

**Principles of Natural Resources and Environmental Science
NRES 100 Fall 2011**

Time/Location

Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
105 Davidson Math & Science Center

Course Instructor

Julie Stoughton
238 Fleischmann Agriculture
784-1674
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Office Hours

Monday 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 PM
Thursday 9:45 – 10:45 AM
or by appointment

Teaching Assistant

Sabrina Morano
239F Fleischmann Agriculture
sabmorano@gmail.com

Office Hours

Tuesday 9:30 – 10:30 AM
Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00 PM
Thursday 12:30 – 1:30 PM

Required Text

Essential Environment-The Science Behind the Stories, 3e by Scott Brennan and Jay Withgott, 2009

OR – eBook version of *Essential Environment* – ordering information at UNR Bookstore

Course Description

General introduction to issues and topics related to natural resources, environmental sciences, conservation biology and hydrology.

Course Objectives

1. Introduce students to the academic part of college life by developing familiarity with the university, its resources, the expectations of university study, and good study skills.
2. Introduce the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences fields of research and teaching expertise, and the faculty that work in these areas.
3. Present some key concepts and approaches to analysis of problems in natural resource management and environmental science.
4. Develop key skills essential for success in higher-level courses.

Course Format

Lecture – This course is discussion and activity oriented. Most classes will include a natural resource/environmental science topic and/or skill development activities. Students will be assigned to a work group of 4-5 students the first week of class. Students are expected to sit with their group for discussion and class activities.

Exams – Two exams with multiple choice and short essay questions, and a third “science skills” practicum exam, focused on the skill development aspect of the class.

Assignments – Students will complete a variety of in class and at home assignments over the course of the semester. Some assignments are due in class, others will be emailed to the class TA.

Fieldtrip – On September 17 or 18 there will be a 1-day fieldtrip at the University of California System’s Sagehen Creek Field Station, in the Sierra Nevada north of Truckee CA. The objectives of the fieldtrip are to:

1. Introduce you to a realistic multi-disciplinary resource management challenge – the management of a Sierra Nevada watershed for combined water supply, timber supply, fire control, biodiversity conservation and recreation.
2. Expose you in a field setting to varied science disciplines and methods related to resource management and environmental science.
3. Introduce you to NRES faculty and graduate students and their expertise.
4. Develop teamwork skills for subsequent use during regular class periods throughout the semester.

Field methods sessions will include use of GPS, vegetation sampling, wildlife field methods, fish observation, and water quality measurements. Data collected will become the focus of homework assignments designed to develop data handling, analysis and interpretation skills. Full details of the fieldtrip, including what to bring and where to meet, will be included in a separate fieldtrip handout. For students unable to attend, there will be a separate assessed project.

WebCampus – This course will be taught as a web-enhanced class. Students can access course materials, calendars and assignments at <https://webcampus.unr.edu/>

1. Enter your username (your UNR netID)
2. Enter your password (your netID password)

(Note – if you have not activated your netID account first go to <https://netid.unr.edu/> and select “Activate NetID”)

Course Grading

Assignments

Map Interpretation Lab	10 pts
Field Weekend Summary	100 pts
Report Spreadsheet	10 pts
Report References	10 pts
Report Graphs	10 pts
Report Rough Draft	10 pts
Final Report	100 pts
Exam 1	75 pts
Exam 2	100 pts
Exam 3	75 pts

Total Points Possible 500 pts

Grade Scale – The course grading scale will be according to the Board of Regents’ grading scale as follows: 100-93 (A), 92-90 (A-), 89-87 (B+), 86-83 (B), 82-80 (B-), 79-77 (C+), etc.

Course Policies

All students are expected to maintain a high standard of intellectual honesty. Anyone involved in academic misconduct (i.e. plagiarism, cheating) will receive a failing grade for that assignment. Repeat offenses will result in a letter to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and possible failing grade in the course.

Attendance – Attendance is essential for student success. Students who miss a class session are responsible for finding out what they missed before the next class. No make-up exams or in class assignments will be given without **prior** arrangements for excused absences. Students are responsible for verifying excused absences.

Late Arrival – Students who arrive to class after an exam has been distributed **will not** receive extra time to take the exam. Late students may also forfeit the chance to complete in class assignments.

Late Work – Assignments must be turned in by the end of the day on their due date to receive full credit. Late work is only accepted up to one week after the original due date for 50% credit.

Student Behavior – Students are expected to abide by the policies listed in the UNR Student Judicial Code (see the UNR Student Handbook web link).

Disabilities – Any student with a disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me or contact the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101, 784-6000), as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Success Services

Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (www.unr.edu/mathcenter/ or 784-4433), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring/), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or www.unr.edu/writing_center). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

Course Schedule (see attached schedule)

The current course schedule and assignment due dates will be posted in advance on the WebCampus course calendar. The schedule is subject to change.