Course Description

Explores major issues in environmental science including past, present and future challenges. Topics may vary depending on current events, but examples include air and water pollution, water supply, climate change, food supply, environmental health, environmental management, energy resources, and others. This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of the many significant environmental issues that affect society. Students critically assess these issues using selected readings, case studies, student presentations, and papers.

Course Outcomes

1. Exposure to the multitude of environmental issues that affect society both globally and regionally.
2. Develop environmental literacy and critically assess scientific literature about environmental issues.
3. Increase communication skills through written and oral avenues and intelligently communicate importance of environmental issues with others.
4. Understand scientific concepts behind environmental issues addressed throughout class.
5. Make connections between humans, their behaviors, and environmental issues and solutions.
6. Use skills developed in class to make informed choices regarding environmental issues.

Blackboard

- I will attempt to make this course as paperless as possible. Therefore, there will be a heavy reliance on Blackboard for exchange of information.
- Lecture notes, announcements, links, resources, assignments, etc will be posted on Blackboard.
- Regularly log on to the course website for class announcements or postings. This will be our main point of contact outside class and office hours.
- Please use email to contact me, NOT the Blackboard message tool.
- Print out any relevant material required for in class (i.e. journal article) prior to coming to class. If you have a laptop, tablet, or smartphone, then you can use that in place of printing out the materials.

Required Texts:

None

Components of Course Grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage of Overall Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Summaries</td>
<td>25% (Written summaries of assigned readings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>15% (PowerPoint presentations of assigned readings &amp; other assignments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group discussion</td>
<td>15% (lead group discussion on chosen topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20% (Half for attending class and half for participation in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments</td>
<td>25% (Includes written assignments for case studies)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Deadlines**
Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date announced. A 10% penalty will be assessed for each class day the assignment is late (e.g., if you submit an assignment 2 class days late, you will receive 80% of the graded mark for your effort). However, after 3 class days, late assignments will not be accepted and the student will receive 0 points for the assignment. If you know that you will have an excused absence when an assignment is due, you must turn in that assignment on or before the due date.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a score of zero (0) on the assignment.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, Nov. 7 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, 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 upon 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, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage (http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.
Disabilities Accommodations:
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. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.