

University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2016
5-Week 2 Session
SYLLABUS

BIOL1132D_030_330

Department of Life and Health Sciences		School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Kelly T. Varga	
Office Location:	Room 249, Founders Hall (Building 2)	
Office Phone:	(972) 338-1529	
Email Address:	kelly.varga@untdallas.edu	
Office Hours:	Available Monday to Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm BY APPOINTMENT	
Virtual Office Hours:	Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 11:00 am	
Classroom Location:	ONLINE	
Class Meeting Days & Times:	ONLINE	
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_030 (Lecture) and BIOL1132D_330 (Laboratory)	
Required Text:	<p>Textbook: Karr, S., J. Interlandi, and A. Houtman. 2015. <i>Environmental Science for a Changing World</i>. Second Edition. Macmillan Education. ISBN10: 1464162204; ISBN13: 9781464162206 (LaunchPad platform accompanying the textbook will be provided by the instructor).</p> <p>Lab learning materials: Jones & Bartlett Learning. 2013. <i>Navigate Scenario: GameScape for Environmental Science</i>. Jones & Bartlett Learning. ISBN13: 9781284049794</p>	
Access to Learning Resources:	<p>UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</p> <p>UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fhcg.follett.com</p>	
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 online activities, research paper, exam performance and laboratory reports.	
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

These schedules are subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to these schedules will be communicated by the instructor through **Blackboard**.

Lecture Schedule

MODULE	Date	Topics Research Project (deadline) Discussion Board (deadline) EXAMS (deadline)	LaunchPad LearningCurve DEADLINE (Chapter in 1 st edition)	Lecture Activity DEADLINE
1	June 6th-10th	Chapter 1 Environmental Literacy and the Goal of Sustainability	June 8 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 1)	
		Chapter 2 Science Literacy and the Process of Science	June 8 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 2)	Activity 1 June 8 th at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 3 Information Literacy and Toxicology	June 10 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 3)	
		Chapter 4 Human Populations	June 10 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 4)	Activity 2 (LaunchPad) June 10 th at 11:59 pm
		Research Project: Thesis Sentence (Friday June 10 th at 11:59 pm) Discussion Board 1 (Sunday June 12 th at 11:59 pm)		
2	June 13 th -17 th	Chapter 6 Ecological Economics and Consumption	June 15 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 6)	Activity 3 (LaunchPad) June 15 th at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 7 Managing Solid Waste	June 15 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 7)	
		EXAM 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 (Wednesday June 15 th at 11:59 pm)		
		Chapter 8 Ecosystems and Nutrient Cycling	June 17 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 8)	
		Chapter 9 Population Ecology	June 17 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 9)	Activity 4 (LaunchPad) June 17 th at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 10 Community Ecology	June 17 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 10)	
		Research Project: Annotated Bibliography (Friday June 17 th at 11:59 pm) Discussion Board 2 (Sunday June 19 th at 11:59 pm)		

3	June 20 th - 24 th	Chapter 11 Evolution and Extinction	June 22 nd at 11:59 pm (Chapter 11)	Activity 5 (Biointeractive Video) June 22 nd at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 12 Biodiversity	June 22 nd at 11:59 pm (Chapter 12)	Activity 6 (LaunchPad) June 24 th at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 13 Preserving Biodiversity	No LearningCurve	
		Chapter 15 Water Pollution	June 24 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 15)	
		EXAM 2: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 (Friday June 24th at 11:59 pm)		
		Research Project: Rough Draft (Sunday June 26th at 11:59 pm)		
		Discussion Board 3 (Sunday June 26th at 11:59 pm)		

4	June 27 th -July 1 st	Chapter 16 Feeding the World	June 27 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 16)	
		Chapter 17 Sustainable Agriculture	June 29 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 17)	Activity 7 (LaunchPad) June 29 th at 11:59 pm
		Chapter 18 Coal	June 29 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 18)	
		Chapter 19 Oil and Natural Gas	July 1 st 11:59 pm (Chapter 19)	Activity 8 (Movie: Gasland) July 1 st at 11:59 pm
		Research Project: Final Research Paper and Presentation (Sunday July 3rd at 11:59 pm)		
		Discussion Board 4 (Sunday July 3rd at 11:59 pm)		

