

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2011
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs			
BIOL 1132D: Environmental Science: 3 hours			
Department of	Life and Health Sciences	Division of	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name: Dr. Charcacia Sanders			
Office Location: Room 302, Building 2			
Office Phone: TBD			
Email Address: TBD			
Office Hours: W: 4:50pm - 6:50pm (if you need another time, please email)			
Virtual Office Hours: N/A			
Classroom Location: Building 2, room 242			
Class Meeting Days & Times: Tu/Th 7:00 – 8:20PM			
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 laboratory		
Required Text:	Lecture text: <i>Visualizing Environmental Science</i> . LR Berg and MC Hager. 2009. John Wiley and Sons, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-470-40911-4 Lab manual: <i>Environmental Science Laboratory and Field Activities</i> . MK King et al. 2006. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co. ISBN: 978-0-7575-3067-8		
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/theory.		
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.

Week	Dates	Topic
1	August 25 th	Introduction Chapter 1: The Environmental Dilemmas We Face
	August 30 st	Chapter 1: The Environmental Dilemmas We Face
2	September 1 st	No Classes
	September 6 th	Chapter 2: Environmental Sustainability and Human Values
3	September 8 th	Chapter 2: Environmental Sustainability and Human Values Chapter 3: Environmental History, Politics, and Economics
	September 13 th	Chapter 3: Environmental History, Politics, and Economics Chapter 4: Risk Analysis and Environmental Hazards
4	September 15 th	Chapter 4: Risk Analysis and Environmental Hazards Chapter 7: Human Population Change and the Environment
	September 20 th	Chapter 7: Human Population Change and the Environment
5	September 22 nd	Movie: <i>Crude Impact</i>
	September 27th	Exam I (Chapters 1,2,3,4,7, <i>Crude Impact</i>)
6	September 29 th	Chapter 5: How Ecosystems Work
	October 4 th	Chapter 5: How Ecosystems Work Chapter 6: Ecosystems and Evolution
7	October 6 th	Chapter 6: Ecosystems and Evolution
	October 11th	Chapter 15: Biological Resources Research Paper Topic Due
8	October 13 th	Movie: <i>Cane Toad</i>
	October 18 th	Chapter 8: Air and Air Pollution
9	October 20 th	Chapter 8: Air and Air Pollution Chapter 9: Global Atmospheric Changes
	October 25 th	Chapter 9: Global Atmospheric Changes
10	October 31st	Chapter 10: Freshwater Resources and Water Pollution
	November 1 st	Exam II (Chapter 5,6,8,9,15, <i>Cane Toad</i>)
11	November 3 rd	Chapter 10: Freshwater Resources and Water Pollution Chapter 11: The Ocean and Fisheries
	November 8 th	Chapter 11: The Ocean and Fisheries
12	November 10 th	Chapter 14: Agriculture and Food Resources
	November 15 th	Chapter 14: Agriculture and Food Resources Chapter 16: Solid and Hazardous Waste: An Unrecognized Resource
13	November 17 th	Chapter 16: Solid and Hazardous Waste: An Unrecognized

		Resource Chapter 17: Nonrenewable Energy Resources
	November 22 nd	Movie: <i>Assault on the Male</i>
14	November 29 th	Chapter 17: Nonrenewable Energy Resources Chapter 18: Renewable Resources
	December 1st	Chapter 18: Renewable Resources Research paper due by 11:59pm
15	December 6th	Exam III (Chapter 10, 11, 14, 16,17, 18, <i>Assault on the Male</i>)
	December 8 th	Review for final
16	December 15th	Comprehensive Final Exam from 7:30PM – 9:30PM

Course Evaluation Methods

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

Exams – 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, and class discussions. You 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 will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and various essay items. You must take all four exams. Any student found cheating will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s).

Research Paper – This is a written assignment designed to supplement and reinforce course material. You will have one research paper that is worth 100 points. Please see the supplemental information provided for more detailed information on the research paper.

Laboratory – 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 100 points each. After each laboratory exercise, you will have an assignment worth 10 points, for a total of 100 points. (You will actually have 11 assignments, so you will have the chance to earn 10 bonus points. However, a maximum of 300 points will be included in the lecture grade.) You do not receive a separate grade for lab, so the points received for the laboratory (out of 300) will be added into the lecture grade calculation. The lab is one-third of your grade. It is very important that you attend every lab.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Midterm Exams	3 exams worth 100 points each	300
Research Paper	One paper worth 100 points	100
Laboratory	2 lab exams worth 100 points each, 10 daily assignments worth 10 points each	300
Final Exam	200	200
Total:		900

Grade Determination:

A = 806-900 pts; i.e. 89.5% or better

B = 716 – 805 pts; i.e. 79.5 – 89.4%

C = 626 – 715 pts; i.e. 69.5 – 79.4 %

D = 536 – 625 pts; i.e. 59.5 – 69.4 %

F = 535 pts or below; i.e. less than 59.5%

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). One missed exam may be made up. That exam may be of higher difficulty, however. There is no make-up for the second or subsequent missed exam. A makeup exam must be taken within one week of the original exam. You should arrive on time to take the exam. On exam day, exams will not be given to students that arrive after the first exam has been turned in.

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.

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 as well.