

Vincennes University

Course Title: **Environmental Science**

Course Number: **ERTH 101**

Credit Hours: **3**

Distribution of Contact Hours: **3 lecture**

Course Syllabus
Spring Semester, 2012

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Office Hours

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

II. Course Catalog Description

Course Description

Prerequisites: Students must qualify for ENGL 101 and MATH 013. This course examines issues and events of current importance such as pollution, natural disasters, state and federal land use (including state and national parks), and population growth concerns. Career opportunities and transfer options for fields of studies covered will be included. Presentations by professional guest speakers, and utilization of World Wide Web will provide course enrichment. 3 lecture hours.

General Education skills supported by this course include the following:

Reading and Writing
Oral Communications
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
Mathematics
Science
Computer
Library and Research
Cultural and Historical Awareness

General Education graduation requirements met by this course:

Science and Mathematics Common Core for AAS Degree.
Science and Mathematics Broad Core for AAS Degree.

III. Common Course Outcomes

1. Insight into the many dynamic processes occurring in the earth and on its surface.
2. Awareness of the status of world natural resources and trends in their use.
3. An understanding of the methods by which the earth is studied and the importance of studying it.
4. A better understanding and appreciation of Earth's fragile environment.
5. Awareness of threats to the environment, their health, and the health of organisms therein.
6. Increased awareness of related fields within Earth Sciences and future educational and vocational opportunities.

IV. Course Assessment Strategies

The course consists of lectures, group problem solving exercises, written assignments, exams and quizzes, student presentation.

V. Course Text and Materials

Environmental Science: Foundations and Applications, Andrew Friedland et al, 2012, WH Freeman, 1429240296

Presentation notes and supplementary materials may be posted to Blackboard. Students may wish to regularly check Blackboard for materials and announcements.

VI. Instructional Methodologies/Activities

Graded assignments include exams, homework, quizzes, field trips (weather and schedules permitting), a paper, and a presentation. These are listed along with their contribution to the course grade in the next section.

Techniques important for learning and making the grade:

1. Attend lecture and take notes in a way that promotes understanding of concepts discussed. Students should be able to describe the lecture content in their own words.
2. Review lecture notes later on the same day of lecture and then every two days after that, making notes about questions about the material covered.
3. Summarize knowledge in own words/outline/note cards before each exam.
4. Use the textbook! Textbook chapters associated with each lecture topic are listed in this syllabus. Reading the textbook can be good lecture preparation and review, and allow students to delve more deeply into subjects that interest them. In addition, the textbook is a useful reference during class meetings.
5. Read the Textbook in an “active” way. For example, skim the textbook to know what is covered where. Write questions about the types of information that can be learned from the textbook. Read the appropriate pages or chapters carefully and then answer self-derived questions about it. Review the findings.
6. Study with other members of the class.
7. Make use of online materials and in class suggestions provided by the instructor.
8. Ask the instructor questions during office hours.

VII. Course Grading and Evaluation Practices

Grading Scale

A	91% - 100%
A-	90%
B+	89%
B	81% – 88%
B-	80%
C+	79%
C	70% – 78%
D	60% – 69%
F	0% – 59%

Course requirements by percentage of total grade or points:

The grade for this class will be based on a percentage of total points earned

<u>Item</u>	<u>Number of Points</u>
Midterm Exam 100 pts.	100
Lecture Quizzes (7 @ 20pts. Low/missed one dropped)	120
Final Exam (100 points current, 50 points cumulative)	150
Environmental News Article Presentation	25
Miscellaneous classwork/homework	200
Rough Draft	25
Final Project Product	100
<u>Wiki Notes</u>	<u>80</u>
Total Course Points Possible	800

The above listed grade percentages and points represent the maximum required for each letter grade shown; a student's final grade will be at least as high as that shown by the listed associations. For example, a final course percentage of 80% would assure a letter grade of at least a B-. Discretion of the course instructor may be used in assignment of the course grade in borderline situations and will be based on such subjective criteria as attendance, class participation, classroom attitude, and grade progression.

