

Environmental Science

BIOL 3350

Syllabus
Summer 2011

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Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. 2:15-3:00 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview of relevant environmental issues. Topics discussed will include environmental pollution, energy uses, global climate change, threatened and endangered species, introduced and invasive species, and sustainability.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

This course will study human impacts on the environment and will help the students express themselves clearly, logically and precisely in writing and in speaking (Gen Ed Outcome 1). The proposed course will also help students demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles (Gen Ed Outcome 2), and interpret ecological data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its natural environment; to the structure and function of populations, communities, and ecosystems; and to human impacts on these systems and the environment (BIO Learning Outcome 5).

TEXT: Environmental Science by Richard T. Wright

GRADE DETERMINATION:

Grades will be assessed by three exams, a presentation, participation, and class assignments. All exams will be scheduled in advanced. They should be planned for and taken on the day they are scheduled. There will be three lecture exams followed by a final exam which will be taken during the allotted time published online and posted below. Students are required to learn the lecture material and the readings from the text for all exams. Exam format will be specified by your instructor. **There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS**, with the exception of those students with a University related excuse or an emergency. Otherwise, a missed exam will be equal to zero points.

Procedure for exams:

- No books, electronic devices, or notebooks will be allowed during exams. Students using such items will be asked to leave and will receive a zero for the exam.
- No talking will be allowed during the exam, but students are permitted to ask the instructor questions.
- Each student will be given an exam to be completed and handed back to the instructor.
- Students must bring a pencil and will take the exam during the stated lecture time only.
- **NOTE:** You will have the class time only to complete each lecture exam.

GRADING SCALE:

3 Exams	300	A 100-90%	450-500 points
Class participation & Assignments	100	B 80-89%	400-449 points
Presentation	100	C 70-79%	350-399 points
Total	500	D 60-69%	300-349 points
		F ≤ 59%	≤ 299 points

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Copying or allowing someone to copy on exams, quizzes, in class assignments, papers or presentations is cheating. Using another's words or ideas without proper quotation or attribution is plagiarism. Such misconduct is punishable at least by failure of the assignment in question and in severe cases failure of the course may be in order. See the VSU catalog under the same heading.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance in this course is highly recommended, unless you are sick. Students should be seated at the beginning of class. If you are late, your attendance may not be acknowledged. The student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. It is the instructor's prerogative to accept the excuse or not.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION: Students should have in their possession at all times their VSU student identification card. In order to verify the identification of students officially enrolled in the course, it is the instructor's prerogative to request official student photo identification cards at any time during lecture. During examinations, students will routinely be asked to display their VSU student identification cards visibly on the desk top and to make them available for inspection by their instructor and/or assistants.

PRIVACY ACT (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given by email or over the telephone, as positive identification cannot be made by this manner.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated in this course. Students should restrict talking and discussion to pertinent questions related to course material and these questions should be directed toward the instructor. Entering a classroom late or early is discouraged. Any student disrupting lectures will be required to leave the classroom. Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during scheduled lectures, laboratories, or examinations. If students bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture, it is their responsibility to switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture period.

BIOLOGY TUTORING: The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC also provides free

professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone number is (229) 245-2498.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Date	Day	Chapter/Topic
12-May	Thurs	1; 2-4: Introduction; Ecosystems
13-May	Fri	2-4: Ecosystems; FL/GA Ecosystems
16-May	Mon	7; 9: Water; Food Distribution
17-May	Tues	10; 11: Biodiversity & Coral Reefs; Ecosystem Capital & Sustainability
18-May	Wed	12-14: Energy
19-May	Thurs	12-14: Energy; Review
20-May	Fri	EXAM 1
23-May	Mon	15-16: Pests & Pest Control
24-May	Tues	17-19 Water Pollution
25-May	Wed	20: Atmosphere & Change
26-May	Thurs	21: Air Pollution
27-May	Fri	EXAM 2
30-May	Mon	HOLIDAY
31-May	Tues	St. Johns River Case Study
1-Jun	Wed	Everglades Case Study
2-Jun	Thurs	PRESENTATIONS
3-Jun	Fri	FINAL EXAM