ENVS 1301

Introduction to Environmental Science

Courses Syllabus: Fall, 2018

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Office hours: 1:00-2:00 4:00–5:00 MWF  
Phone: 903-886-5371  
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Text Book:  
Recommended. Electronic Book: Kaufmann and Cleveland, 2015, Environmental Science.  
Simply go to store.trunity.com and search for “Environmental Science”  
Or go to bookstore to buy it.

Course Description:  
Survey course designed to cover major areas relating to contemporary ecological/environmental problems and to introduce the student to the multiple of roles of the environmental professional in addressing these problems.

Instructional Method:  
Lecture, discussion, videos and project.

Learning Objectives:  
Upon completion of this course you should be able to:
1. Describe current environmental conditions;
2. Understand terminology commonly used in environmental science, such as environment; sustainable development;
3. Read and critically evaluate presented information and media reports;
4. Successfully work with a small team of students to design and conduct an environmental project.

Competency Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion; be able to discern between relevant and irrelevant information, recognize bias in source material, and critically examine a diversity of source material.
2. Communication: In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational
3. Teamwork: Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.

4. Empirical and Quantitative Skills: Students will be able to understand and utilize mathematical functions and empirical principles and processes.

**Monthly writings, projects and exams** will be given to support and assess the learning objectives and competency student learning outcomes.

**Monthly Writings:**
In order to culture and assess your critical thinking and written communication ability, you need to read an article and submit a brief review every month. The review should be typed (12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing) and include two full paragraphs. First, conclude the opinions of the article (about one half to one page). In the second paragraph (about one half to one page), please critique of the article with substantive or evidence-driven arguments for or against the opinions of the article. The articles will be assigned to you and topics will be related to sustainable development, global water shortage and global climate change. The reviews must be sent to the assignment submission folder in D2L **before 5 pm on Sep 30, Oct 28 and Nov 25. Late homework will receive a zero!** Source of information must be referenced. Any paper that is not properly referenced will receive a zero!

**Project:**
In order to culture and assess your team work ability, students will form teams of 3-6 members, conceptualize, design, and perform a project targeting environmental sustainability and community environmental service (remember: think globally; act locally). Actual conduct of the project must exceed 8 hours. The whole team will submit one well written and photo documented paper describing the project, the project goals, the duties of each member, the time spent (including a documented work schedule), the achievements, and the lessons learned. The team members will be required to evaluate each other’s contribution to the team effort (blind evaluation) to determine 33% of each member’s assignment grade. The photo documentation should include images showing that you participated in the project. The paper should be a minimum of 5 written pages excluding the title page and excluding the photo documentation page(s). Use 12 pt font, 1.5 line spacing. Number your pages. **The paper must be sent to assignment submission folder in D2L on or before 5 pm on Dec 9. Plagiarized papers will receive a zero score! Late homework will receive a zero! You must find team members by yourself. If your team contains less than 3 or more than 6 members, you can only receive 50% of the total points.**
Exam:
There will be a total of 3 exams for the course. Exams will be designed to evaluate the student’s understanding of the subjects covered in class and empirical and quantitative skills. Specific topic on Human Population will be included in the final exam as an assessment of Empirical and Quantitative Skills. Study guide will be given to help you prepare for exams.

Grades:  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 tests</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>A≥90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles writing</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>B≥80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>C≥70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>D≥60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Opportunities (e.g. answer/discuss critical thinking problems) will be offered to earn extra grades.

Topics and schedule: The following topics will be included in class. The schedule is approximate and subject to change.

Aug 27-Sep 7 Environmental Overview; Read Chap 1-4  
Sep 10-14 Ecology; Read Chap 8-10  
Sep 17-21 Biomes; Read Chap 5-7  
Sep 24-28 Biodiversity; Read Chap 11-12;  
Oct 1-5 Biological communities; Read Chap 11-12  
Oct 8-12 Population; Read other chapters  
Oct 15-Nov 2 Air; Read Chap 13; 14; 19  
Oct 18-22 Population; Read Chap 23  
Nov 1-5 Water; Read Chap 18  
Nov 12-16 Solid Waste; Read Chap 23  
Nov 26-30 Food Agriculture; Chap 15; 16;  
Dec 3-7 Pest Control; Read other chapters  
Dec 10-14 Review; Final

The date of exam will be announced in class one week before the exam.

Absence
Students are required to attend all sections and sign the rosters every class. Be late for class and/or leaving early will be treated as absences. The final grades will be affected by the absences (i.e. the numbers of absences will be subtracted from your final grades). Official documents (e.g. doctor’s letter) must be presented if you ask for a leave from class or it will be treated as an absence.

Cell phone:
Cell phone must be turned off or in silent mode.

University Procedures:
Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities.
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 Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

**TAMUC Attendance:**
For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01. http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

**Academic Integrity:**
Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:
Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03
Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

**Nondiscrimination Notice:**
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Student Conduct:**
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with
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.

Campus carry rules:
Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf) and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Technology Requirement
D2L Access and Log in Information
This course will be facilitated using D2L, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to myLeo, then select Apps, and then select myleo online (D2L Brightspace).
You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.
If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778.
Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course, please contact me via email or come to my office. I am glad to talk to you any time, but it is better to stop by during my office hours or send me an email in advance. Generally, emails will be answered within 24 hrs. If I can not answer emails on time, I will let you know in advance.