



## ENVS 1301 SECTIONS: 01E & 02E – Introduction to Environmental Science

### COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013

**Instructor:** W. Ray Arnold, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor

**Office Location:** SCT 215

**Office Hours:** M: 2:00- 4:00, W: 2:00- 4:00 Th: 2:00-3:00

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**Office Fax:** (903) 886-5997

**University Email Address:** ray.arnold@tamuc.edu

#### COURSE INFORMATION

##### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Textbook Required:* Cunningham, W.P., and M.A. Cunningham (2010) Environmental Science: A Global Concern. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: McGraw–Hill.

*Lab Book Required:* Wells: Environmental Science Lab Manual

**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.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Completion of these outcomes does not guarantee that you will pass this course.

1. Students will be able to define ecological footprint.
2. Students will be able to define the concept of sustainable development.
3. Students will be able to identify the root cause of the major environmental problems.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

##### **Instructional Methods:**

Lecture, discussion, and videos

##### **Activities:**

##### **Unscheduled Quizzes:**

I reserve the right to administer unscheduled quizzes; however no individual unscheduled quiz will exceed 2 percentage points of the final grade.

## Writing Assignments:

1. During February, March, and April and by the beginning of the last lecture of the first week of the month: Email to me a paper about a current environmental issue that you learned about in a scientific journal, magazine, newspaper, or the Internet. Type two paragraphs, ~ ½ -1 page, 12 pt font, standard margins & line spacing. In the first paragraph, summarize the article and in the second, summarize your reaction and opinion of the article. The file must be a PDF or Word. By the end of the semester there will be a total of 3 of these papers due. Source of the article must be referenced.
2. Submit one well written properly referenced research paper discussing some aspect or topic in environmental science beyond the level of material covered in class. The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages long excluding the title page and reference page, standard font and margins apply. Number your pages. A PDF or Word file of the paper is due on or before 12:00 noon on Wednesday April 24 (email it to me). **Plagiarized papers will receive a zero. Any paper that is not properly referenced will not be accepted — automatic zero score.**

— Or —

Conceptualize, design, and perform a project targeting environmental sustainability/community environmental service (remember: Think globally; act locally). You can work in groups numbering up to five students but your individual report must be unique to you. Actual conduct of the project must exceed 16 hours. Your project must not break University policies nor local, state, or federal laws. Submit one well written and photo documented paper describing your project, your goals, your time spent (document your work schedule), your achievements, and lessons learned. 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 standard font and margins apply. Number your pages. A PDF or Word file of the paper is due on or before 12:00 noon on Wednesday April 24 (email it to me). **Plagiarized papers will receive a zero score.**

3. I reserve the right to modify the assignments and schedule.

## Assessment:

### Minimum expectations:

1. Attend lectures and be punctual
2. Be attentive
3. Participate in class discussions
4. Be respectful to me and your classmates
5. Complete class assignments on time and on target
6. Be punctual on exam day; complete the three exams (including a comprehensive final exam)
7. Achieve an average grade of ≥60 % according to the grading basis (below)

**Grade basis:**

3 tests, including final	300 points
Research paper/project	40 points
Monthly articles	30 points
Lab	<u>130 points</u>
Total	<u>500 points</u>

1. Penalty enforcement (I reserve the right to adjust your grade for violation of the minimum expectations)
2. Make-up exams will only be given if arrangements are made with the instructor **before** missing the scheduled exam. A documented excuse will be required. Otherwise, missing exams will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation.

**Absenteeism**

Each student will be subject to a penalty of 2 percentage points off of their final grade for each unexcused absence after they exceed 3 unexcused absences.

**Grading Scale:** The following scale is adhered to strictly.

90.0 – 100% = A
80.0 - 89.9% = B
70.0 - 79.9% = C
60.0 – 69.9% = D
<60.0% = F

<b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b>
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Access to a digital camera (applies to those that perform the sustainability project)

<b>ACCESS AND NAVIGATION</b>
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Access to a computer with word processing capabilities and an internet connection

<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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**Interaction with Instructor Statement:**

**Contacting Your Instructor:** If you have questions pertaining to the content of this course (e.g., questions about an exam, course due dates, grades, etc.), please contact your me via email, phone, or come by my office. Though I am happy to see you anytime (time permitting), it may be easiest to find me during my office hours.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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**Course Specific Procedures:**

**Responsible Use of Technology** — It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class and/or other penalties. Students are not allowed to use image, video, nor audio recording devices of any kind during class time without prior consent of the instructor.

**University Specific Procedures:****ADA Statement****Students with Disabilities:**

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 132**

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

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**

**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**Schedule (listed by semester week) is approximate and subject to change**

1 Chapter 1— Environmental Overview

2 Chapter 1— Environmental Overview

3 Chapters 3, 4, & 5 — Ecology

4 **Exam I**

5 Chapters 3, 4, & 5 — Ecology

6 Chapter 7— Human Population

7 Chapter 7— Human Population

8 Chapters 15 & 16—Air

9 Chapters 15 & 16—Air

10 Chapters 17 & 18—Water

11 **Exam II**

12 Chapters 17 & 18—Water

13 Chapters 19 & 20—Energy

14 Chapters 19 & 20—Energy

15 Chapter 9—Food and Agriculture

16 **Final Exam**