**Introduction to Environmental Science (ENVR 1301, Section XXXX)**

**Time, Place**: TTh xxxx**-**xxx pm, NRG, Rm. xxxx.

**Instructor**: Kit Walker

**Office Hours**: TTH xxxxxx pm NRG, Room 007 [and by appointment] (GhostWWalks@austin.cc.tx.us), phone, 555-0000

**Text:** Environmental Science by Wright & Nebel, 10th Edition, no other materials required.

**Class Format & Materials Needed:** Standard lecture format/equipment; questions and comments are valued during lectures.

**Course Objectives:** To give students an understanding of how science and the scientific method works to address environmental problems. The student will become familiar with the Earth’s major systems (ecosystems and biogeochemical cycles), how they function and how they are affected by human activity (population growth, air, water and soil pollution, ozone depletion, global warming, solid waste disposal). Students will learn about the interaction of human society (urban sprawl, energy use/generation, resource consumption and economics) with the Earth’s systems.

**Course Rationale:** This course is designed to give a basic understanding of the Earth's life-supporting, ecological systems and the threats to those systems. As a member of this society/planet, it is up to everyone to be a make educated choices when voting on (or influencing) environmental issues or political candidates and in their daily existence. The information in this class should help to inform the citizen of those correct choices.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will use the scientific method and ecological principles in analyzing and evaluating the solutions to environmental problems that the country and international community faces with respect to societal values and traditions. The students will also analyze the environmental ethics that apply to these problems and their solutions. The students will learn ways in which a citizen in a democratic society can do to help solve these pressing problems. These outcomes also address the general education competencies of critical thinking and quantitative and empirical reasoning. Discussions of these issues as well as written essays include the competiencies of critical thinking and written and oral communication.

**Class schedule:**

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| **Weeks** | **Topics** | **Reading Assignments** |
| Aug 21 | Introduction, Problems & History | Chapter 1 |
| Aug 28 | Economics, Politics, Public Policy | Chapter 2 |
| Sep 4 | Ecology | Chapter 3 |
| Sep 11 | Ecosystems and Energy Flow | Chapter 4 |
| Sep 11 | Exam 1 |  |
| Sept 18 | The Human Population  | Chapters 7,8 |
| Sept 25 | Water Issues/Hydrologic Cycle | Chapter 10, 20 |
| Oct 2 | Soil | Chapter 11 |
| Oct 9 | Species Diversity | Chapters 6,7 |
|  | Ecosystems Restoration |  |
| Oct 9 | Exam 2 |  |
| Oct 16 | Global Climate Change | Chapter 18 |
| Oct 23 | Air Pollution and Ozone Depletion | Chapter 19 |
| Oct 30 | Energy from Fossil Fuels | Chapter 14 |
| Nov 6 | Nuclear Power | Chapter 15 |
| Nov 6 | Exam 3 |  |
| Nov 13 | Renewable Energy | Chapter 16 |
| Nov 20 | Risks and Environmental Hazards | Chapter 22 |
| Nov 27-Dec 4 | Urban Life, Modern Society | Chapter 23 |
| Dec 11 | Exam 4 |  |

**NOTE:**

**This schedule is subject to change during the semester. Topics and tests may not correspond to the above dates. You will be notified at least a week in advance of each exam.**

**Grading Policy for Science & the Environment**

Grades for the course will be based on the following:

1. Four examinations will make up the lecture grade. The exams may contain short answer, multiple-choice, true/false, matching and essay type questions. Up to 50% of the final exam will be comprehensive - don’t clear you memory of material after each exam! Makeup tests will be allowed only for extreme reasons - death, traffic accident, serious illness/injury requiring a visit to a physician (documentation will be required). Invalid excuses will result in no makeup (details will be discussed in class). The final exam must be taken to pass the course - no makeup is possible. There will be no extra credit assignments.

