**EVR1001 Introduction to Environmental Science**

**Valencia College West**

**Instructor:** Professor Edward Sarisley

**Email:** Canvas Message (preferred) or [esarisley@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:esarisley@valenciacollege.edu)

**Phone:** 407-582-7371

**Zoom:** <https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/s/3864046652>

**Student Engagement Hours:** Engagement hours are an opportunity for us to connect regarding questions on content, assignments, and your progress. You can expect quicker response times for Canvas/Email questions during this time. If you would like to connect via phone or Zoom, please do try to give advance notice and mention the topic you wish to connect on so that I can be best prepared to assist you.

* **Sunday:** 6-8pm
* **Monday:** 11am-5pm
* **Wednesday:** 7-8pm
* **Thursday:** 7-8pm
* **Friday:** 7-8pm
* **Saturday:** 6-7pm

**Modality:** Online

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** None

This syllabus is a contract between the student and the instructor. By enrolling in and then attending this course, the student agrees to and accepts the terms and conditions of this contract. It is the responsibility of the student to read this syllabus/contract carefully in its entirety and to adhere to all policies and procedures within the syllabus.

# **COURSE INFORMATION**

## **Course Description**

This course is a general education credit, non-laboratory course that provides a survey of basic chemical, biological, and physical principles of environmental science and ecology, the application of these principles to current political, scientific, and economic issues and our responsibility for the environment.

## **Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Identify environmental principles related to natural resources and their management.
2. Determine and analyze human and nature’s impacts to environmental systems.
3. Identify and describe various natural systems.
4. Identify and differentiate between different types of pollution sources and their environmental impacts.
5. Identify and differentiate between the types of regulations and remediation for environmental impacts.
6. Identify and describe the basic fundamental biological, chemical, and physical principles involved in how environmental systems function.
7. Relate current political, scientific, and economic principles to environmental issues.
8. Effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.
9. Use processes, procedures, data, or evidence to solve problems and make effective decisions.

## **Textbooks**

We will be using *Environmental Science, 16th edition* by Miller and Spoolman. This is a Cengage book and you will use MindTapV2.0 for some assignments. You can get an access from the bookstore. If you have other courses that use Cengage books, you can subscribe to Cengage Unlimited for $120 for 4 months and get online access for multiple books. Through this, you can rent a copy of the book for $7.99. There is a FREE 1-week trial so you can get started immediately.

Here is a [video](https://play.vidyard.com/gssLzSQoPmR3cz1vhq5LDw) on how to login and register. You can also access MindTapV2.0 through a mobile app. Here is the [user guide](https://www.cengage.com/help/mobile/student-ios/introduction.html) for that.

## **Valencia College Core Competencies**

Valencia’s Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are essential to lifelong success. This course will help you to develop and demonstrate the abilities to:

1. THINK clearly, critically, and creatively;
2. COMMUNICATE with others verbally and in written form;
3. Make reasoned VALUE judgments and responsible commitments;
4. ACT purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.

Due to the nature of these global competencies, many of the problems will be presented in the context of an application. These applications will require students to select appropriate information from the problem and communicate effectively in order to explain and/or describe how the student used the skills they are learning to arrive at an appropriate solution for the problem.

# **COLLEGE POLICIES**

**No Show Policy**

If you do not log in to the course during the first week and complete the Orientation Quiz, you will be withdrawn from the class as a "no show". Class attendance is required for online classes; students who are not actively participating in an online class and/or do not submit the required attendance activity or assignment by the scheduled due date must be withdrawn by the instructor at the end of the first week as a "no show". If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of “WN” will appear on your transcript for the course.

**Withdrawal**

The deadline for Drop/Refund is **January 18th** and for Withdrawal is **March 25th**. A student who withdraws from the course before the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of ‘W’. A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during the third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of ‘F’. Students are advised to consult with an advisor before withdrawing from the course, as there may be financial implications to the students. See more information on [Course Attempts and Course Withdrawal](http://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/courseattemptscoursewithdrawal/).

