

BIOLOGY 2206- ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

SECTION #21569 Fall 2008

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RVS CAMPUS, Bldg. A

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 9am-12pm (RVS Rm 2249) Note: These may change if my fall schedule changes.

Email: akeddy3@aol.com, akeddy@austincc.edu - email me both places for faster reply
web site: www.austincc.edu/akeddy or go to blackboard for materials

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Environment* (6th) by Raven & Berg available at RVS bookstore

PLEASE NOTE: I WILL BE USING BLACKBOARD TO COMMUNICATE, AS WELL AS POST YOUR GRADES. PLEASE GO TO YOUR BLACKBOARD COURSE SITE FOR FUTURE INFORMATION

Course Description:

Environmental Biology (Bio 2206) is a course designed specifically for non-majors. The focus of this course is to explore the environment and to illustrate how humans affect, and are effected by their world. We will examine the different resources used by people, such as air, soil, land, food and water and see how our decisions and votes have both local and global effects. Since Bio 2206 is a course for non-majors, the content will be aimed at teaching students the fundamentals, while keeping the content fun and informative. **This course differs from Bio 2406 (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), a rigorous 3 hours ecology course designed for Biology majors.** Bio 2406 requires a strong mathematical background to explore population genetics equations. Thus Bio 2406 should only taken by those students focusing on a Science or related degree. Bio 2206 is the alternative course for those students who wish to take an interesting, more general biology course. Since 2206 is a 2-hour credit course we have created a companion course, Bio 2106 which may be taken simultaneously or separately. Bio 2106 is a one credit-hour environmental lab course for non-majors. The lab class is taught distance learning and its goal is to give students fun, independent interactive experience with their local environment. Students who take this lab class will go on self-paced local field trips, review documentaries, and test soil, water and food samples from the Austin area. Together these courses will provide non-majors an alternative to the more rigorous, campus- based Biology lecture courses.

COURSE AND GRADING POLICIES:

There will be 4 unit lecture exams, one for each unit of the material, and a comprehensive multiple choice final that may replace one unit exam. Thus if you wish to replace one unit exam grade, you may do so by taking the **comprehensive final. If you miss a unit exam you may not take a makeup exam, but must take the comprehensive final to replace that grade.** If you miss 2 exams, you need to withdraw from the course. Each unit exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The basis for the questions will come from the book chapter summaries and the study guide. Exam dates are listed below. You may take exams before the date listed, but you

must complete the unit exam by the date listed or receive a 0 for that unit exam. **There are no exceptions.** Note: If you are having problems, you are responsible to withdraw yourself from the course. **The withdrawal date is NOVEMBER **. Please note I cannot withdraw you if you miss the withdrawal data- so be prepared.**

You must turn in each extra credit assignment by the unit deadline date or you will receive a 0 for that homework. **I will not accept late extra credit work.**

STUDY GUIDE: The book for this course is quite readable and informative. At the end of each chapter there is an excellent summary with selective key terms and some thinking questions. I strongly suggest you review this material for each chapter before you take the test. Since this is a distance learning class, I have created an additional study guide that augments this basic summary with terms and questions and figures that will form the basis for my tests. I will post this study guide to my web site and on blackboard so that you may access the information as you read the book.

EXTRA CREDIT: To give you an additional means to learn about the environment and a chance to earn additional points, there are three extra credit assignments available, each worth up to 10 points. To complete an extra credit assignment you will find an appropriate environmental article from current magazines, the newspaper or the internet. Each article must be of sufficient length (at least two pages) and discuss an environmental topic that is relevant to one of the chapters in the book. Your goal is not to summarize the article, but to compare and contrast the article with the information given in the chapter in the book. Thus the idea is to compare your specific example to the general information in the book and see how the two relate. For example if you found an article about air quality in Houston (which now has the worst air pollution in the country) you would look to see whether the causes are the same as those in other major cities. You would see how the solutions used in one place compare with standard methods used in other places. It may be that Houston has a unique set of circumstances that are unrelated to other localities, or that their problems are classic! Each paper should be at least 4 pages in length (double-spaced) and must be turned into me **by the unit deadline (see the exam dates for paper deadline dates).** Thus you may write one paper for each of the last 3 units. You may get the paper to me by regular mail, campus mail (date stamped please) email, slip in under my door, or by FAX. To receive extra credit you must also provide me with a copy of the original article so that I may see your source of information.

Mandatory Contacts:

It is mandatory to have at least three contacts with me through the course of the semester. Completing the online orientation constitutes the first contact. Please email or call me at least twice more through the semester. This way I can help you with any problems- or just generally keep in contact with you. Information on how to reach me is located on the first page. If you leave a voice mail for me (since we must talk) please leave your name and number slowly!! You can also come by during office hours or make an appointment by telephone.

GRADES: POINTS TOTAL

Unit Exams	150 (x 4 units)	600
Extra Credit	10 (x 3 optional)	30
TOTAL		630

LETTER GRADES

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100% +	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
less than 60%	F

Note: I do not curve

INCOMPLETE: An incomplete is only given when a student has already completed 70% of the course, and has a documented, valid emergency/ reason. Thus you must have complete 3 units of the course, and have a C average on completed work. You must request an incomplete in writing before December 4th, and you must provide me with documentation. I reserve the right to verify your documentation.

Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty

"Acts prohibited by the college for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to, tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper, projects, either individual or group, classroom presentation; and homework."

Student Service Web Site:

http://www3.austincc.edu/resources_students/services.php

Online Instructional Services Handout

<http://www3.austincc.edu/evpcss/newsemester/pdfs2/studsvcs.pdf>

Students with Disabilities: "Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office of Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester." If you have need of reasonable accommodations, please provide me with written documentation from Student Services stating the types of necessary accommodations. Please get these to me by the end of the first week of classes, so I can have the materials ready for you in a timely fashion.

Statement on Academic Freedom:

"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon the search for truth and upon free expression. In this course the professor and the students shall strive to protect free inquiry and the open exchange of

facts, ideas, and opinions. Students are free to take exception to the views offered in this course and reserve judgment about debatable issues. Grades will not be affected by personal views. With this freedom comes the responsibility of civility and a respect for the diversity of ideas and opinions. This means that students must take turns speaking, listening to others without interruption, and refrain from name-calling or other personal attacks."

HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE:

In a regular class format, I require students to spend at least two hours outside of class for every hour spent in the classroom **in order to pass this class**. So be prepared to spend at least 15 hours per week on reading assignments, homework etc. The material is not hard, but it is involved and detailed. **You cannot cram 6 chapters in the weekend before the exam and expect to do well.**

How to study for this course: First set yourself up with a study time schedule of 2 chapters a week, That will give you a review week to go over the 6 chapters before you take each unit test.

1. Read the assigned pages from the book, spending time on the graphs, tables and figures.
2. Make notes as you go along. Pay attention to those concepts and figures that give you trouble.
3. Call me during office hours, email me, or come in for help.
4. Practice defining key terms from the book and answering the chapter review summaries at the end of each chapter and the study guide. Again these terms and questions are highly relevant and are likely to appear on tests.
5. Study for short periods at a time- 30 minutes several times a day. This is much more effective that one marathon session the day before the unit exam. (Hint- this last one does not work).
6. See <http://opc.austin.cc.tx.us/handbook.htm> - a student handbook geared towards distance learners.
- 7.

TAKING TESTS IN THE TESTING CENTER

Unit exams will be available at each of the testing centers. You must select a preferred testing center on your online orientation form so I can plan accordingly. On the day of the test, **please make sure to give yourself sufficient time to take the test. Many times the testing centers are full and students have to wait several hours before they get in.** It is your responsibility to finish the tests by the deadline date. **BE PREPARED!!**

1. **YOU MUST** bring a student ID to the testing center, and be ready to fill out the form with the section number etc. for this course. If you don't already have an ACC ID, you need to get one by going into an ACC campus. Be prepared to wait awhile if the testing center is full- **especially on Mondays and Fridays! Also note that not all testing centers are open on the weekend etc. It is your responsibility to know the hours of operation for your testing center** and get there in time to take your test before the deadline.

2. After you have completed the exam, retain your test request form. This is your verification that you took the exam, in case the test becomes lost in the mail. This has happened in the past- so protect yourself!
3. The testing center will run your scantron and give you your score, and mail the scantron back to me. I will then post your grades on blackboard so you can keep track of your class grades.

UNIT	TOPIC	READINGS
1	Introducing Environmental Science.... Environmental Laws, Economics.... Ecosystems and Energy Ecosystems and Living Organisms Major Ecosystems of the World Human Health and Toxicology.....	Chot. 1 Chpt. 2 Chpt. 3 Chpt. 4 Chpt. 6 Chpt. 7
EXAM 1 DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 16		
2	Population Change Addressing Population Issues The Urban World Fossil Fuels Nuclear Energy Renewable Energy and Conservation	Chpt. 8 Chpt. 9 Chpt 10 Chpt. 11 Chpt. 12 Chpt. 13
EXAM 2 DEADLINE OCTOBER 14		
3	Water: A Limited Resource Soil Resources Minerals: A Nonrenewable Resource Preserving Earth's Biodiversity Land Resources Food Resources: Agriculture	Chpt. 14 Chpt. 15 Chpt. 16 Chpt. 17 Chpt. 18 Chpt. 19
EXAM 3 DEADLINE NOVEMBER 11		
4	Air Pollution Global Climate Changes Water Pollution The Pesticide Dilemma Solid & Hazardous Waste Tomorrow's World	Chpt. 20 Chpt. 21 Chpt. 22 Chpt. 23 Chpt. 24 Chpt. 25
EXAM 4 DEADLINE DECEMBER 10		

UNIT EXAM DATES and Extra Credit Dates:

Unit 1	Sept 16	
Unit 2	October 14	First Extra Credit Cue
Unit 3	November 11	Second Extra Credit Due
Unit 4	December 10	Third Extra Credit Due

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL: December 11 (RVS, RGC and NRG TESTING CENTERS ONLY)