

Introduction to Environmental Studies Syllabus

Instructors

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Requirements

1. In the spirit of going “green,” we are requiring you purchase a customized eTextbook. This book is cheaper than your traditional paper textbook. You will be required to download the free Acrobat reader to view the textbook (and additional readings posted on OAKS) at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. See below for link to the textbook site:
 - a. Go to <http://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/>
 - b. Search for and select book by Title, ISBN, Author, or State/School.
ISBN: 9781121122710, Title: Introduction to Environmental Studies
 - c. Add the book to your cart and pay using a credit card or access code
2. Additional Readings will be posted on OAKS. You’ll need to familiarize yourself with using OAKS within the first week of classes, so you don’t miss out on the materials and other deadlines.
3. An iclicker remote response unit (may be purchased at the College Bookstore.) If you purchase a used iclicker, be sure to purchase one with a legible bar code on back of instrument and make sure to install fresh batteries.

Course Description and Structure

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to interdisciplinary thinking about the relationships between humans and their environments, and it seeks to explore the problems and possibilities that emerge from these relationships. It will identify and examine basic elements in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences that are essential for understanding human interactions with the environment. It will also encourage us to think critically, write analytically and act with others to effect change on environmental matters. *Please note: If you received AP credit for Environmental Science, you cannot receive credit for ENVT 200.*

Below is the schedule for the course. However, this schedule is fluid and will change depending on your interests and on the pace of lectures and discussions.

| Wk | Dates | Topic | Events/Comments |
|----|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1/10 - 1/14/2011 | Introduction and Sustainability | |
| 2 | 1/17 - 1/21/2011 | Sustainability | 1/17- MLK Day - No class |
| 3 | 1/24 - 1/28/2011 | Population | Group websites up |
| 4 | 1/31 - 2/4/2011 | Consumption | |

| | | | |
|----|------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 | 2/7 - 2/11/2011 | Climate Change | |
| 6 | 2/14 - 2/18/2011 | | Mid-term 1, 2/18/2011 |
| 7 | 2/21 - 2/25/2011 | Natural Resources and Pollution | Group Update 1 |
| 8 | 2/28 - 3/4/2011 | Soil and Agriculture | |
| 9 | 3/7 - 3/11/2011 | | Spring Break |
| 10 | 3/14 - 3/18/2011 | Water | |
| 11 | 3/21 - 3/25/2011 | Air | Mid-term 2, 3/25/2011 |
| 12 | 3/28 - 4/1/2011 | Energy Resources | Group Update 2 |
| 13 | 4/4 - 4/8/2011 | Conventional Energy | |
| 14 | 4/11 - 4/15/2011 | Alternate Energy | Final Presentations |
| 15 | 4/18 - 4/22/2011 | | Turn in peer evaluations |
| 16 | 4/25 | Wrap | Final, 5/2/2011 |

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, students should:

- Have sufficient ecological and scientific literacy, and the technical skills, to understand the function of natural ecological systems and the nature and complexity of human interactions with these systems.
- Evaluate conflicting claims about causes of environmental change.
- Understand the interwoven social, economic, and political dynamics affecting solutions to ecological problems.
- Work collaboratively to analyze and assess environmental problems.
- Deliver well-researched presentations supported by the primary literature.

Method of Evaluation

Final course evaluations will be based on the following:

- 1. Tests (70 percent):** There will be two tests and a final exam. Each test is worth 20 percent of the course grade. The comprehensive exam is worth 30 percent of the course grade. All test questions are of multiple choice format.
- 2. Group Project (20 percent):** Students will be randomly assigned to small groups early in the semester. Each group will be assigned a continent and, throughout the semester, each group will conduct a thorough environmental assessment of their assigned continent. Groups will use <https://sites.google.com/> to create a rich website and present their findings and assessments. In addition, each group will be required to give periodical updates to the entire class and one final class presentation at the end of the term. More details of this assignment and the assessment rubric will be posted on OAKS. Notes: all students will be required to either use their existing Gmail accounts or create new Gmail accounts. Each group will also be required to add both instructors as viewers/collaborators.
- 3. Quizzes (10 percent):** Students will use iclickers to answer multiple choice questions based upon assigned readings and lecture materials. You **MUST** bring and use your iclicker to receive this credit.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

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|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| A >93 | B+ 87 – 90 | C+ 77 – 80 | D+ 67 – 70 | F <60 |
| A- 90 – 93 | B 83 – 87 | C 73 – 77 | D 63 – 67 | |
| | B- 80 – 83 | C- 70 – 73 | D- 60 – 63 | |

Make-Up Policy

1. Quizzes: Students who miss class and have a *valid and documented* excuse may make up the missed quiz immediately following the first class of their return.
2. Tests: Students who miss a test and have a *valid and documented* excuse may make up the missed test at the convenience of the course instructors.
3. Project Deadlines: A 20% penalty per day will apply to any portion of the group project that is late.