**College Student Conduct Policy**

Valencia is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but also to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. As a registered student, you assume the responsibility for conducting yourself in a manner that contributes positively to Valencia’s learning community and that does not impair, interfere with, or obstruct the orderly conduct, processes, and functions of the college as described in the [Student Code of Conduct.](https://catalog.valenciacollege.edu/academicpoliciesprocedures/studentcodeofconduct/)

**Academic Honesty**

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia College. [Academic dishonesty](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/general-counsel/policy/documents/volume8/8-11-academic-dishonesty.pdf) includes, but is not limited to, acts or attempted acts of plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, facilitating academic dishonesty, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive.

All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the students' individual thoughts, research, and self-expression. Whenever a student uses ideas, wording, or organization from another source, the source shall be appropriately acknowledged. To be extremely clear: You cannot copy and paste large chunks of text from sources, quote and cite the source and receive credit. Information must be summarize/paraphrased in your own words, with your sources cited. If a student is caught submitting plagiarized work, a first offense will result in a zero score on the assignment and an opportunity to redo the assignment for a maximum score of 50%, a second offense will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment, and a third offense will result a class grade of F and referral to the Dean of Science and Dean of Students. Additionally, all authentic assessments must receive a “similarity score” in Unicheck. Assignments that do not receive a “similarity” score will need to be resubmitted. Upon detecting plagiarism, I reserve the right to look back at previous written assignments and assessments to examine past assignments and if additional plagiarism is detected, these instances will count toward additional offenses as described earlier.

Refer to the “Letter from the Dean: Expectations of Academic Integrity” for Dr. Gessner’s thoughts on Academic Integrity that is posted in Canvas.

# **COURSE POLICIES**

## **Attendance Policy**

This is an online course, available 24/7, managed through Canvas. You must have access to the Internet (available on all Valencia campuses) to complete the course requirements. Your online attendance will be checked based on your participation in the course and submission of coursework. In the event of an extended absence, you should contact me via email or phone as soon as possible to indicate the reason. If you do not access the course website or contact me letting me know of your absence and/or do not complete any assignments for a period of seven consecutive days, you will be contacted and if there is no communication within 48 hours, you will be withdrawn from the course up until the withdraw deadline. After the withdraw deadline, students with an absence of more than 7 days will receive the final grade that is earned according to the course grading policy.

## **Third Party Software & FERPA Policy**

Valencia College has a firm commitment to protecting the privacy rights of its students. Under no circumstances will your test scores, total points, or final grades be discussed on the telephone or over e-mail.  FERPA rights to privacy prevent the divulging of scores or related materials by these means.  Scores will only be given face-to-face with each student or by accessing your ATLAS account.

**Late Work/Makeup Policy**

There is a two-week grace period after assignments are due before they close. The late penalty on Canvas assignments (quizzes, discussions, and authentic assessments) is 5% per day (up to 50%). For Mind Tap assignments, it is a total of 10% off each assignment if the assignment is submitted during this late period. If you cannot complete the work due to a document absence, contact me immediately. **Late work after the late period will not be accepted.**

**Assessment Method and Evaluation Scale**

All assignments will be turned-in according to the schedule outlined in the course calendar.

**Authentic Assessments:** An authentic assignment is one that requires application of what you have learned to a new situation, and demands judgment to determine what information and skills are relevant and how they should be used. Individual authentic assessments will be assigned to demonstrate an understanding of the material. The products may include developing Powerpoints, videos, infographics, papers, etc. A rubric will be provided for grading the assignment.

**Final Project:** As a culmination of the class, the final project will require you to annotate interactions between categories for three environmental topics. PowerPoint presentations will be exported from the interactive activity and combined into one final product. Additionally, you will reflect on your thoughts about the most important environmental topic to you.

