

EVR1001H – Intro. to Environmental Science

Spring 2024

HS1 Room 246

T, TH 1030-1150 h, Face-to-Face

Dr. John Fauth

Biological Sciences 401D

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UCF Course Description: EVR 1001H COS-BIOLOGY 3(3,0)

Honors Introduction to Environmental Science: Environmental science and environmental systems in the context of real places, real people, real problems, and real data. Occasionally



<http://www.open.ac.uk/science/main/studying-science/Environmentalscience-Q52>

Course Objectives:

- To understand the core principles of environmental science
- To understand the importance of the scientific method in advancing environmental science
- To gain experience identifying environmental challenges and implementing policy-based solutions
- To develop reasoning and communication skills expected of environmental scientists

Textbook: None – instead, we will use assigned readings from the primary literature.

Attendance and Participation: Are strongly encouraged. Class will begin promptly at 1030 h so don't be late.

Syllabus: The schedule, topics, activities, and class rules are tentative, and the professor reserves the right to alter them as needed. Students will be notified of changes during class and/or via Web Courses.

Lecture notes: Engage your brain - take notes! You are responsible for all materials covered in class. If you are absent, you must obtain notes and other resources from your classmates.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Lecture or Discussion Leader
09 JAN	Introduction: course organization & course survey	Dr. Fauth
11 JAN	50 environmental questions	Dr. Fauth
16 JAN	The scientific method & other ways of knowing	Dr. Fauth
18 JAN	Customizing the syllabus to your interests	Dr. Fauth
23 JAN	Brainstorming day: Spring 2024 group projects	Project groups
25 JAN	Radioactive contamination	Dr. Fauth
30 JAN	Herbicides & pesticides	Dr. Fauth
01 FEB	Project ideas – additional brainstorming & organizing	Project groups
06 FEB	Soil contamination	Kennedi
08 FEB	Water pollution	Murhaf
13 FEB	Plastics pollution	Sophia T
15 FEB	Littering & visual pollution	Sophia L
20 FEB	Continued discussion of littering & visual pollution	
22 FEB	Midterm Exam	
27 FEB	Light & noise pollution	Rebecca
29 FEB	Air pollution	Julia
05 MAR	Thermal pollution	Brooke
07 MAR	Global climate change	David
12 MAR	Changes in water resources	Kennedi
14 MAR	Project status reports	Project groups
26 MAR	Loss of biodiversity	Rebecca
28 MAR	Invasive species	Brooke
02 APR	Conservation	Julia
04 APR	Sustainable development	Sophia L
09 APR	Sustainable agriculture	Murhaf
11 APR	Environmental restoration	David
16 APR	Environmental justice	Sophia T
18 APR	Project deliverables	Project groups
30 APR	Final Exam: 1000 – 1250 h	

If you need help: Web Courses is the required form of communication. Your message must be written in a professional manner and include your full name as it appears in the class roster. I will try to answer questions within two class days unless the answer already is in the syllabus, was answered in class, posted on Web Courses, or can be determined using readily available resources or common sense.

Office hours: I will be available via Zoom during “home office” hours T 1900 – 2100 h or by appointment at another mutually convenient time. Please confirm meetings in advance because academic advisees, graduate students, etc., also meet with me during office hours. Office hours are subject to change to accommodate other responsibilities. Changes will be announced in class and/or on Web Courses.

Grading: Your numerical grade will be determined by your work on written assignments, the midterm and final exams, your paper discussion & annotated bibliography, and your group project, as follows:

Course survey	2.5%
50 environmental questions	2.5%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	20%
Paper discussions	20%
Annotated bibliographies	10%
Group project	25%

Your grade will be determined according to this protocol, less any deductions for disruptive behavior, which includes (but is not limited to) entering class late or leaving early without permission (-5%); engaging in content on an electronic device that disrupts others – including the instructor; classroom outbursts ($\geq -5\%$); aggression toward others ($\geq -10\%$), etc.

Ignore the “Assignments” and “Total” columns under “Grades” in Web Courses, as they may not reflect the status of your grade accurately.

All exams are cumulative and open book, but you must work independently of others and neither give nor receive assistance or communicate with others during the exam. Exams will be available on Web Courses and you can work on them anywhere you like. However, you must upload your answers as a PDF or a .docx file through Web Courses before the deadline. E-mail attachments will not be accepted and will receive a zero. If you are using a Macintosh computer or notebook, be sure that your documents are bona fide .docx files (or to be safe, use a PDF).

Exams will include diverse questions on all aspects of the course, including lecture material, readings, discussions, project reports and other activities. Exams will be challenging and will require you to use scientific methods and apply environmental concepts to new situations. To encourage good study habits and discourage memorize/regurgitate/forget behavior, I will politely decline to answer questions one class day before each exam.

I use competency-based grading in all my courses: to earn an A, one must demonstrate the abilities expected of an excellent, introductory-level student in environmental science. **If the entire class demonstrates such abilities, I will be absolutely delighted to give everyone an A! The easiest way for everyone to earn an A is to help each other - peer learning and altruism benefit everyone.** Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually.

Numerical grades will be converted into letter grades as shown below:

92.6 – 100.0	A		70.0 – 77.4	C
89.5 – 92.5	A-		68.5 – 69.9	C-
87.5 – 89.4	B+		67.5 – 68.4	D+
82.6 – 87.4	B		62.6 – 67.4	D
79.5 – 82.5	B-		59.5 – 62.5	D-
77.5 – 79.4	C+		59.4 or less	F

Make-up exams and other assignments: Both exams are cumulative, so if an acceptable absence forces you to miss the midterm exam, its weight will be added to the final exam. Acceptable

absences are major illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular or professional requirements (e.g., attending a scientific meeting), court-imposed legal obligations, military obligations, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university-sponsored activities such as intercollegiate athletics. Acceptable absences must be documented, in advance if possible. If you miss an exam for other than an acceptable absence your score will be a zero. Likewise for paper discussions and project reports – you must be present and contributing, and submit work on time to receive credit. Late submissions will receive a grade of zero – that’s how science works in the real world.

Withdrawal: The deadline for withdrawal without penalty is published by UCF. You must decide whether to remain in the course by that time. I do not give grades of Incomplete and the Biology Department (my home department) does not permit NC (No Credit).

Academic integrity: Students should familiarize themselves with UCF’s Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, “Academic Misconduct,” students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else’s efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor’s PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student’s own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another’s work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student’s own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or cheating: students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF’s student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <<https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students’ education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an “F” letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a “Z” designation on one’s transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Withdrawal: The deadline for withdrawal without penalty is published by UCF. You must decide whether to remain in the course by that time. I do not give grades of Incomplete and the Biology Department does not permit NC (No Credit).

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus Safety Statement: Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts. In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance – even when doing field work!

Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html. Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.

If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.

To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."

Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities:

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious observances: Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>

Title IX Policy: Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at <https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu> and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

In-Class Recording Statement: Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording classroom activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of Dr. Fauth. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule.