

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (Fall 2008)
GEO1330-02/-03/-05

Class meets: M W F 11:15 am-12:05 pm, Bellamy 005
Office hour: M F 1-2 pm or by appointment

Instructor

Dr. Tingting Zhao, Department of Geography, Bellamy 304
Phone: 850-645-8198; E-mail: tzhao@fsu.edu

Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

This course is designed to explore basic concepts and applications of environmental science. Topics include spread of human population and its impacts on the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere of the Earth. Students are expected to understand lecture and reading materials, with focus on

- Growth of human population and increase in food and energy demand
- Human impacts on climate, hydrological cycle, soil, and ecosystems
- Pollution control, waste management, and natural resources conservation
- Human-environment interactions and environmental sustainability

Required Textbook

Keller, E.A. and Botkin, D.B., 2007, *Essential Environmental Science*, 1st Edition. Wiley.

Electronic Materials

Class announcements, part of lecture materials, exam review sheets, and grades will be posted on Blackboard course site ENVIRON SCI (GEO1330.F08).

Grading

You will be graded based on class participation, three exams, and a group project. *Class participation* includes all kinds of classroom activities, such as group discussion, debate, and index cards.

Exams involve all of the materials covered in lectures and reading. For each exam, the instructor will provide a review sheet and post it on the Blackboard course site a week before the exam.

Group project involves an oral presentation on a selected environmental topic by students. This topic must be approved by the instructor. A group will be made of 3-5 members, each having a unique role.

Students in the honor session are required to submit a two-page *term paper* in addition. This paper must address a contemporary environmental issue. Topic must be approved by the instructor.

Grade weights:

Session	Participation	Mid-Term I	Mid-Term II	Final	Group Project	Paper
Regular (02)	10	25	25	25	15	n/a
Honor (03)	10	20	20	20	10	20

Grading scale:

A (>96%)	B (84-86%)	C (72-76%)	D (62-65%)
A- (90-95%)	B- (80-83%)	C- (70-71%)	D- (60-61%)
B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (66-69%)	F (<59%)

Course Policies

Attendance is required throughout the semester. The first two unexcused absences will not affect grading. Each additional absence decreases the participation grade by 1 point. Absences due to your outside work schedule, extended job interviews, routine family or spousal responsibilities, and/or vacations are not excused absences. Conserve your two absences and use them when the situation arises. If an unplanned absence occurs, you will need to bring verification of your absence (a note from a physician or the Health Center, jury duty notification form, etc) in order to 1) reclaim a lost attendance day or 2) take the makeup exam.

Makeup exams must be taken in a week after the scheduled exam day. You are required to schedule a makeup exam with the instructor prior to the scheduled exam by email. Makeup exams are only permitted for reasons such as illness, conflicting exams, >4 exams in 24-hour period or certain emergencies. After the first person finishes an exam, all late arrivals will be required to take the makeup exam.

No delay will be accepted for group presentation and term paper.

Persistent informal talking and any reading or studying of other materials will not be tolerated during formal lectures.

The instructor reserves the right to direct students to the Division of Student Affairs' Dean of Student's for absence verification.

Students are responsible for all missed class materials. The instructor will not provide handouts or notes; you will have to get them from your classmates.

All changes to the course schedule made in class are the responsibility of the student. The class schedule on our Blackboard course site gives the most up-to-date listing of our schedule.

Office appointments will be made only when there is a clear conflict with the student's course schedule. In office appointments, please ask specific questions to show you have attempted to master the material.

Honor Code Statement

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University" (Academic Honor Policy, <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>).

Americans with Disabilities Act

During the first week of class, students needing academic accommodations should: 1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and 2) bring a letter to the instructor from the Student Disability Resource Center, indicating the need for academic accommodations. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

Schedule
(subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Aug 25, 27, 29	Environ. sci. and sustainability	Ch. 1
2	Sept 3, 5	Earth as a living system	Ch. 3
3	Sept 8, 10, 12	Ecosystems	Ch. 4, 6
4	Sept 15, 17, 19	Biodiversity	Ch. 5, 7
5	Sept 22, 24, 26	Human population and impacts	Ch. 2
6	Sept 29	Mid-Term I¹	
	Oct 1, 3	Food and agriculture	Ch. 9
7	Oct 6, 8	Soil erosion	n/a
	Oct 10	Develop group project. Topic of presentation due by 5 pm	
		<i>Honor students: Topic of term paper due by 5 pm on Friday, Oct. 10</i>	
8	Oct 13, 15, 17	Fossil fuels and renewable energy	Ch. 10
9	Oct 20, 22, 24	Climate change	Ch. 13
10	Oct 27, 29, 31	Air pollution	Ch. 14
11	Nov 3	Mid-Term II²	
	Nov 5, 7	Water resources and usage	Ch. 11
12	Nov 10, 12, 14	Group Project Presentation	n/a
13	Nov 17, 19, 21	Group Project Presentation (cont.)	n/a
14	Nov 24, 26	Water pollution	Ch. 11
15	Dec 1, 3	Course summary & evaluation	n/a
	Dec 5	Final exam³; term paper due on Blackboard by 5 pm	

¹ Mid-term I covers week 1-4.

² Mid-term II covers week 5-9.

³ Final exam covers week 10-14.