BIOL 2115 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Instructor:
E-Mail:
Phone:
Office:
Office Hours:

I. Course description

A survey course designed to examine natural systems and the impact of human society on those systems. Topics covered will include principles of ecology, biodiversity, and population dynamics; additionally, the course will address the socioeconomic and environmental costs associated with natural resource consumption, energy production, pollution, and waste generation. Laboratory work and off-site activities will provide additional opportunities for students to develop critical thinking and environmental problem solving skills, as they address local environmental issues.

The laboratory component of the course is integrated into the lectures (i.e., there is no separate lab time).

Credit: 4 credits, 3 class hours, 3 lab hours
Prerequisite: Level 2 placement in English, Math and Reading.

II. Course Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will:

- Apply the scientific method to environmental issues.
- Explain the inter-relationships that define ecosystems and discuss the energy flow and nutrient cycling that supports them.
- Distinguish between renewable and non-renewable sources of energy and evaluate the merits of each.
- Describe the human impact on global resources.
- Interpret graphs, tables and other qualitative data.
- Evaluate current environmental policy.

Course Topics

- Scientific method
- Chemistry
- Organic molecules
- Photosynthesis
- Cellular respiration
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Evolution
• Principles of ecology
• Biomes and biodiversity
• Environmental conservation
• Food and Agriculture
• Environmental Health
• Climate change
• Pollution
• Energy: resources, conservation, and sustainability
• Solid and Hazardous Waste
• The economics of environmental science
• Environmental policy

Lab Topics
• Environmental Awareness
• Environmental Risk Ranking Survey Analysis
• Global Climate Change and Automobiles
• Demography
• Environmental Contamination
• Environmental Forensics
• Wetlands Mitigation
• Wastewater Management
• Pollution Prevention
• Aquatic Species Diversity
• Waste Management
• Urban Ecosystems

III. Required Materials

• Required Textbook:


• Lab Manual


IV. Course Policies

Attendance policy:
Each Instructor will provide information regarding his/her attendance policy. Failure to attend class will result in a final course grade of “FA” or “FN” (see explanation below), depending on the individual instructor’s course policy.
FA = failure, attendance-related (unofficial withdrawal) Last recorded date of attendance required
FN = failure, never attended class (unofficial withdrawal)

Assessment and Grading: ***Subject to change at instructor’s discretion
In order to receive credit for this course, the student must.

a. Attend class regularly
b. Complete lab and class assignments
c. Have a final average of 60 or more
d. Complete all tests and a final exam

Grades for this course will be based on unit tests, class and lab assignments, and a final test. The completed lab notebook will count for one test grade. Attendance for exams is a requirement of the course. If a student misses an exam, for whatever reason, a makeup exam may be taken during final week. The makeup exam will cover only the material the missed exam covered. Only one makeup exam will be given per student. If a student misses more than one exam then a zero will be assigned to the other missed exams. There are no makeup exams for the final test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Exams</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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The final lecture exam will be given during the scheduled final exam period as published by the college.

**Grading Scale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-90</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
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**Safety issues**
The instructor will go over new regulations regarding safety in lab classes. You must turn in a signed copy of the regulations, and you will have a copy to keep.

**Student Communication Channels**
It is the student’s responsibility to check NS Online (D2L) and MyNSCC email on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students. Students are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. NS Online contains specific course information and MyNSCC contains information important for other purposes.
V. ADA Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you wish to request any special accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Students Disabilities Office. Such Services must have proof of documentation that is not over 3 years old. Contact the Disabilities Coordinator at 353-3721.

VI. Classroom Behavior
Nashville State Community College has a zero tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary sanctions.

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity. He/she can order temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or in conduct which violates the general rules and regulations of the College. Disruptive behavior in the classroom may be defined as, but is not limited to, behavior that obstructs or disrupts the learning environment (e.g., offensive language, harassment of students and professors, repeated outbursts from a student which disrupt the flow of instruction or prevent concentration on the subject taught, failure to cooperate in maintaining classroom decorum, etc.), the continued use of any electronic or other noise or light emitting device which disturbs others (e.g., disturbing noises from beepers, cell phones, palm pilots, lap-top computers, games, etc.).

Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or unattended on campus.

Academic Dishonesty (Honor Code)
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. “Plagiarism may result from: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (A Writer’s Reference 331). Academic dishonesty may be defined as, but is not limited to, intentionally trying to deceive by claiming credit for the work of another person, using information from a web page or source without citing the reference, fraudulently using someone else’s work on an exam, paper, or assignment, recycling your own work from another course, purchasing papers or materials from another source and presenting them as your own, attempting to obtain exams/materials/assignments in advance of the date of administration by the instructor, impersonating someone else in a testing situation, providing confidential test information to someone else, submitting the same assignment in two different classes without requesting both instructor’s permission, allowing someone else to copy or use your work, using someone else’s work to complete your own, altering documents, transcripts or grades, and forging a faculty/staff member’s signature.
In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions that may be imposed through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “Zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination or to assign an “F” for the course.

**NOTE:** This syllabus is meant simply as a guide and overview of the course and assessments, etc. are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.