

Introduction to Environmental Science
Spring 2018
Department of Earth and Environment

Course numbers: EVR 1001

Course credit: 3 hours

Meeting time: MWF 1-1:50 pm

Room: Ziff Education Building 120

Instructor: Dr. Cara Rockwell
crockwel@fiu.edu
305-348-8140
AHC5 361

Office hours: M (11:30 am–12:30 pm), T (11 am-12 pm) or by appointment

Required course materials:

- Karr, S., Interlandi, J., Houtman, A. 2015. Environmental Science For A Changing World. Macmillan Education/Scientific American.



Course description: This course is designed to explore the interactions between humans and the environment, including our associations with climate, food and fiber production, water supply, and forest resources. Understanding these natural systems and the physical and social causes of adverse impacts will enable students to recognize our ecological footprint as well as develop strategies to mitigate these critical environmental problems.

Learning objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex environmental problems facing the global community in the 21st century.
- Evaluate potential sustainable solutions to mitigate environmental problems.
- Identify sustainable management tools for natural resource management systems.
- Engage in meaningful discussion on global environmental issues with fellow students.

Global Learning Outcomes and Assessments:

1. **Global Awareness:** students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the scientific information and key concepts that underlie the functioning of natural systems with an emphasis on the interrelatedness of these systems with each other and human societies, as well as the negative impacts of environmental degradation on both.
2. **Global Perspective:** students will be able to examine environmental issues with a multi-perspective framework that supports creative ideas to promote environmental sustainability
3. **Global Engagement:** students will demonstrate a willingness to reflect on their own relationship to the environment and take responsibility to reduce their own ecological footprint as well as engaging in local, global and intercultural environmental problem solving.

Global Learning Graduation Honors:

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least four global learning courses, extensive language study, and a global problem solving project. Registration and program acceptance required. For more information, visit <http://goglobal.fiu.edu>

Grading:

• Class attendance	5%
• Participation (including blog)	5%
• Group Quizzes (15 highest grades)	15%
• Exam I	15%
• Exam II	15%
• Final Exam	15%
• Community Service Project	15%
• Documentary Film Review	15%

Grading Scale: A: 100-93%; A-: 92-90%; B+: 89-87%; B: 86-83; B-: 82-80%; C+: 79-77%; C: 76-70%; D: 69-60; F: ≤ 59%

Course Requirements:

1. Group quizzes (breaking into groups of 8-9 students) will be held every day at the end of class. The top 15 quiz grades will be counted towards your final grade.
2. Students will be expected to participate in the class blog on Canvas. The blog should reflect students' opinions on the class readings as well as commentaries from other students. I expect that students will participate in at least 10-15 Chapter blogs in order to receive full credit (counts towards participation grade).
3. Students will volunteer for a community service project related to the class (e.g., beach cleanup, community garden workday, exotic plant removal) and write a short summary (1 page, single-spaced) on observations made during the activity. I will also require proof of participation (a form to be signed by project manager, available in Canvas). Summaries will be uploaded to Canvas; signed participation forms will be returned to me in class.
4. Students shall select an environmental documentary to review (e.g., *Before the Storm*) outside of class. The film should be 1-2 hours in length. After watching the video, students will hand in a review/summary of the film (approximately 3 pages, single-spaced). Reviews will be uploaded to your Canvas account.
5. If students attend 3 seminar/presentations (appropriate to class content) and fill out the seminar summary template (see pg. 8 of this syllabus), they will receive 5% extra credit.

Date	Class Content	Readings	Assignments
8 Jan	Course overview and organization		
10 Jan	Environmental Literacy and the Goal of Sustainability	Chapter 1	
12 Jan	Science Literacy	Chapter 2	
15 Jan	Martin Luther King Holiday	No class	
17 Jan	Information Literacy	Chapter 3	
19 Jan	Human Populations	Chapter 4	
22 Jan	Environmental Health	Chapter 5	
24 Jan	Environmental Health/Ecol. Economics	Chapter 5/6	
26 Jan	Ecological Economics	Chapter 6	
29 Jan	Managing Solid Waste	Chapter 7	
31 Jan	Ecosystems and Nutrient Cycling	Chapter 8	
2 Feb	Ecosystems and Nutrient Cycling	Chapter 8	
5 Feb	Exam 1		
7 Feb	Population Ecology	Chapter 9	
9 Feb	Pop. Ecology/Community Ecology	Chapters 9/10	
12 Feb	Community Ecology	Chapter 10	
14 Feb	Evolution and Extinction	Chapter 11	
16 Feb	Evolution and Extinction	Chapter 11	
19 Feb	Biodiversity	Chapter 12	
21 Feb	Preserving Biodiversity	Chapter 13	
23 Feb	Preserving Biodiversity	Chapter 13	
26 Feb	Freshwater Resources	Chapter 14	
28 Feb	Freshwater Resources	Chapter 14	
2 Mar	Water Pollution	Chapter 15	
5 Mar	Feeding the World	Chapter 16	
7 Mar	Exam II		
9 Mar	Sustainable Agriculture	Chapter 17	
12 Mar	Spring Break		
14 Mar	Spring Break		
16 Mar	Spring Break		
19 Mar	Sustainable Agriculture	Chapter 17	
21 Mar	Coal	Chapter 18	
23 Mar	Coal	Chapter 18	
26 Mar	Oil and Natural Gas	Chapter 19	
28 Mar	Air Pollution	Chapter 20	
30 Mar	Air Pollution	Chapter 20	
2 Apr	Climate Change	Chapter 21	
4 Apr	Climate Change	Chapter 21	
6 Apr	Nuclear Power	Chapter 22	Documentary film review due on Canvas
9 Apr	Nuclear Power	Chapter 22	
11 Apr	Sun, Wind, Water, and Earth Energy	Chapter 23	