**Video Quizzes:** I am using an excellent video series by Paul Andersen to supplement the reading and activities. There are between one and six videos per unit with questions embedded into the videos that will be graded.

**MindTap Activities:** There are associated case studies and activities associated with the book. You will have links that will direct you to the activities in Canvas. You will have multiple chances to increase your score.

**Discussions:** Since environmental science often includes conflicting viewpoints and ways that you can act to improve the environment, weekly online discussions will be included in the course. Online discussions will be open for two weeks following the chapter covered. The student must make an initial response (3 pts) then respond to at least two other students (2 pts). Discussions should demonstrate a thorough and complete understanding of material covered in the chapter and include sources cited for full credit. Blank initial posts will receive a score of 0. Discussions are expected to include analysis from sources you find, in addition to sources provided. Resources to find sources are provided on the [Lib Guide](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/Sarisley_EVR1001). All sources must be reputable and cited in APA format.

Discussion postings should be:

* Substantial – Thoughtful, original, relevant and contributes to the overall learning of the group.
* Thought-provoking – Stimulates thinking and reasoning.
* Timely – Post early to give your peers time to respond, this contributes to a rich discussion.
* Logical, concise, and grammatical.
* Convey “your presence” – Reinforce your conclusions with real life experiences.
* Include a reputable cited source

**Extra Credit:** Students have the opportunity to earn extra credit by completing the Student Feedback at the end of the semester. There may be additional opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

## **Grading Scale**

A = 89.5% - 100%, B = 79.5% - 89.49%, C = 69.5% - 79.49%, D = 59.5% - 69.49%, F = below 59.49%

1. Authentic Assessments – 40%
2. Final Project – 10%
3. Video Quizzes – 15%
4. MindTap Activities – 20%
5. Discussions – 15%

Under no circumstances will your test scores, total points, or final grades be discussed on the telephone or over e-mail. FERPA rights to privacy prevent the divulging of scores or related materials by these means. Scores will only be given face-to-face with each student or by accessing your Canvas account.

**Communication**

You may contact me in various ways during this semester.

* You may contact me through the [Canvas Inbox](https://online.valenciacollege.edu/conversations) anytime with questions or concerns. You can expect a quicker response during scheduled office hours, however, it may take 48 hours to respond.

## **Digital Device Requirements**

Students should verify [computer software and hardware requirements](https://valenciacollege.edu/employees/office-of-information-technology/technology-support-services/computer-hardware-software-standards.php) to ensure course work can be submitted successfully. Since all assignments are submitted online, access to a digital device is required for this course.

Canvas lists [minimum computer specifications](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721) and [supported browsers](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720) to ensure compatibility. The Chrome browser is recommended. Students are also encouraged to install the Canvas app on their [Android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.instructure.candroid&hl=en) phone or [iPhone](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/canvas-by-instructure/id480883488?mt=8) in order to receive mobile notifications and to access your courses via your mobile device.

## **Notifications**

Make sure that you turn on your Push Notifications and click on the "checkmark" for Announcements and Submission Comments to ensure that you receive those immediately. See the video below on how to do that. If you want to change it on the app, here is a [tutorial](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9858-18561459224) for that. It only needs to be changed on one device. Add a profile pic to Canvas for a personal touch.

## **Netiquette**

It is important to be aware of your behavior in an online learning environment to ensure positive interactions with your instructor and peers. This requires you to follow some [guidelines for behaviors.](https://valenciacollege.edu/faculty/canvas-resources/student-faqs.php)

