

# ENVS 1301 B

## Introduction to Environmental Science

Courses Syllabus: Spring, 2024

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Classroom: BA 244

Time: 1/10/24-5/10/24

### **Text Book:**

**Recommended.** Electronic Book: Kaufmann and Cleveland, 2015, Environmental Science.

Simply go to [store.trinity.com](http://store.trinity.com) and search for “Environmental Science”.

### **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:**

It is a **blended** course. We will meet in classroom on Mon and Wed. On Friday, assignments, exam, or videos will be delivered online. The main teaching methods include 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 structure.
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** Students will be able understand and utilize mathematical functions and empirical principles and processes.
4. **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.

**Monthly writings, projects and exams** will be given to support and assess the learning objectives and competency student learning outcomes. **Some other small assignments** will be assigned in classroom or online to enhance the understanding of the class contents.

### **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 main contents 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 (e.g. do you like the papers and why). The articles **will be assigned** to you in D2L 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 Jan 31, Feb 28 and Mar 31**. Source of information must be referenced. **Assignments are expected to be submitted on time.**

### **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. Study guide will be given to help you prepare for exams. The date of exams will be announced in class and shown on D2L.

### **Team Project:**

In order to culture and assess your teamwork 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 submission folder in D2L on or before 5 pm on Apr 30. 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 cannot receive the teamwork grade (33%).**

<b>Grades:</b>	3 tests	300 points	A≥90%
	Articles writing	100 points	B≥80%
	Projects	100 points	C≥70%
	Class assignments	40 points	D≥60%
	Total	540 points	F<60%

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

Jan 10-26 Environmental Overview;	Mar 25- Mar 29 Water; <b>Exam 2</b>
Jan 29-Feb 2 Ecology;	Apr 1- 5 Solid Waste;
Feb 5-9 Biomes;	Apr 8-12 Food Agriculture;
Feb 12-16 Biodiversity; <b>Exam 1</b>	Apr 15-19 Pest Control
Feb 19-23 Biological communities;	Apr 22-30 Projects and review
Feb 26-Mar 1 Population;	May 1-3 University studying time
Mar 4-22 Air pollution and climate change;	May 6-10 <b>Exam 3</b>

**The date of exam will be shown on D2L.**

### **Attendance**

The teaching/learning materials will be posted in D2L. Students have access to those materials anytime. Students are also required to attend all sections and **sign the rosters** every class. **Be late for class and/or leaving early will be treated as absences. 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.

### **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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

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.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with

students in an online forum: Netiquette <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **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 delivered 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](mailto: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 office time. Generally, emails will be answered within 24 hrs. If I can not answer emails on time, I will let you know

in advance.