



Introduction to Environmental Science: EVR 1001

Fall 2020

Office Hours:	Individual office hours by Appointment. Open office hours: Thur 3:30 pm to 5 pm
Instructor Contact Information	Ariel Horner Ariel.horner@ucf.edu

Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

This course examines scientific foundations needed for understanding the earth's environmental systems and human impacts on the environment. Topics include: basic ecology, human population growth and world food supply, land and water resources, energy resources, water and air pollution, biodiversity conservation, global climate change, and sustainability.

Course Requirements:

This course will require participation outside of the scheduled time. The course will include interactive lectures, chapter review quizzes, and a mid-term and final examination. Students are expected to be respectful to instructors and their fellow students, and behave in an adult and professional manner.

General Education Learning Objectives:

This course contributes UCF's general education program (GEP) science foundation learning objectives. At the completion of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of science as an empirical attempt to acquire information about the real world, develop possible explanations of these phenomena, and test the explanations by predicting the outcome of future observations or experiments.
- Demonstrate an ability to assess the extent to which claims presented as "scientific" satisfy the empirical character of scientific explanations.
- Demonstrate understanding of scientific knowledge and problem solving in a physical or life science.

Specific Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Define the field of environmental science and explain importance and relevance to real-world environmental problems.
- Explain how various scientific fields, such as chemistry, ecology, earth science, and other relevant scientific disciplines, contribute to the field of environmental science.
- Analyze and interpret scientific evidence concerning environmental systems and problems in the context of real places, real people, real issues, and real data.
 - Think critically about environmental issues and distinguish between sound and unsound interpretations of scientific evidence concerning environmental issues.
- Explain how environmental science relates to other important areas of human understanding and action, including environmental laws and policies, sustainability, equity and environmental justice.

Evaluation Procedures
(Grading is based on point total earned)

Grade Category: Class Participation (Nearpods)

Description of Requirements: Nearpod is an interactive lecture system with questions embedded in the material. These can only be done while going through the content, and require a code to enter. Codes will be presented in the modules along with a PDF of the lecture in case technical difficulties are encountered.

Total: (30 pts each)

Grade Category: Chapter Quizzes

Description of Requirements: Students will complete quizzes in Webcourses throughout the semester to demonstrate comprehension of material covered in the lectures. Quizzes will be assigned at the end of each unit.

Total: (50 points each)

Grade Category: Mid-term Exam

Description of Requirements: Students will complete a mid-semester exam covering material presented in class and in other assignments.

Total: (100 points each)

Grade Category: Final Exam

Description of Requirements: Students will complete a final exam covering material presented in class and in other assignments throughout the semester. The Final is comprehensive.

Total: (150 pts each)

Grade Category: Other homework assignments

Description of Requirements: This will vary from unit to unit. See WebCourses for more details throughout the course.

Total: (20 points each)

Grade Category: Extra Credit

Description of Requirements: This will be up to the discretion of the instructor. It is not a guaranteed opportunity and will be offered sporadically. See WebCourses for more details throughout the course.

Grading Scale: A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (59-0)

Technology Requirements:

Technology	Expectations for Use
E-mail:	ALL email communications with the instructors must be made through Webcourses. Grades will not be provided over email. Communication with classmates via email will be done at the student's discretion.
WebCourses:	WebCourses will be used for this class. Please check WebCourses regularly for updates, quizzes and other class information.
Computer Software	Students are expected to be able to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point.

Additional Policies

Grading and evaluation	Grades will be calculated according to the above evaluation procedures. Grades will not be distributed in class; an appointment must be made with an instructor to discuss grades. Grades will not be given over the phone, or via email.
Attendance and participation	This class is ASYNCHRONOUS and it is up to you to continue at the pace set by the instructor. Assignments will be considered LATE if not turned in or completed by the time specified in WebCourses. Points will be taken off for extraneously late work.
Religious Observances	<p>It is the practice of the University of Central Florida to reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of individuals in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. A student who desires to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith must notify all of his/her instructors at the beginning of the term to be excused from classes to observe the religious holy day.</p> <p>The student will be held responsible for any material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to complete any work missed. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day.</p> <p>For more information, see the UCF policy at http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf.</p>

Academic integrity	As stated in the UCF creed, integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and to follow the University's Rules of Conduct.
Accommodations for students with different ability or special needs (alternate testing opportunities, support for signers, etc.)	The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact <i>Student Disability Services</i> and the instructors at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met these criteria. Students who need accommodations should register with Student Disability Services before requesting accommodations from the professors. <i>Student Disability Services</i> , Ferrell Commons 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371. TTY/TDD please phone (407) 823-2116
First week academic assignment requirement	As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Academic Assignment in Webcourses by the end of the first week of class. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of, or decline of your financial aid.
Campus safety	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. To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk).

Course Schedule, Critical Themes & Goals (subject to change):

Class Schedule

Week 1	The Practice of Environmental Science
Week 2	Biomes
Week 3	Ecosystem Interactions
Week 4	Human Populations
Week 5	Biogeochemical Cycles
Week 6	Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources
Week 7	Land Use
Week 8	Changes over time
Week 9	Changes in populations
Week 10	Anthropogenic Changes
Week 11	Climate change
Week 12	Biotechnology
Week 13-14	Policy Changes and Local Environment
Week 15	Review

Important Dates

Last day to drop/swap/add	August 28 th , 2020
Labor Day	September 7 th , 2020
Withdrawal deadline	October 30 th , 2020
Veterans Day	November 11 th , 2020
Thanksgiving Wednesday	November 25 th , 2020
Thanksgiving Break	November 26 th -28 th , 2020
Classes end	December 4 th , 2020
Final Exams	December 7 th -12 th , 2020