## **Expectations of Student**

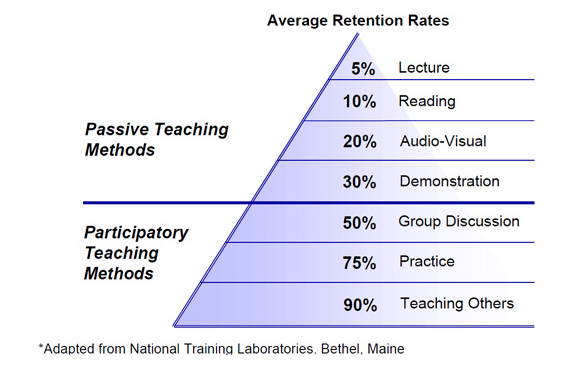
* Students are expected to check their Atlas email and Canvas inbox on a regular basis throughout the week.
* Students can expect to devote 3-6 hours each week to this course.
* For guidelines on how to interact with your instructor and peers in an online learning environment, read [through Our Practice of Respect and Community Building](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/peace-justice-institute/who-we-are/principles.php) from Valencia's Peace & Justice Institute. Some highlights from these principles are:
  + Create a hospitable and accountable community
  + Suspend judgment
  + All voices have value

## **Expectations of Instructor**

* The Instructor will provide a variety of feedback on submitted assignments within 7 days.
* The Instructor will address students following the guidelines as indicated in [Our Practice of Respect and Community Building](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/peace-justice-institute/who-we-are/principles.php) from Valencia's Peace & Justice Institute.
* The Instructor will notify students of changes to the course work via the Inbox or Announcements tools.

# **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

## **Study Tips**

“LEARNING” IS AN ACTION VERB!!Most students need to do more than just sit through lectures and reread their notes. **Spend 1-2 hour blocks of time EVERY DAY** actively writing or discussing concepts to make them a part of your memory. Use the words you learn often, they will sink in better☺.

Here are some study and classroom management tips that have assisted former students:

* **Check Canvas every other day** and **change your settings** so you are getting the notifications for announcements and submission comments in your email. You don’t want to miss an important announcement or extra credit opportunity.
* **Make to-do lists and prioritize tasks.** Record all the things you need to accomplish then focus on completing one task at a time. Prioritize your task based on the most critical and time-sensitive ones. You can use paper to-do lists or an app. Don’t forget to reward yourself for a job well done once tasks have been successfully completed.
* **Eliminate Distractions** so your attention is on the task-at-hand. You will finish tasks and move on to the next ones more quickly while paying more attention to details. Turn off the TV, put your phone on silent, and keep your study area organized.
* **Take good notes.** Record the key points of the video or reading without writing down too much extraneous information.
* **Take a break.** Take a 10-15 minute break each hour or a 5 minute break after every 20 minutes of studying. This will prevent you from burning out too soon and you are more likely to retain the material compared to studying 3 hours straight. Good break options include listening and singing to a song, taking a walk, or getting a snack.
* **Ask questions.** Make lists of confusing topics from your studying and ask questions (as many as you can!). Talking to your professor helps you as well your professor to refocus on the topic again.
* Take advantage of the professor’s office hours.

**Brainfuse Online Tutoring**

[Brainfuse](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7351876) is a free online tutoring service, where you can receive live, online tutoring as well as submit your essays for comments. To access this resource, log into Canvas, click on our course, and then click the “Brainfuse” tab.

**Asking for help: Ask for help if you need it! Do not wait until the end of the semester to ask for help. The sooner you ask, the more beneficial it will be. Tutoring is also available through the Tutoring Center in Building 7-240.** [**Distance Tutoring**](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7351774) **is also available.**

## **Student Assistance Program**

Valencia College has contracted with a private and confidential counseling service (**Bay Care Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP))** to provide FREE short-term assistance to students who need to resolve problems that are affecting their college performance. Examples might include stress, relationship/family issues, alcohol/drug problems, eating disorders, depression, and gender issues. If you are experiencing any of these issues, call 1-800-878-5470 to speak to a professional counselor. For more information, log into Atlas, click on the “Students” tab, and click on “BayCare Health System,” located under “Health and Wellness.”

## **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of the semester. The OSD (West Campus SSB 102, ext. 1523) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.