VIII. Course Policies

Attendance

The Vincennes University policy is premised upon the notion that students will attend all sessions of the classes in which they are enrolled. This policy supports Vincennes University's philosophy that students benefit most from the people and facilities provided by the citizens of Indiana through proper and adequate class attendance. Consequently, missing class for any reason will be regarded as an absence. When absences result from an approved and required University activity, they will not be counted against a student, and the work missed may be made up.

Make-up/Late Work

Requests for make-up work will in most cases be refused by the instructor, and deadlines for submission of assignments will be strictly enforced. Other missed work should be discussed with the instructor and Dean of Students.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones, audio pagers/beepers, walkie-talkies, etc., must be turned off during lecture and laboratory sessions unless otherwise approved by your course instructor(s) in advance because of emergency situations.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's placement of his or her name on any academic exercise shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own thought, effort, and study. Acts of academic dishonesty are subject to the maximum disciplinary sanctions according to Vincennes University Policy. Some examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty.
Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral must be fully acknowledged. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures from another person or source without acknowledgement. The instructor will assign a grade of "F" for the course to students who are caught engaging in plagiarism or cheating on exams, quizzes, or exercises.
- b. Furnishing false information to any university official, faculty member, or office.
- c. Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any university document, record, or instrument of identification.

Incidents under b and c will be referred to the Dean of Students, who will determine appropriate student disciplinary action.

Disabilities Services

Vincennes University complies with the requirements set forth by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to assure the rights of individuals with disabilities to fair, non-discriminatory treatment. The Office of Disability Services is located at the south entrance of Vigo Hall. The phone number is 812-888-4501. Specific procedures for requesting an accommodation for a disability may be found at the Office of Disability Services website at:

http://www.vinu.edu/cms/opencms/student_services/disability_services/.

Students that will be requesting accommodations should view the Disability Services website for documentation requirements.

Standard of Student Behavior

Students need to be aware that violations of the University Standard of Student Behavior may result in some form of disciplinary action. See the current VU catalog for current discussion of standards of behavior.

Content/Schedule Change

The content is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. As changes are made the instructor will promptly notify the student.

IX. Course Calendar/Schedule

The instructor may change this schedule of lecture topics and may add multiple field trips. In addition, natural resource and earth science professionals may join us as guest lecturers. Changes will be announced as far in advance as possible.

Week of: Jan 9 th	Syllabus and course intro Chapter 1 – Environmental Science: Studying the State of our Earth
Jan 16 th	Chapter 2 – Environmental System: Matter, Energy and Change Quiz: Chapters 1 & 2
Jan 23 rd	Chapter 4 – Global Climate and Biomes: Geographic Variation in Temperature and Precipitation
Jan 30 th	Chapter 7 – Human Populations: Patterns and Processes of Human Population Growth Quiz: Chapters 4 & 7
Feb 6 th	Chapter 8 – Earth's Resources : Geologic Processes, Soil, and Minerals
Feb 13 th	Chapter 9 – Water Resources: Supply Distribution and Use Quiz: Chapters 8 & 9
Feb 20 nd	Chapter 10 – Land: Public and Private
Feb 27 th	Chapter 14 – Water Pollution: Causes and Effects Quiz: Chapter 10 & 14 Mid-term Exam Rough Drafts Due
Mar 5 th	SPRING BREAK
Mar 12 th	Chapter 15 – Air Pollutions: Causes, Effects and Stratospheric Ozone Depletion Quiz Chapter 14 & 15
Mar 19 nd	Chapter 16 – Waste: Solid Waste Generation and Disposal
Mar 26 th	Chapter 19 – Global Change: Climate Alteration and Global Warming Quiz Chapters 16 & 19
April 2 th	Chapter 17 – Human Health and Toxicology: Environmental Sources of Health Risks
Apr 9 th	Chapter 18 – Conservation of Biodiversity: Protection of Earth's Species and Ecosystems
Apr 16 th	Quiz Chapters 17 & 18 Chapter 20 – Working Towards Sustainability
Apr 23 rd	Presentations
	Final Exams – Exact day and time will be announced by your instructor