5	July 4 th -8 th	Chapter 20 Air Pollution	July 6 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 20)	
		Chapter 21 Climate Change	July 6 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 21)	Activity 9 (LaunchPad) July 6 th 11:59 pm
		Chapter 22 Nuclear Power	July 8 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 22)	
		Chapter 23 Sun, Wind, Water, and Earth Energy	July 8 th at 11:59 pm (Chapter 23)	Activity 10 ESSAY July 8 th at 11:59 pm
		Discussion Board 5 (Friday July 8th at 11:59 pm)		
		EXAM 3: Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 (Friday July 8th at 11:59 pm)		

Lab Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Submission/Completion deadline
1	June 6-10	Lab Exercise 1: Human Population and Ecological Footprint	Friday June 10th at 11:59 pm
		GameScape Episode 2: Managing Population Growth	Sunday June 12th at 11:59 pm
2	June 13-17	GameScape Episode 1: Balancing Ecosystems	Friday June 17 th at 11:59
3	June 20-24	Lab Exercise 2: Water Quality	Friday June 24th at 11:59 pm
		GameScape Episode 3: Maintaining Terrestrial and Atmospheric Resources	Sunday June 26th at 11:59 pm
4	June 27-July1	Lab Exercise 3: Marine Fisheries	Friday July 1st at 11:59 pm
		GameScape Episode 4: Controlling Energy Systems	Tuesday July 5 th at 11:59 pm
5	July 4-8	GameScape Episode 5: Building a Positive Environmental Legacy	Friday July 8 th at 11:59 pm

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Participation in Discussion Board Forums (50 points) – This component involves communications between the instructor and the students and among students through discussion boards on **Blackboard**. Each participation is worth 5 point, thus each student should participate in these discussions at least twice each week to get up to 10 participation points per week. In 5 weeks you would get up to 50 points. In order to get these participation points, your contribution should provide logic insight into the corresponding topic and not merely ask questions (although you are encouraged to ask questions) or add not related comments.

LaunchPad LearningCurve (100 points) – On the **LaunchPad platform** each chapter of your book has a series of questions (quiz) that will test your reading comprehension. There is no grade for this assignment, simply by completing the questionnaire you will get the corresponding 5 points per chapter. Out of the 22 scheduled chapters, you will have to complete 20 LearningCurve quizzes to get up to 100 points.

LaunchPad Activities (50 points) – These are brief activities on the **LaunchPad platform** or another website that will reinforce your understanding of selected materials. Each activities is worth 5 points, for a total of 50 points.

Research Project (100 points) – This assignment has a written and an oral component designed to supplement and reinforce course materials. Each students will work during the first four weeks of the course on a topic that has been approved by the instructor. First, the student will turn in a thesis sentence (10 points), then an annotated bibliography (10 points), a rough draft (20 points), and by week four, the final version of the research paper (40 points). In addition to the paper, the student will produce a short video where he or she will present his or her topic to the class (20 points). The entire research project is worth 100 points. The guidelines for this assignment will be posted on **Blackboard**.

Exams (300 points) – These are tests designed to measure knowledge of the course material. The material covered in the exam will come from the textbook, discussion boards, and lecture activities. Students will have three **online** examinations (there will not be any on-campus exam, nor a comprehensive final exam!). Each exam will be worth 100 points. Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay items. Any student found cheating will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s).

Laboratory (200 points) – You will perform three laboratory exercises designed to give you hands-on real-world applications of the lecture material. After each laboratory exercise, **each student** will turn in a **lab report** (25 points each, for a total of 75 points). In addition to lab reports, you will complete five **GameScape activities**, one per

week, each of them is worth 20 points, for additional 100 lab points. You will not receive a separate grade for lab, so the points received for the laboratory (out of 200) will be added into the lecture grade calculation. **Note: The lab is worth 25% 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
Participation in Discussion Boards	Up to 10 points per week	50
LaunchPad LearningCurve	20 (out of 22) chapters at 5 points each	100
LaunchPad Activities	10 activities at 5 points each	50
Research Project	Thesis sentence (10 points) Annotated bibliography (10 points) Rough draft (20 points) Final research paper (40 points) Presentation (20 points)	100
Exams	3 exams worth 100 points each	300
Lab Reports	3 lab reports at 25 points each	75
Lab GameScape Activities	5 activities at 20 points each	100
Total:		775

Grade Determination:

- A = 694– 775 points; i.e., 90% or better B
- B = 616 – 693 points; i.e., 80 – 89 %
- C = 546 – 615 points; i.e., 70 – 79 %
- D = 461 – 545 points; i.e., 60 – 69 %
- F = 460 points 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). 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. **Late assignments will NOT be accepted.**

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.

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%20Integrity.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.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared