

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2012
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs BIOL 1132D.092: Environmental Science: 3 Hrs	
Department of	Life and Health Sciences
Division of	Liberal Arts and Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Irene T. Rodriguez
Office Location:	Room 350, Building 2
Office Phone:	Please contact me by e-mail
Email Address:	irene.rodriguez@unt.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday: 10:00 - 11:00 am Thursday: 10:00 - 11:00 am (if you need another time, please e-mail me)
Virtual Office Hours:	N/A
Classroom Location:	Founder's Hall (Building 2), room 240
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 am - 9:50 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:	Biol 1132D.392 Laboratory
Required Text:	Lecture text: <i>Visualizing Environmental Science</i> . LR Berg, MC Hager, and DM Hassenzahl. 2011. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0470-56918-4
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@fhq.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.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Aug 30	Chapter 1: The Environmental Challenges We Face
2	Sep 4	Chapter 1: The Environmental Challenges We Face
	Sep 6	Chapter 2: Environmental Sustainability and Human Values
3	Sep 11	Chapter 2: Environmental Sustainability and Human Values Chapter 3: Environmental History, Politics, and Economics
	Sep 13	Chapter 3: Environmental History, Politics, and Economics
4	Sep 18	Chapter 4: Risk Analysis and Environmental Health Hazards
	Sep 20	Chapter 7: Human Population Change and the Environment Thesis Sentence Due by 11:59 pm on Blackboard
5	Sep 25	Movie: <i>Crude Impact</i>
	Sep 27	Exam I (Chapters 1,2,3,4,7, Movie: <i>Crude Impact</i>)
6	Oct 2	Chapter 5: How Ecosystems Work
	Oct 4	Chapter 5: How Ecosystems Work Chapter 6: Ecosystems and Evolution
7	Oct 9	Chapter 6: Ecosystems and Evolution
	Oct 11	Chapter 15: Biological Resources Annotated Bibliography Due by 11:59 pm on Blackboard
8	Oct 16	Movie: <i>Cane Toads</i>
	Oct 18	Chapter 8: Air and Air Pollution
9	Oct 23	Chapter 9: Global Atmospheric Changes
	Oct 25	Chapter 10: Freshwater Resources and Water Pollution
10	Oct 30	Chapter 11: The Ocean and Fisheries
	Nov 1	Exam II (Chapters 5,6,8,9,10,11,15, Movie: <i>Cane Toad</i>)
11	Nov 6	Chapter 12: Mineral and Soil Resources
	Nov 8	Chapter 13: Land Resources
12	Nov 13	Chapter 14: Agriculture and Food Resources
	Nov 15	Chapter 16: Solid and Hazardous Waste Research paper rough draft due by 11:59 pm on Blackboard
13	Nov 20	Movie: <i>Assault on the Male</i>
	Nov 22	THANKSGIVING DAY
14	Nov 27	Chapter 17: Nonrenewable Energy Resources
	Nov 29	Chapter 17: Nonrenewable Energy Resources Chapter 18: Renewable Energy Resources
15	Dec 4	Chapter 18: Renewable Energy Resources
	Dec 6	Exam III (Chapters 12,13,14,16,17,18, Movie: <i>Assault on the Male</i>)
16	Dec 11	Review for Final Exam Final research paper due by 11:59 pm through TurnItIn on Blackboard
	Dec 13	Comprehensive Final Exam from 8:30 to 9:50 am

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Class Participation/Attendance (100 points) – This component involves class discussions, group work, and assignments that will be given throughout the semester, for a total of 100 points. The points per graded discussion/assignment will vary. Some of the discussions/assignments will be announced, but many of them will not be announced prior to the day of the assignment. If a student misses a graded class participation (due to absence or tardiness), they will be allowed to do an alternate assignment for the same amount of points, for up to two absences only. The alternate assignment will be due the class period after the student returns to class. Expect that every class will have class participation points associated with it (i.e. attend every class and be on time).

Research Paper (150 points) – This is a written assignment designed to supplement and reinforce course material. The final research paper is worth 100 points. Prior to turning in the research paper, students will have to turn in a thesis sentence (10 points), an annotated bibliography (15 points), and a rough draft (25 points). This makes the entire research portion worth 150 points.

Exams (500 points) – These are written tests designed to measure knowledge of the presented course material. The material covered in the exam will come from the textbook, lectures (including current environmental events), and class discussions. Students will have three in-class examinations and a comprehensive in-class final exam. Exams 1, 2, and 3 are worth 100 points each. The final exam is comprehensive and worth 200 points. Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and various essay items. Any student found cheating will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s).

Note: 882-E scantrons and pencils are required for every exam.

Laboratory (250 points) – You will perform experiments designed to give you hands-on real-world applications of the lecture material. In some cases, you will watch documentaries to complement the experiments. You will have 2 lab exams worth 40 points each. After each laboratory exercise, you will have an assignment worth 10 - 20 points, for a total of 170 points. Each assignment is due at the beginning of the next lab session. You do not receive a separate grade for lab, so the points received for the laboratory (out of 250) will be added into the lecture grade calculation. **Note: The lab is worth 25% of your final overall grade for the course. However, 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
Participation/Attendance	Up to 10 points per class	100
Research Paper	thesis sentence (10 points), annotated bibliography (15 points), rough draft (25 points) final research paper (100 points)	150
Midterm Exams	3 exams worth 100 points each	300
Final Exam	Comprehensive exam	200
Lab assignments	10 – 20 points each	170
Lab exams	2 lab exams worth 40 points each	80
Total:		1000

Grade Determination:

- A = 900 – 1000 pts; i.e. 90% or better
- B = 800 – 899 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %
- C = 700 – 799 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %
- D = 600 – 699 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %
- F = 599 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

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). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

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:

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 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 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 expected 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 & 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/etc. 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.