Students who are absent and wish to complete make-up work should:

- Go to the office of the **Associate Dean of Students** located at **67 George Street** (white house next to Stern Center) to discuss absences and fill out the appropriate forms.
- Forms may also be found online at: <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/services/absence.php> and they also can be faxed to the Associate Dean's office at 953-2290.
- Students will need documentation for health, personal or emergency situations.
- If you are on an athletic team or other school sponsored trip, the dean's office will have a documented list of student participants. Coaches or trip sponsors will have copies of the Dean's documentation to for you to get to us in advance of the absence.

Electronics Policy

The use of personal electronics during class is disruptive. The use of these devices (including cell phones, computers, and iPods) during class is prohibited. If you need special accommodations, speak with us.

Keys to Success in This Class

- If you need special accommodations for your successful completion of this class, please discuss them with your instructors. Do not wait until you are in trouble.
- Because this course is team-taught, please address both instructors when you send email correspondence. This keeps us all in the loop.
- Ask questions in class and participate in all discussions.
- ALWAYS have your iclicker with you and do not share with friends, roommates, etc.
- The text is required, and we strongly encourage you to read the text and review previous materials before each class, make notes, and bring in questions.
- We will move through material quickly. Note-taking skills are important, but don't try to jot everything down. We'll make slides available on OAKS.
- Be a good small group citizen. Check in with your group members frequently and do your part to ensure an excellent final project.
- Come to class unless you are really sick.
- Stay engaged. Your grades will probably reflect your interest.
- Check OAKS frequently. This will be our primary method of communication with the class.
- Suggestions are always welcome. Don't forget to have fun in the process.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

The Honor Code, College of Charleston

The Honor Code specifically forbids the following:

1. Lying: knowingly furnishing false information, orally or in writing, including but not limited to deceit or efforts to deceive relating to academic work, to information legitimately sought by an official or employee of the College, and to testimony before individuals authorized to inquire or investigate conduct; lying also includes the fraudulent use of identification cards and fabrication of data, endnotes, footnotes and other information related to academic work.
2. Cheating: the actual giving or receiving of unauthorized, dishonest assistance that might give one student an unfair advantage over another in the performance of any assigned, graded academic work, inside or outside of the classroom, and by any means whatsoever, including but not limited to fraud, duress, deception, theft, talking, making signs, gestures, copying, electronic messaging, photography, unauthorized reuse of previously graded work, unauthorized dual submission, unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized use or possession of study aids, memoranda, books, data, or other information. The term cheating includes engaging in any behavior related to graded academic work specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion.
3. Attempted cheating: a willful act designed to accomplish cheating, but falling short of that goal.

4. Stealing: the unauthorized taking or appropriating of property from the College or from another member of the college community. Note also that stealing includes unauthorized copying of, and unauthorized access to, computer software.

5. Attempted stealing: a willful act designed to accomplish stealing, but falling short of that goal.

6. Plagiarism:

6.1. The verbatim repetition, without acknowledgement, of the writings of another author. All significant phrases, clauses, or passages, taken directly from source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself and/or in footnotes/endnotes.

6.2. Borrowing without acknowledging the source.

6.3. Paraphrasing the thoughts of another writer without acknowledgement.

6.4. Allowing any other person or organization to prepare work which one then submits as his/her own.

7. Penalties (Sanctions) for Violations of the Honor Code

7.1. XF – Transcript Notation (See Appendix A for full description.)

a) The grade of “XF” has been added to our grading options at the College. The grade of XF means failure due to academic dishonesty. If a student is found responsible for an act of serious academic dishonesty, the instructor for that course must assign an XF. The XF remains on the student's official transcript for a minimum of 2 years. After 2 years, the student can petition the Honor Board for removal of the X. The F will remain.

b) Instructors, with assistance from the Dean of Students if requested, will assess whether the behavior of the student falls into one of three classes:

Class 1 – act involves significant premeditation; conspiracy and/or intent to deceive, e.g., purchasing a research paper. Penalties: XF and either suspension or expulsion assigned if student found responsible by Honor Board.

Class 2 – act involves deliberate failure to comply with assignment directions, some conspiracy and/or intent to deceive, e.g., use of the Internet when prohibited, some fabricated endnotes or data, copying several answers from another student's test. Penalties: XF and other sanctions assigned if student found responsible by Honor Board.

Class 3 – act mostly due to ignorance, confusion and/or poor communication between instructor and class, e.g., unintentional violation of the class rules on collaboration.

Penalties: Student and instructor agree upon the response and forward agreement to the Dean of Students. See “Class 3 Report and Resolution Form” on the Student Affairs, Honor System website.

7.2. Other penalties for violations of the Honor Code range up to and include expulsion from the College. Other penalties may be combined with the XF. Attempted cheating, attempted stealing, and the knowing possession of stolen property shall be subject to the same punishment as the other offenses. Because the potential penalties for an Honor Code violation are extremely serious, all students should be thoroughly familiar with the above definitions and be guided by them.

Students can find all related honor code processes in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>