



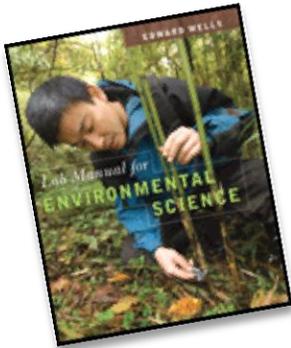
Introduction to Environmental Science Laboratory Syllabus
ENVS 1301L.01L – Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Room STC 136
ENVS 1301L.02L – Wednesday 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Room STC 136
ENVS 1301L.03L – Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Room STC 136
ENVS 1301L.04L – Thursday 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. Room STC 136

Instructor: Gwen Taylor
Office: STC 214
Phone: 903-468-3198
Email: gtaylor4@leomail.tamuc.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday & Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Others by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENVS 1301L is the laboratory section designed to complement the lecture materials presented in the core curriculum of the coursework. The laboratory exercises are designed to provide a “hands-on” application to the lecture materials and engage students in conceptual thinking about factors affecting the environment and as good citizens of society how to identify and rectify environmental issues.

Required Laboratory Textbook



The activities in the laboratory manual are both problem-based laboratory activities as well as critical-thinking projects. The goal of problem-based activities is to develop the cognitive abilities of the student rather than memorizing facts. Critical thinking is thinking aimed at well-founded judgment and thus utilizes appropriate evaluative standards as a means to determine the true worth, merit, or value of something. The critical thinker analyzes given information, asks the right questions, and decides what is valuable to keep and what information should be dismissed.

ISBN 13: 9780495560241

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Students will understand basic environmental issues relating to and affecting society.
- 2) Students will develop critical thinking in their analyses of the laboratory protocols.
- 3) Students will be able to apply the course materials to societal aspects affecting the environment and develop an understanding of how it relates to their chosen field or profession.
- 4) Students will employ self-discipline and time organization in meeting class requirements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Students will gain content knowledge promoting lifelong learning through recognition & application of the central concepts of the subject matter.
- 2) Students will be able to develop analytical skills through textbook readings and critique of current topics influencing today's environment and society.
- 3) Students will employ effective communication skills and knowledge through presentation, class discussions and team interactions.
- 4) Students will develop a commitment to lifelong learning by being self-disciplined, self-motivated, and effective at meeting time schedules.

ATTENDANCE

As in any class, a vital indicator of a student's success is attendance, therefore, your presence and participation will be essential. Your success in the course will be determined by your presence, your participation in class discussion, and scheduled coursework. Students should read the assigned readings prior to attending class. Students will be asked to comply with laboratory policies and guidelines and should arrive on time (LATE arrivals are disruptive and not acceptable). It is the student's responsibility to maintain contact with the instructor and to inform me of any absences which may occur that prevent their attendance and participation in coursework, assignments, or exams. Excessive absences may result in your dismissal from the course.

OBLIGATORY STATEMENTS

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. The student must cite all sources of information. Unreferenced copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a grade of zero and can result in further disciplinary action.

All students enrolled at Texas A&M University-Commerce shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. This policy is enforced both in traditional and virtual classroom environments. The student should refer to the University's Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, and Conduct.

The American 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 accommodation please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources or Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, fax (903) 468-8148, or email StudentDisabilityServices @tamu-commerce.edu.

EARLY INTERVENTION FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty, advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.



In order to create a “learning environment” free of disruptions, students **MUST TURN OFF** their cell phones as well as all other electronic devices. The only acceptable electronic device is a laptop computer that students are using to take class notes. You give up the privilege of using your laptop in class if you are caught “surfing the web,” reading email, watching videos, etc.

COURSE GRADING

The laboratory portion counts as 100 points of your total course grade. These points will derive from the following activities:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Weekly Laboratory Protocols	40%
Semester Project	40%
Final Exam	20%

Students will be permitted to make up an exam or other assignment, but it will require an official excuse. All make-up work must be taken within two (2) days of the date noted on the student’s official excuse for returning to school. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule a time during the instructor’s office hours to complete the make-up assignment.

WEEKLY LABORATORY PROTOCOLS

All students must have a laboratory textbook as it will comprise the majority of your laboratory grade. The majority of the laboratory protocols are designed to be an in class activity. Students will turn their laboratory exercise into the instructor at the end of the laboratory period for grading when possible. If additional research or calculations are required, the laboratory report is due at the beginning of the following week’s laboratory class. Late work will not be accepted. Students may want to place their graded assignments in a three-ring binder so that they have it to review in preparation for the final exam. If a particular laboratory protocol is completed prior to the ending time for the laboratory session, the instructor and students may take walks around the University and do our part as responsible citizens to improve the environment of our surroundings. **Please Note:** Students should read the protocol prior to attending lab and bring calculators as required for the day’s activity.

QUIZZES: Please note that there will be a quiz prior to laboratory exercises. Quizzes will commence at the beginning of the scheduled lab period and will be timed. Being tardy or absent may result in either a reduction in grade or a zero. The importance of being prepared and on time for labs cannot be overemphasized.

LABORATORY FINAL EXAM

The coursework consists of only one exam for the semester. The final exam will be composed from all the laboratory activities covered this semester. Students will be provided with a list of terminology to study and prepare for the exam.



WEEK	DATE	CLASS ASSIGNMENT
1	Aug 28/29	Syllabus & Safety Contract
2	Sep 4/5	Lab 19 – Are We Consuming Our Biosphere?
3	Sep 11/12	Lab 9 – Butcher the Biomes
4	Sep 18/19	Lab 8 – Allelopathy
5	Sep 25/26	Lab 10 – Does Land Use Affect Soil Texture and Permeability?
6	Oct 2/3	Lab 21 – Why is Your Footprint So Big?
7	Oct 9/10	Lab 3 – Population Growth
8	Oct 16/17	Lab 16 – Human Health Risk Assessment
9	Oct 23/24	Lab 17 – Measuring Total Suspended Particles
10	Oct 30/31	Lab 12 – Colorimetric Determination of Free Chlorine in Drinking Water
11	Nov 6/7	Lab 5 – Food Webs
12	Nov 13/14	Lab 15 – Oil Spill!
13	Nov 20/21	Lab 4 – Biomagnification Through a Food Chain
14	Nov 27/28	Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy!
15	Dec 4/5	TBD
16	Finals Week	Final Exam

- The instructor reserves the right to administer revisions to the schedule if circumstances require.