**Title IX**

Valencia College strives to be a place free from all forms of discrimination. [Title IX](https://valenciacollege.edu/about/equal-opportunity-title-ix/index.php) protects students from discrimination based upon sex including protections against sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking. This also includes protections for students who are pregnant or may become pregnant. If you experience sexual violence, domestic violence or stalking and would like assistance there are several options available to you. Valencia partners with the Victim Service Center of Central Florida which is a confidential resource available 24/7. They can be reached by calling 407-497-6701. If you would like assistance on campus, you can go to valenciacollege.edu/eo or contact Valencia College’s Title IX and Equal Opportunity Officer, Ryan Kane, by emailing rkane8@valenciacollege.edu. If you would like to report to law enforcement, you may visit Campus Security or call 911.

Please note that there are no confidential resources on campus. As your professor, I am required to report any information mentioned in this statement to the appropriate campus resources. This will include your name and detailed information shared with me. We take privacy very seriously at the College and only those who have a legitimate need to know the information will be provided with this information.

**Copyright**

To avoid copyright infringement, any materials produced specifically for this class can ONLY be used during this term for this class. Using an assignment that you created for another class during the same or different term will be handled as an issue of Academic Honesty.

**Disclaimer**

Changes in the syllabus, schedule, evaluation procedures, and/or homework assignments may be made at any time at the discretion of the professor. If you are absent, it is **your** responsibility to find out what, if any, announcements or changes have been made.

# **SPRING 2022 ONLINE ENVIRONMENT STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

## **Enrollment Services**

* Phone: 407-582-1507
* Email: [enrollment@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:enrollment@valenciacollege.edu)

## **Academic Advising**

* Website: [Virtual Advising](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/advising-counseling/virtual-advising.php)
* Email: [advising@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:advising@valenciacollege.edu)

## **Virtual Answer Center**

* [Website](https://valenciacollege.edu/students/answer-center/) for Virtual Answer Center
* Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-1pm

## **Counseling Services**

* Phone: 800-878-5470
* Email: [BayCareSAP@baycare.org](mailto:BayCareSAP@baycare.org)

## **Financial Aid**

* Email: [FinAidOffice@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:FinAidOffice@valenciacollege.edu) for your financial aid questions, as well as potential assistance with financial support

## **Additional Virtual Resources**

* Website: [Virtual Smart-Thinking Tutoring](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7351876)
* Website: [Virtual Library Services](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/c.php?g=1014597&p=7354477)
* Website: [EVR 1001 Lib Guide](https://libguides.valenciacollege.edu/Sarisley_EVR1001)

# **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

**(NOTE: This is a tentative schedule and the instructor reserves the right to change this schedule without notice)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Chapter** | **Topic** |
| Jan 10-16 |  | Orientation, Introductions, and Pre-Learning Assignments |
| Jan 17-23 | 1 | The Environment and Sustainability |
| Jan 24-30 | 3 | Ecosystems |
| Jan 31-Feb 6 | 4 | Biodiversity and Evolution |
| Feb 7-13 | 5 | Species Interactions, Ecological Succession, and Population Control |
| Feb 14-20 | 6 | Human Population and Urbanization |
| Feb 21-27 | 8 | Sustaining Biodiversity: Saving Species |
| Feb 28-Mar 6 | 9 | Sustaining Biodiversity: Saving Ecosystems |
| Mar 7-13 |  | Spring Break |
| Mar 14-20 | 10 | Food Production and the Environment |
| Mar 21-27 | 11 | Water Resources and Water Pollution |
| Mar 28-Apr 3 | 13 | Energy Resources |
| Apr 4-10 | 15 | Air Pollution, Climate Change, Stratospheric Ozone |
| Apr 11-17 | 15 | Air Pollution, Climate Change and Stratospheric Ozone |
| Apr 18-24 |  | Final Project |

## **Final Project**

* Online – due April 24th

## **Vacations and other important dates**

* January 18th @ 11:59pm– Drop/Refund Deadline
* March 7-13 Spring Break
* March 25th @11:59pm– Withdrawal deadline
* April 24th – Classes end