

BSC 1050 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Specific hours are announced in class during the first week; appointments may be made at other mutually convenient times.

Course Information

Name: BSC 1050 Environmental Science - 3 credit hours

Description: Environmental Science is a general education non-laboratory course designed to provide understanding of man's interdependence with and responsibility for his environment. Investigates such aspects of the environment as pollution, urbanization and population trends.

Educational Materials

Text: Principles of Environmental Science (6th edition) by Cunningham and Cunningham

Evaluation

Three major examinations	300 points
Weekly quizzes	200 points (approximately)

Grading Scale:	90 - 100% = A
	80 - 89% = B
	70 - 79% = C
	60 - 69% = D
	0 - 59% = F

Grades will be determined by the point system--the total points earned divided by the total points possible. Also considered will be attendance and class participation.

Withdrawal Deadline: November 2, 2012

Classroom Policies

Absences and Tardies

Students should attend classes to benefit from discussions, view ecological audio-visual material and take quizzes. Exams can be made up with a valid excuse but make-up quizzes are usually not permitted unless taken before class, the day of the next class meeting.

Students are also expected to be in the classroom when class begins and remain until the class is dismissed.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class by using a sign-in sheet. Tardy students will be noted.

1. Students should plan to be in attendance each class period. A sign-in sheet will be provided.
2. Although it is expected that students will not have any absences during the semester, there will be no direct point penalty for missing any two (2) class periods during the semester.
3. Any classes missed beyond the "no penalty" classes identified in #2, a summary of the major points of the missed class should be submitted. This summary will be due no later than one week after the absence. Information regarding the material missed can be obtained from any other student in the class and from the textbook. Failure to submit this written summary will result in a three (3) point reduction for each of these absences from the total points earned in the course.
4. Should two weeks of absences accumulate (which during a 16-week semester relate to 4 TR classes), for Terms 1-2, this will result in the withdrawal of the student from class due to "excessive absences".
5. Any "exceptional" circumstances should be discussed with the instructor as soon as they are known in order that a solution can be resolved.

Academic Honesty

Each student is expected to comply with the college policy on academic honesty as set forth in the admissions catalog and student handbook. Any student guilty of dishonesty will receive a zero on the exam and possible withdrawal from the class.

Other: No smoking, drinking, or eating permitted in the classroom. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned OFF when in the classroom.

Extra Credit Papers

Students have the opportunity to earn up to 20 extra credit points during the semester. Earn points by reading an environmental article and writing a summary and reaction. Each paper is worth five points with a limit of four extra credit papers per student. Articles must be from a scientific or nature-oriented journal or magazine and may be accessed electronically or by hard copy.

To receive credit your paper must adhere to the following format:

- **Minimum length of 350 words not to exceed 500 words**
- **Typed and double spaced with the word count listed**
- **Printed in a normal size font on one sheet of paper using both sides if necessary**
- **Name of article, source, and date included in the first paragraph of the paper**
- **Article and paper must relate to a current environmental issue**

These extra credit papers require students to follow specific directions which will help them prepare for further academic studies and a professional career. It will also help students learn about environmental issues which they may find rewarding.

The first section of the paper should be a summary of the article in your own words. It should indicate the environmental issue, the effects, and possible solutions if applicable. The last section of the paper should be your reaction or evaluation of the article (either positive or negative).

Each student may submit a limit of one paper per week with a limit of four during the semester. The deadline for all papers is the week of Exam II which is approximately one month before the final examination. The deadline date will be announced in class during the first week.

All papers will be read and evaluated the week they are submitted and returned to be redone if not satisfactory. It can be assumed that the paper is satisfactory if it is not returned after one week. All papers will be returned for the students to keep before the final exam.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of this extra credit opportunity as it can only add to the total points earned during the term and could make a difference in the final grade for the course.

Alternative Paper for Extra Credit

An alternative to the short articles for extra credit is to use Chapter 12 (Energy) in your textbook for an extra credit paper. This review will be worth 20 points which is the maximum amount that can be earned in one semester.

Should you choose to earn extra credit by doing a review of Chapter 12 in your text, the following items are required:

1. Read/review Chapter 12 in your textbook.
2. Type a review paper covering the following points:
 - (1) Define “renewable” and “non-renewable” energy sources and give some examples of each.
 - (2) Choose ten (10) energy sources from the described in Chapter 12 and evaluate each by giving some of their positive and negative points.
 - (3) List your favorite methods of energy from the list given in Chapter 12. Tell which methods that you currently use.
 - (4) In your opinion after reading Chapter 12, what do you believe the energy use in the USA and world should be and give reasons for your choice(s).
3. Minimum length of 1400 words, not to exceed 2000 words. Typed and double spaced with word count listed. Printed in normal sized font on one side of each sheet of paper. Number the pages and staple.
4. Give source: Chapter 12 (Energy) in textbook: Principles of Environmental Science (6th edition) by Cunningham and Cunningham
5. Deadline: same date as the deadline for all extra credit papers which will be announced in class. However, papers may be submitted at any time prior to the deadline.

Disclaimer

Changes in syllabus and/or schedule may be made at anytime during the term by announcement of the instructor. A revised syllabus may be issued at the discretion of the instructor.

OSD

“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 class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (West Campus, SSB 102, ext. 1523).”

**BSC 1050 Environmental Science
Course Outline
Fall Term 2012
Valencia College**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Aug. 28-30	Introduction, Life, Ecology (Ch. 1)
2	Sept. 4-6	<u>The Community, What Is Ecology?</u> Food Chains, Energy (Ch. 2) Interrelationships, (Ch. 3)
3	Sept. 11-13	Biomes (Ch. 5), <u>Tropical Rain Forest Desert</u> , (Ch. 5), Populations (Ch. 4)
4	Sept. 18-20	<u>Succession</u> (Ch. 3), Energy Flow, Cycles, (Ch. 2)
5	Sept. 25-27	Florida Ecology (Chs. 5, 6), <u>Everglades</u>
6	Oct. 2 Oct. 4	<u>EXAM I</u> DNA, Extinction (Ch. 5)
7	Oct. 9 Oct. 11	DNA, Extinction (Ch. 5) NO CLASS
8	Oct. 16-18	<u>Natural Selection</u> (Ch. 3) <u>Cave</u> , Speciation
9	Oct. 23-25	<u>Population Ecology</u> , Population (Ch. 4), Genetics
10	Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 2	<u>EXAM II</u> Food and Agriculture (Ch. 7) WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE FOR "W"
11	Nov. 6-8	Food and Agriculture (Ch. 7), Pesticides (Ch. 7)
12	Nov. 13-15	Pesticides (Ch. 7), Air (Ch. 9)
13	Nov. 20 Nov. 22	Air (Ch. 9) NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
14	Nov. 27-29	Water (Ch. 10)
15	Dec. 4-6	Solid Wastes (Ch. 13)
16	Dec. 11-13	FINAL EXAMS (<u>EXAM III</u>)