13 Apr	Sun, Wind, Water, and Earth Energy	Chapter 23	
16 Apr	Environmental Policy	Chapter 24	
18 Apr	Environmental Policy	Chapter 24	
20 Apr	Urbanization and Sustainable Communities/Final Review	Chapter 25	Community service summary due on Canvas; submit form in class/Extra credit seminar summaries due
23-28 Apr	Finals Week (Exam III TBA)		

Course policies

- Attendance is a prerequisite to in-class participation. **Every student is expected to attend every class.** You will lose credit for each additional absence. If you know you will need to miss a class, let me know immediately. In general, more than one absence is not acceptable (except under extreme circumstances), and will be reflected in your participation grade. Unplanned absences (emergencies) are dealt with differently.
- Please come to class ready to engage in group discussion
- All assignments will be submitted electronically via Canvas. No late assignments will be accepted unless exceptional conditions apply per the *Student Handbook*. If these conditions apply, please provide dated, written documentation of your emergency.
- As per University policy, a grade of incomplete will only be given “...for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence.” An incomplete will only be given after consultation with me and the preparation and signing of a written agreement outlining the reason for the incomplete and a timetable for making up the missing work.

Academic Honesty, FIU Counseling Services, FIU Police Department, Services for Students with Disabilities

Academic Honesty

FIU students are bound by the FIU Code of Academic Integrity which states: "I will not represent someone else's work as my own; I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating; I will be honest in my academic endeavors; I understand that if I am found responsible for academic misconduct, I will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined below".

Disciplinary sanctions:

1. expulsion, including record on transcript.
2. suspension, including record on transcript.
3. disciplinary probation
4. failing or reduction of grade
5. restitution or reimbursement for damages
6. restriction of university privileges
7. service to the university
8. counseling
9. enrolling in a specified course
10. other

Procedures

1. referral through the vice provost
2. charges brought by faculty member, student, or even person outside the university
3. complainant must meet with suspected student first
4. student's status unchanged pending the outcome of investigation
5. informal resolution: completed within 14 days of event; complainant discusses event with vice provost first
6. formal resolution: referred directly to vice provost; student hears from this office within 7 calendar days of submission of information
7. student informed in writing
8. university academic conduct review board hearing: one grad faculty, one administrator, two grad students
9. university academic conduct review board finds student responsible or not responsible based on a preponderance of evidence; chair votes to break ties
10. vice provost: choice to accept recommendation or remand the case for a rehearing
11. student has right to appeal; done within 14 days of decision notification

How to Avoid Plagiarism

<http://education.fiu.edu/plagiarism/>

FIU Student Affairs Counseling and Psychological Services

<http://counselingservices.fiu.edu/>

Appointments: 305-392-1575

24 Hour Hotline: 305-348-3000

FIU Police Department

(305) 348-2626 (Modesto Maidique Campus) or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should register early in the semester with the FIU Student Affairs Disability Resource Center [305-348-3532 (Modesto Maidique Campus), <http://drc.fiu.edu/>] in order to receive accommodation.

Seminar Summary(5% extra credit if 3 seminar summaries are submitted to instructor)

Name of Speaker: _____

Title of seminar: _____

Date: _____

Location _____

1) What is the topic of the seminar? Main conclusions?

3) What is the potential relevance of this seminar to the Environmental Sciences topic?



EVR 1001 Community Service Confirmation (must be signed by project supervisor of community service activity)

Student Name _____ Student ID _____

Name of Organization: _____

Activity Description (e.g., invasive species removal, beach cleanup, etc.)

Date: _____

Location _____

Signature of Project Supervisor _____

Contact number/email of Project Supervisor _____