

EES 315 Environmental Science and Society

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Introduction

This course is an introduction to how scientists approach some of the serious environmental problems facing our society. We will seek to understand how scientists acquire environmental data and how this data is used to mitigate environmental problems such as water pollution, hazardous wastes, climate change, and food resources. We will also discuss the limits of science in trying to solve these problems.

This is a compressed course and is self-directed. It requires the student to be self-motivated and to devote a minimum of ten to fifteen hours each week to the course. If you cannot do this, you should not attempt it. You cannot wait until the day before assignments are due to begin working. This results in poor quality work and low grades. Set a regular weekly schedule and stick to it! If you find you cannot maintain the workload be sure to drop the course while you can still receive a refund. The drop rules are as follows:

Drop through Friday 1 January 2010 – 100% refund; No record on transcript.

Drop through Friday 8 January 2010 - No refund. Withdraw passing (WP) or withdraw failing (WF) posted to transcript.

Drop after Saturday 9 January – No refund. A-F grade posted to transcript.

You will receive a letter or email containing instructions on how to obtain an account and access the course on the web. If you have problems with VISTA you should contact our computer support staff at cit@easternct.edu. You should complete the tutorial on getting started with Vista before beginning the course. If you have problems with your password you should call 860-465-4346.

This course meets GER Category I.A. Inquiry and Analysis and LAC Tier 2 Natural Science

Objectives

1. Evaluate the quality of scientific data and its interpretation in published studies.
2. Acquire and synthesize data needed to apply science to the needs of society
3. Apply scientific methods and knowledge in making and evaluating decisions in human affairs.
4. Recognize the limitations of science in addressing certain societal problems.

Course Content

1. Lectures – The lectures cover facts and concepts relevant to each topic. You should listen to the lectures carefully and take notes. Access the lectures by clicking on the appropriate topic folder on the course content page. You may also access the slides included in the lecture by clicking on the lecture slides icon.
2. Study Questions – There is a set of 12-15 study questions for each topic. These are the facts and concepts you should learn from the lectures. The answers should be single-spaced and written in complete sentences. Most answers are from 1-3 sentences. Access the study questions by clicking on the appropriate topic folder on the course content page.
3. Analysis Questions – The analysis questions go beyond the facts and concepts to elicit your view on complex or controversial questions. Using what you have learned in the lectures and articles, you should write ½ to 1 page single spaced answers to each analysis question. There is often no “correct” answer to an analysis question. You will be assessed by the evidence you use to support your viewpoint. You are encouraged but not required to bring in outside material (e.g. web, optional texts) to help you answer the questions. Access the analysis questions by clicking on the appropriate topic folder on the course content page.
4. Article Reviews – There are two article reviews each week. You may choose any article from the text. You may

want to choose one that is similar to that week's topic. Access the article review instructions by clicking on the appropriate topic folder on the course content page.

5. Assignment Submissions – Submit the assignments to the instructor by the due date and time. **LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THIS MEANS THAT ANY MATERIAL SUBMITTED AFTER THE DUE DATE AND TIME WILL RECEIVE A ZERO. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE DUE DATE TO START WORKING!** Submission instructions are located within each assignment.

Discussions

There is a discussion tool on your course toolbar. The discussion is organized around a general section and the 8 topics we will cover. If you would like to contribute a comment, cite a newspaper article, television program, or personal experience please feel free to add a comment. You are not required to contribute but I have found that students often have interesting material or personal experiences which add to the class. Please check the discussion tool occasionally and see if any comments have been posted.

What You Should Do For Each Topic

1. Click on the course content icon. Listen to the introduction and read the syllabus!
2. Click on the appropriate topic folder
3. Listen to the lecture and take notes.
4. Answer and submit the study questions.
5. Answer and submit the analysis questions.
6. Complete and submit the two article reviews.
7. Submit the assignments before or on the due dates. Be sure to follow the assignment submission format!

Syllabus – Click on the appropriate folder or file on the course content page to access the assignments
Course begins on Monday, 28 December 2009

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Due Date (by midnight each day)</u>
1	1. Environmental History Lecture Study Questions Analysis Questions Lecture Slides 2. The Human Population Lecture Study Questions Analysis Questions Lecture Slides Article Reviews 1,2	Monday, 4 Jan 2010
2	3. Food Resources Lecture Study Questions Analysis Questions Lecture Slides 4. Solid, Toxic, and Hazardous Waste Lecture Study Questions Analysis Questions Lecture Slides Article Reviews 3,4	Monday, 11 Jan 2010
3	5. Water Resources Lecture	Monday, 18 Jan 2010

Study Questions
Analysis Questions
Lecture Slides

6. Water Pollution Lecture
Study Questions
Analysis Questions
Lecture Slides

Article Reviews 5,6

4

7. Energy Resources Lecture
Study Questions
Analysis Questions
Lecture Slides

Thursday, 21 Jan 2010

8. Climate Change
Study Questions
Analysis Questions
Lecture Slides

Article Reviews 7,8

Texts

Required

Annual Editions: Environment, McGraw-Hill

You may use any edition from the last three years. The text is the source for the article reviews. The text may be purchased from the university bookstore or from an on-line source (e.g. Amazon.com).

Optional

There are numerous environmental science texts which cover material similar to the lecture material. If you would like a text to clarify lecture topics or extend your knowledge of individual topics, examples are listed below. These may be purchased from on-line sources. Any edition within the last three years would be adequate. Used editions are often available.

Williams, Linda. Environmental Science Demystified. McGraw Hill. This text is only \$19.95 new. It is not as extensive as the other ones but has very good basic information.

Brennan, Scott and Jay Withgott. Environment: The Science behind the Stories. Pearson.

Cunningham, William P., Cunningham, Mary Ann, and Barbara Woodworth Saigo. Environmental Science: A Global Concern. McGraw Hill.

Raven, Peter H. and Linda R. Berg. Environment. John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Enger, Eldon D. and Bradley F. Smith. Environmental Science: A Study of Interrelationships. McGraw Hill.

Questions

The fastest way to get questions answered is by e-mail. Use the email tool in the course, not my faculty email.

Grading

Study Questions – 50%

Analysis Questions – 25%

Article Reviews – 25%

Access the my grade tool to check on your grades. The grades will usually be posted within 3 days of submission.

Grade Scale (%)

93–100 A

90-92 A-

88-89 B+

83-87 B

80-82 B-

78-79 C+

73-77 C

70-72 C-

68-69 D+

60-67 D

<60 F

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of Disability Services at 860-465-5573. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible. Please understand that the instructor cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until an accommodation letter is received from the Office of Disability Services.

Plagiarism

Students must prepare and submit all written work individually. Claiming other's work as your own is unethical and will result in a failing grade. This includes cut-and-paste operations from previously written reports, retrieval of essays (or portions of essays) from web sites, and improperly citing the work of others. Eastern's policy on plagiarism may be reviewed at <http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/plagiarism/plagiarism.htm>.