I. COURSE: ESCI 4202 Issues in Environmental Science, 2 sem. hrs (2:0)
MW 9-9:50, CI 127

II. FACULTY: Kim Withers, NRC 3205, 825-5907; Office Hours 10:30-1 Monday, Wednesday, email Kim.Withers@tamucc.edu

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Exploration of major issues in environmental science posing past, present and future challenges. This will be a seminar-style course. Selected readings, student presentations and papers. Prerequisites: Juniors/seniors only and ESCI 1401 or permission of instructor.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

No textbook is required. Students will be assigned a variety of readings from the relevant literature throughout the course. All papers will be readily available through Bell Library databases.

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES/COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to (1) identify and demonstrate understanding of important issues related to human impact on Earth’s environment, and (2) identify and demonstrate familiarity with key environmental events/case studies highlighting those impacts.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING CRITERIA

The grading elements are:

- Attendance/participation – 30%
- Summary and/or concept analysis papers – 30%
- Presentation/discussion leadership – 20%
- Panel discussion/debate – 20%

VII. PROPOSED TOPICS

1. Climate Change
2. Energy
3. Water
4. Ecosystems and Endangered Species
5. Land Use / Land Management
6. Chemicals, Toxics and Heavy Metals
7. Air Pollution
8. Waste Management
9. Ozone Layer Depletion
10. Oceans and Fisheries
11. Deforestation
12. Human overpopulation
13. Consumption
14. Need for learning, knowledge, and informed decision-making

VIII. SCHEDULE - TBD

**Statements**

**Disability and Veterans’ Services:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to access campus facilities, resources and programs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Support and accommodations are also available for returning veterans who experience cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus. Our Office of Disability Services arranges such support and academic accommodations. To make a request, or for more information, call (361) 825-5816 or visit Driftwood 101. It is important to contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion as it will take time for them to review requests and prepare accommodations and accommodation letters.

**Grade Appeals:** As stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi University Rules and Procedures (Section B [Academic Program], Part 13 [Students]: 13.02.99.C2 [Student Grade Appeals] and 13.02.99C2.01 [Student Grade Appeal Procedures]), a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is on the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, consult the University Rules and Procedures specified above (accessible through the University Rules and Procedures website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html)). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.