ENVS 304 — Frontiers in Environmental Science

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2012

Instructor: W. Ray Arnold, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor
Office Location: SCT 215
Office Hours: M: 11:00-12:00, Tu: 10:00-11:30, W: 1:00-2:30 Th: 2:00-3:00
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings: Accessible literature via the web or library.

Course Description: This course is designed to familiarize environmental science majors with the literature pertaining to environmental science.

Student Learning Outcomes: Completion of these outcomes does not guarantee that you will pass this course.

1. Students will be able to create an efficient and effective technical PowerPoint presentation.
2. Students will be able to locate instructions and style requirements for journals.
3. Students will be able to identify the Dewey Decimal Classifications to Library of Congress Class Headings for their area of interest in the Environmental Sciences.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods:

Lecture, student presentations, discussion

Activities:

1. Each week you will select a contemporary (within ≤ 2yrs of Aug. 2012) manuscript or issue on an environmental science topic of your own choosing. You will review the manuscript and be prepared to give an informal presentation of the manuscript. The presentation will be five to seven minutes in length and will be followed by three to five minutes of questions and answers (Q&A).
2. Periodically, you will be given portions of a manuscript or presentation for you to edit or critique. The following class you will informally discuss your edits or critique.
3. At the end of the semester, you will conduct one formal PowerPoint presentation 15 minutes in length on a current issue in environmental science.
4. I reserve the right to modify the assignments and schedule.
Assessment:

Minimum expectations:
1. Attend lectures and be punctual
2. Be attentive
3. Participate in class discussions
4. Be respectful to me and your classmates
5. Complete class assignments on time and on target
6. Be punctual on exam day; complete the three exams (including a comprehensive final exam)
7. Achieve an average grade of ≥60 % according to the grading basis (below)

Grade basis: Subjective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly presentation/participation</th>
<th>100 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester presentation</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial assignments</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250 points</td>
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1. Penalty enforcement (I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the minimum expectations)

Grading Scale: The following scale is adhered to strictly.

- 90.0 – 100% = A
- 80.0 - 89.9% = B
- 70.0 - 79.9% = C
- 60.0 – 69.9% = D
- <60.0% = F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Access to a computer with PowerPoint and an internet connection.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement: Contacting Your Instructor: If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course, please contact me via email, phone, or come by my office. Though I am happy to see you anytime (time permitting), it may be easiest to find me during my office hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Responsible Use of Technology — It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a
laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class and/or other penalties. Students are not allowed to use image, video, nor audio recording devices of any kind during class time without prior consent of the instructor.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

**Students with Disabilities:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

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**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Schedule (listed by semester week) is approximate and subject to change

1 - Introduction

2 - 16 Presentations and discussions