

ENV 101 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Syllabus

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COURSE CREDIT:

Four Semester Hours

PREREQUISITES:

none

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Miller, G.T. (2005). *Living in the environment*, (14th ed.). Thomson/Brooks/Cole Publishers. ISBN: 0-534-99729-5

Easton, T.A. (2006). *Taking sides: Clashing views on controversial environmental issues*, (11th ed.). McGraw-Hill/Dushkin. ISBN: 0-07-351441-1

Computer Access:

Because components of this course require the use of the CD that accompanies your textbook, it is imperative that you have access to a computer with a CDROM drive.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- This course is intended to provide students having little or no scientific background with a balanced and realistic perspective of environmental issues.
- The course emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and solutions and involves examination of various levels of organization, methodology, and issues related to each.
- The course will culminate with consideration of environmental ethics and quality consistent with a sustainable global future.
- Success in this course, when delivered via the Extended Campus, requires significantly more diligence on the student's part than when taken in a traditional classroom setting.

- Introduction to Environmental Science course is comprised of 12 lessons. Learning Objectives are provided for each lesson in order to assist students in identifying what information and concepts should be mastered.
- Each lesson involves some or all of the following activities:
 1. assigned chapter readings from the textbook, *Living in the Environment*
 2. specific "Case Studies" from the textbook, *Living in the Environment*, that serve to illustrate particular environmental problems, issues, and/or solutions
 3. "Position Papers" related to controversial environmental issues addressed in *Taking Sides*
 4. written assignments, including "Overview Questions" from the Website or CD accompanying the textbook, "Critical Thinking" questions at the end of each chapter
 5. laboratory exercises

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- As a voting citizen, Introduction to Environmental Science may be the most important course you will ever take.
- The goals for Introduction to Environmental Science include:
 1. To eliminate "science phobia" and demystify science in general and environmental issues in particular.
 2. To develop of an awareness of the necessity for responsible policies related to environmental problems based upon accurate data and sound scientific methodology.
 3. To develop the ability to identify the critical elements related to environmental issues.
 4. To develop aptitude with the philosophy, methods, and goals of environmental science.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to complete five position papers on controversial issues. Five laboratory exercises provide practical application of the lessons. There will be three proctored midterm exams and a proctored comprehensive final exam.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

Grade Distribution:

Critical thinking questions and overview questions (CD/Online)	120 points (1 point each)
Position papers on controversial issues (5)	125 points (25 points each)
Laboratory exercises (5)	150 points (30 points each)
Proctored midterm exams (3)	300 points (100 points each)
Proctored final exam	<u>150 points</u>
Total Points	845 points

Scale:

Grades will be determined on the basis of objective, performance-based criteria. That is, letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage total points earned.

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

COURSE INSTRUCTIONS

Examinations:

- There will be three proctored midterm examinations and a proctored comprehensive final examination.
- Prior to each examination, students must submit a Request for Examination with the Office of Extended Studies after completion and submission of the relevant lessons to the instructor.

Midterm examination I	Lessons 1-4
Midterm examination II	Lessons 5-8
Midterm examination III	Lessons 9-11
Final examination (comprehensive)	Lesson 12

Assignments:

- Completed assignments for each lesson are to be returned to the instructor electronically via e-mail or conventional mail at the address listed in the syllabus.
- All lessons and their associated assignments must be completed and received by the instructor prior to submitting a Request for Examination with the Office of Extended Studies for the appropriate examination.
- “Position Papers” on controversial issues are assigned essays in which the student must summarize, adopt, and defend one of the positions presented in the assigned readings *within the context of the material covered in the course*. Thus, these essays are to be informed, rather than mere expressions of opinion. “Position Papers” must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, two pages in length and must be submitted electronically via TurnItIn.com. Instructions for submission are given on the TurnItIn.com website. Either log in to your account on TurnItIn.com or begin by selecting “New Users”. The name of the class is ENV101ASC, the ID is 1797416, and the password is “Darwin”.

Learning Online:

- Use the CD accompanying the textbook or log on to <http://biology.brookscole.com/miller14>. Click on "Chapter-by-Chapter" and choose the appropriate chapter(s).
- For study purposes, select the desired learning resource (*e.g.*, "Chapter Summary," "Flashcards," "Glossary," "Review Questions") from the menu bar on the left of the screen.
- For assigned "Overview Questions," select "Overview Questions" from the menu bar on the left of the screen.

College, Departmental, and Course Policies:

- The instructor will strictly adhere to all policies established by the Office of Extended Studies. All coursework must be completed within the allotted time as established by the Office of Extended Studies.
- A MINIMUM of six weeks, and a MAXIMUM of one calendar year (from the enrollment date) is the established time frame available for completion of the course. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Communication with the instructor, and submission of course materials (other than “Position Papers” and examinations) is most efficiently accomplished via email.
- Examination requests should NOT be made until all lessons and associated assignments/laboratory exercises have been completed and received by the instructor. Once an examination has been requested all lessons and associated exercises not previously completed will no longer be accepted and will be assigned a score of zero.

- Examination requests must be submitted to Extended Studies at the address given and using the form provided—NOT to the instructor. Note also the instructions regarding approved proctors for examinations and that ONLY ONE examination may be requested and administered per week. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Academic honesty (i.e., individual efforts on all exercises) is mandatory. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or falsification of laboratory data, etc., will not be tolerated. Any offense will result in a zero for the exam or exercise in question and may result in failure of the course.
- All challenges or recalculations of examination or final course grades must be documented by the student with appropriate paperwork, and must be brought to the attention of the instructor within the first week following the course completion date (i.e., one year after the course begins). After these deadlines, grade changes will not be considered.
- There is NO provision for “extra credit” in this course.
- Should students desire the return of any graded exercises (other than examinations), an addressed postage paid (in sufficient amount) envelope must accompany the request.