There may be “Pop Quiz” tests over the reading assignments, lectures, or lab material. These tests will be given to "encourage" attendance and participation in both lecture and lab. Missing a significant number of these tests (more than 25%) will mean that you will not get the class curve points added to your average for calculating your final grade.

2. The course will be graded on a normal or bell curve with a standard grade scale (70- 79% = “C”; 80-89%= “B”, etc.). Each exam will be curved up (if needed) so that the average is in the mid 70s. There will be no large curve at the end of the course to drastically alter averages and “save the day”. Regardless of how convincing the arguments or how much you feel you deserve it, I do not “give” grades not earned. I simply do the math at the end of the semester and what you earned is your final grade.

3. Students are responsible for all information given out in class whether they are there or not. If you miss class contact someone to learn what you missed and (changed exam dates, assignments, etc.), get copies of the notes and handouts.

**Withdraw and Incomplete Policies:**

1. Letting a student withdraw from class or receive an incomplete grade after the drop deadline is only done for extreme reasons - I have to follow ACC policies regarding extreme reasons (see above). An incomplete (grade of "I") will only be given if extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death of a loved one, keep a student from completing the final examination. Incompletes must be requested in writing with documentation of the extenuating circumstances. If a grade of “I” is given, the final examination must be taken by a date set by the student and professor. This date may not be later than two weeks prior to the end of the next semester.

2. If you drop the class you must do the paperwork and contact the administration. If you decide to drop this class, you must protect your academic record by withdrawing no later than the drop date for this semester. You must also verify that you have successfully withdrawn from the class before the Final Withdrawal Date. You are also strongly encouraged to hang onto any paperwork should there be a problem in the computer records.

3. Class conduct - ACC expects professional conduct from faculty and students. Conduct that interferes with the ability to teach or learn will result in removal from class pending review by the Dean of Student Affairs. Rude behavior includes disturbing class by entering to class late in an inconsiderate fashion (i.e. so quietly take the nearest seat) or interrupting lectures (disruptive talking, sharpening pencils, etc.). Read your student handbook, you agreed to everything in it by registering for class!

Advice: 1. If you are having trouble (more than one exam is below the grade level you are happy with) or have any questions, seek help from me immediately. Don't wait until the last weeks of the semester, or the last test, to become "concerned" - it will do no good.

2. Attend lectures! You are responsible for any information given out during class and the consequences of missing critical information (rescheduled tests).

3. Keep up with the reading. Read the chapters before they are covered in class. The notes cover some of the text information (with other material added); they are not a substitute for reading assignments. Some test questions will come from the text alone.

4. Studying for exams: You should review or rewrite your class notes weekly. To start studying for an exam: 1). Reread the chapter and review your notes. 2). Review the bold terms in the chapters as well as all figures: 3). Answer the review questions at the end of each chapter. (Repeat as needed.)

**Attendance/Class Participation:**

Students are expected to attend lectures, labs and participate in class discussion.

**Safety:** Campus Police Dispatch-222 or 3-7999. Learn building evacuation routes.

**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 presentations; and homework.”

**Statement on 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.”

“Students who are requesting accommodation must provide the instructor with a letter of accommodation from the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) at the beginning of the semester. Accommodations can only be made after the instructor receives the letter of accommodation from OSD.”

**Statement on Academic Freedom:**

"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good. The common good depends upon a search for truth and upon free expression. In this course the professor and students shall strive to protect free inquiry and the open exchange of facts, ideas, and opinions. Students are free to take exception to views offered in this course and to 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 a diversity of ideas and opinions. This means that students must take turns speaking, listen to others speak without interruption, and refrain from name-calling or other personal attacks."

**Testing Center Policy:**

ACC Testing Center policies can be found at: http://www2.austincc.edu/testctr/ **Student Services:**

Web address: http://www2.austincc.edu/resources\_students/services.php

**Instructional Services:**

Web address: http://www3.austincc.edu/evpcss/memos/reference.htm, then click “Campus Based Student Support Overview”.