



ENVS 1301.01W Introduction To Environmental Science

COURSE SYLLABUS: SUMMER I 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Janet Hull
Office Location: online-via email
Office Hours: M-S 10:00-5:00
University Email Address: Janet.Hull@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required: *Environmental Science - A Global Concern* by Cunningham, Cunningham, O'Reilly and Winsett, Sixteenth (16th) Edition, McGraw Hill

Software Required: A dependable online server and computer hardware

Course Description

The course goals are designed to increase your awareness about the Earth's natural processes and how human influences effect the natural environment. We

will study foundational knowledge of ecosystems, the ability to assess human impacts, introduce practical skills in sustainability and research, and gain an understanding of environmental policies.

The material and information for the lectures will come from the **16th textbook edition and from the instructor's notes posted online within your program tabs**, and will be the primary focus of information for your weekly chapter tests.

Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this environmental science class, students will be able to achieve the following learning outcomes.

- 1. Understand Ecosystem Dynamics**

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of how energy and nutrients flow through natural systems.

- 2. Analyze Human Environmental Impacts**

Students will be able to analyze the effects of a specific human activity — such as deforestation, pollution, or urbanization — on a particular ecosystem.

- 3. Design Sustainable Solutions**

Students will be able to design sustainable solutions for ecology, climate change, pollution, and biodiversity.

- 4. Design Sustainable Solutions**

Students will expand their awareness about ecosystem interactions, like food chains and energy flow.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

This online course requires Microsoft Word or a compatible Word program, dependable computer hardware, and a *VERY dependable server*. No extra software or hardware are required.

Instructional Methods

You will be utilizing various forms of learning tools available on-line, using your textbook, on-line lectures, and class discussions. You will be required to monitor specific websites throughout this course, and I will email you those links when applicable.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

If you *experience computer issues* during a weekly test, **do NOT log out of your test** - immediately contact campus IT or the e-college hotline so they can witness the issues occurring at that time by using screen share. *If you log out, no one can help you resolve any problems, and you **will not have documentation to show me that you tried to resolve the problem.***

Note: when you quit a test session, always **click on the "Exit Course" button** at the bottom of your screen to save your work.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Assessments

- **Five (5) chapter tests** will be given; one (1) test each week worth 100 pts each (100% of course grade);
- **No** Mid-term exam;
- **No** Final exam;
- ***Your only tests are chapter tests;***

- I **drop** your lowest test grade;
- **No extra credit** assignments are available but I do offer extra credit by 1) dropping your lowest test grade and 2) *if you take all 5 tests*, I will give you **2 points extra credit** on your final average;
- Each chapter exam must be completed before starting the next chapter gets into the queue, and will be available to take within a designated 48-hour period that is posted in the **Test Section** within each Unit;
- Each chapter test is timed - I allow ample time for each test (*1.5x to 2x required time*), and exams are open book;
- No chapter exams can be taken once the next chapter has gotten into the queue - if **you have a conflict when the tests are open, I can work with you if you contact me before the tests close**;
- I have a test review in each weekly chapter unit;
- This course has no proctoring requirement.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Each chapter's material will consist of:

1. An overview of the chapter topic and the learning objectives. When you **click on a unit**, you will be taken to the requirements.
2. Lecture consists of both instructor lectures and emails, plus your **chapter reading assignments**.
3. **A weekly chapter test will be required after each assigned unit chapter**. The weekly tests will be based on book material and instructor's lecture.

4. There will be **no Mid-Term Exam or Final Exam** for this course. 100% of your grade comes from the ***weekly chapter tests***.

Course Content By Unit:

I will email you a test schedule with the test dates to record on your calendar.

1. Geology and Earth Resources – **Unit 1 (Chapter 14)**. Global geologic introduction into Earth processes, minerals, and other resources.
2. Climate Systems and Climate Change – **Unit 2 (Chapter 15)**. Introduction to the atmosphere, weather patterns, and global climate changes.
3. Water Use and Management – **Unit 3 (Chapter 17)**. Overview of water resources, water availability and use, and water conservation.
4. Conventional Energy – **Unit 4 (Chapter 19)**. An introduction into energy resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.
5. Solid, Toxic, and Hazardous Waste – **Unit 5 (Chapter 21)**. Unit 4 addresses what to do with human waste; reducing waste, recycling, plastics, toxic chemicals, and landfills.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

You have 2 days each week to schedule a time to take your chapter tests, but I do not reopen the tests nor reschedule make-up times if you have not contacted me to reschedule before the tests close.

If an emergency comes up during the 2-day scheduled test times, I will work with you to reschedule IF YOU CONTACT ME BEFORE THE TEST CLOSES.

I do not offer extra credit assignments for this class.

Read each chapter and unit lecture, and schedule a time to take your tests each week, never miss a test, and you should pass this class.

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

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.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC or MAC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I check my email daily, and email anytime with questions or concerns. Your weekly chapter test grades are posted after the weekly tests close. Your running average is available in the first column in the grade book, and is updated every week

University Specific Procedures

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britanica.com/topic/netiquette>

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>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans 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 an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

University's Pandemic Response (when applicable)

"A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty

where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

*Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.