

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2011
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs	
BIOL 1132D: Environmental Science Laboratory: 0 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 255
Class Meeting Days & Times:	W 7:00pm – 8:50pm
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 lecture
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:	N/A
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	Points Earned
1	August 29 th /31 st	No lab	
2	September 5 th /7 th	No lab	
3	September 12 th /14 th	Lab Safety, Environmental Ethics and the Scientific Method, and Pacific yew tree case study	10
4	September 19 th /21 st	Experiment 2: Energy from Photosynthesis	10
5	September 26 th /28 th	Experiment 4: Soil Analysis	10
6	October 3 rd /5 th	Experiment 3: Food Webs	10
7	October 10 th /12 th	Movie: <i>Gasland</i>	10
8	October 17th/19th	Lab Midterm (lab safety, ethics and the scientific method, Pacific yew tree; experiments 2, 3,4; <i>Gasland</i>)	100
9	October 24 th /26 th	Experiment 5: Water Quality Analysis	10
10	October 31 st / November 2 nd	Experiment 6: Sulfur Dioxide Pollution and Plants Movie: <i>Black Blizzard</i>	10 each (20 total)
11	November 7 th /9 th	Finish Experiment 6 Experiment 9: Marine Fisheries	10
12	November 14 th /16 th	Experiment 10: Estimating Our Ecological Footprint Movie: <i>Kilowatt Ours</i>	10 each (20 total)
13	November 21st/23rd	Lab Final (Experiments 5, 6, 9, and 10; <i>Black Blizzard</i> and <i>Kilowatt Ours</i>)	100
14	November 28 th /30 th	No lab	
15	December 5 th /7 th	No lab	

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. You will have two in-class examinations. They are worth 100 points each. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and various essay items. You must take both exams. Any student found cheating will receive a zero (0) for that exam and may face other disciplinary action(s). For the exams, it is important that you read the background information for the experiments, as well as the introductory information for the unit the experiment is found in. Exam material may come from this information, lecture information, techniques used in the lab, and from data collected during the experiments.

Report Sheets – During each experiment, you will record observations in the “Report Sheets” provided in your text. These “Report Sheets” also have calculations to perform and additional questions about the topic. Once an experiment is completed, reports will be **due the week after experiment completion**. They are worth 10 points each. There are a total of 100 points possible for the report sheets. However, there is one extra assignment. This can be used as bonus points for the lab or to replace points for a missed lab.

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Value (points or percentages)	Total
Exams	2 exams worth 100 points each	200
Report Sheets	10 report sheets worth 10 points each	100
Total:		300

Grade Determination:

Separate letter grades will not be assigned for the lab. As mentioned in the syllabus for BIOL 1132D, the lab is worth one-third 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. The highest amount of points reported for lab will be 300 points, even if you have bonus points that give you more than 300.

If you ever have a question your grades, please come by my office. I will gladly help you.

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. You may only turn in report sheets for experiments that you complete in lab. There are no make-up labs.

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 Integrity.pdf](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. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent. Again, there are no make-up labs.

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.

Safety

You are responsible for reading and knowing the safety rules, and must fill out, sign and turn in the safety guidelines form before beginning the first experiment. If you do not follow the safety rules for the lab, you will be asked to leave and given a zero for that experiment.