – Reading Day	-
16	Dec 11	- NO LAB – Finals Week	TOTAL: 250

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Lab Assignments (40 points) – We will have a discussion in class and you will write a short essay about it. In addition, you will watch documentaries to complement class content. Each student should turn his/her assignment individually. Each assignment will be worth 10 points and it will be **due at the end of the corresponding lab session**.

Lab Reports (120 points) – You will perform experiments designed to give you hands-on real-world applications of the lecture material. After each laboratory exercise, you will write a lab report worth 20 points. Although you will work in groups to perform the experiments, each student should turn in his/her lab report individually. Specific instructions will be provided in class for each lab report, however all of them will be required to contain the following sections: Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion, and Bibliography. **The lab reports will be due at the beginning of the next lab session.**

Lab Exam (40 points) – You will have one lab exam worth 40 points. This will be a **take home exam**.

Student Presentation (50 points) – This is an **oral presentation** by each student based on the topic that he/she selected and developed for his/her Research Paper.

Note: You do not receive a separate grade for lab, so the points received for the laboratory will be added into the lecture grade calculation. **The lab is worth 30% 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).

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (points)	Total
Lab Assignments	4 at 10 points each	40
Lab Reports	6 at 20 points each	120
Lab Exam	1 at 40 points	40
Student Presentation	1 at 50 points	50
Total:		250

Grade Determination

Separate letter grades **will not** be assigned for the lab. **The lab is worth 30%** of the total course grade. This is a large component of your course grade and should be an opportunity to improve your grade, rather than harm it. **You must receive a passing grade (60% or higher = 150 or more points) in the laboratory to receive a passing grade in the class.**

Course Policies and Procedures

Assignment Policy

Assignments are intended to reinforce material covered in lecture, and help prepare you for the exams. 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. **Late assignments will be graded, but with a penalty of 10% each day it is late.**

Exam Policy

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook). Students are allowed to take make-up for ONLY ONE missed exam, **with proper documentation**. The instructor must be contacted within 24 hours of the exam to schedule a make-up. A

makeup exam must be taken within one week of the original exam. 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 for the second or subsequent missed exams. Students should take the exam on time, before the deadline date and time. Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a 0 on the exam, and the instructor may pursue further disciplinary action.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & 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 Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Use of Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom/Lab

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

Food/Drink Policy

No food or drinks are allowed in the laboratory.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance)

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDisability@untDallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. 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 students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Bad Weather

This policy applies to laboratory sessions and only if the campus is closed. 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 Campus 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.

UNT Dallas Learning Commons

Writing Center

The UNT Dallas Writing Center offers free, one-on-one or group tutoring services to all registered undergraduate and graduate students. Our goal is to help students write a good paper, and most importantly, become better writers. We work with students on any type of written or oral project and can help students at any stage of the writing process (from brainstorming and outlining to citing and looking over a final draft).

The Writing Center is located on the **3rd floor of DAL 1** (big glass structure in front of the stairs).

We are available for appointments during the following hours: **Mon-Thurs: 9:00am-7:00pm; Fri: 3:00pm-7:00pm; Sat: 10am-3:00pm**

To make an appointment, browse the Writing Center's online resources, or see a list of our student FAQ's, please visit www.untDallas.edu/wc. If students cannot come in for a face-to-face appointment, students can take advantage of our free online tutoring service through SMARTHINKING. To submit drafts and get more information about this service, visit www.untDallas.edu/smart.

To make the best use of your time, please bring as much information as possible with you to your appointment (assignment, grading rubric, previous graded papers from the class, etc.). The Writing Center will not proofread papers or talk with you about grades, but we will help you become better writers over time.

Math Lab

The UNT Dallas Math Lab offers free, one-on-one or group tutoring services to all registered undergraduate students. Our goal is to help students improve their math skills, succeed in all of courses requiring math, and learn math-related skills they will need post-graduation. We work with students enrolled in all MATH courses at UNT Dallas and provide limited assistance with STATS and ACCT courses.

The Math Lab is located on the **3rd floor of DAL 1 in room 336**. Students can walk-in at any time. Check the fall hours at: <http://www.untDallas.edu/ml>

If students cannot come in for face-to-face tutoring, students can take advantage of our free online tutoring service through SMARTHINKING. To get more information about this service, visit www.untDallas.edu/smart.