NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE
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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Professor: Paula Viveros, Ph.D.
- Email: viverosp@nwfsc.edu
- Office Hours: Tue 10-11 AM CST/CDT, or by appointment- Zoom link provided in Canvas
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: Canvas class shell

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

It is my responsibility to facilitate your academic and professional development needs. I am available to you in multiple facets. I am always available by email. I will respond to your email within 36 business hours of receiving (during the week) or 48 hours (on the weekend). I am happy to schedule a Zoom, or phone meeting with you as well.

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Course Name and Number: EVR1001C, Introduction to Environmental Science
- Course CRN: 20209
- Class Modality: Online
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: Canvas class shell

COURSE DESCRIPTION

EVR1001C, Introduction to Environmental Science, 4 Credits. Focuses on human and non-human environmental elements delivered from a systems perspective. Physical, chemical, and biological processes are explored to understand pressing environmental challenges within context of cultural values, attitudes, and norms expressed by individuals and populations of the globe.

COURSE CURRICULUM

This course is a survey of basic chemical, biological, and physical principles of environmental science and their applications to environmental issues. This course is appropriate for students in a wide range of disciplines or programs.

COURSE GOALS

- *Students will develop an understanding of the applications of the scientific method.*
- *Students will develop an understanding of the functioning of the natural world.*
- *Students will develop an appreciation of how natural ecosystems were formed and developed.*
- *Students will appreciate the importance of biodiversity for the equilibrium of the ecosystems and for human well-being.*
- *Students will develop an understanding of how human actions impact ecosystems.*
- *Students will recognize and understand the importance of lifestyle changes to create a more sustainable world.*

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students guide exploration of concepts, theories, and the process to translate material to real-world application in the environmental sciences. Through innovative questioning and reflection, students apply critical thinking and problem-solving techniques to address contemporary and emerging environment challenges and develop adaptive solutions to these challenges. Students gain perspective of cultural norms and values of themselves and other global citizens to develop a cross-cultural understanding of environmental science and capacity of impact. Each student is expected to engage fully in course activities to achieve the following competencies:

1. *Understand the process of scientific inquiry and application of scientific principles in cross-cultural contexts.*
2. *Derive empirical and testable hypothesis to examine physical and biological environmental processes.*
3. *Evaluate complex interaction between humans and environments, notably the value of ecosystem services and natural resource use across the globe.*
4. *Develop interdisciplinary approaches to critically assess and develop innovative solutions to environmental challenges.*
5. *Recognize environmental impacts of behavior and decision-making in student's personal life.*
6. *Effectively communicate scientific and cultural components of the environment to other citizens.*

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS OF THE COURSE

Active participation in this course is expected. There are hands-on activities that require the student to explore outside areas, take pictures, analyze data, and develop hypotheses. There are lab reports that require the student to write several paragraphs and develop a proposal. The instructor will be available outside of class to answer questions and offer guidance to students.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

None.

HOW STUDENT PERFORMANCE WILL BE MEASURED

Student performance will be measured by completing assignments, lab activities, videos, discussions, and a final project.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

WEEKLY EXPECTATIONS

- Each week of class tackles one or two environmental science topics.
- There are four components to accomplish each week—read the week's chapters, watch online lectures, complete laboratory activity and chapter assignment.

ONLINE LECTURES- Weekly students review short video lectures (about 20-30 minutes in length) posted on the Canvas course shell. Lectures are available every Monday at 11:59 PM.

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES- Weekly students complete laboratory activities. The lab activities focus on real-life application of material and may take the form of, but are not limited to, virtual field trips, laboratory experiments, case studies, community-based interactions, and professional development opportunities. Applications reinforce student synthesis and critical evaluation of material facilitating development of adaptable solutions to environmental challenges. Each laboratory activity is accompanied by a short video explanation, or detailed instructions. It is highly recommended you watch the video prior to working on the laboratory activity. **Laboratory activities and accompanying videos/instructions for the week's environmental topic are posted on Canvas every Mon at 11:59 PM** (a week prior to the due date).

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS- Weekly students complete chapter assignments. **These assignments are focused on the week's environmental topics and are available every Wed by 11:59 PM** (a week prior to the due date).

ENVIROTANK- Student develops a solution to an environmental challenge. Like the Shark-tank television show, students are to "sell" their solution to a panelist of judges. Students must construct a video (no more than 5 minutes) identifying one environmental challenge and their solution to the challenge. Detailed information will be provided within the first weeks of class.

REFLECTION FOR ENHANCEMENT- Upon completion of the class, students write a reflection addressing impact of the class overall and shifts in students' approach to develop solutions and cross-cultural understanding of environmental science issues of the globe. Guideline questions will be provided on Canvas one week prior to the last day of class.

COURSE POLICIES

Absences and Missed Class or Work: Course is planned to help students keep up with work on a weekly basis. Notify the instructor *at least one week* in advance if there are any issues preventing keeping up with class a given week. Missed work with prior excused approval by instructor will be accepted with no penalty if completed by the extended deadline. Unexcused, missed work will be accepted with a 10% deduction of total possible points for every calendar day past the due date. **There is no extension/make-up opportunity for the reflection for enhancement or final.**

***Proactive Mindset*: Please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss problems with course material or performance in class. Your performance and success are extremely important to the instructor and Northwest Florida State College. Please contact the instructor to discuss your concerns *as soon as they arise*.**

COURSE MATERIALS

- Need by Week 1 (purchase required) William P. Cunningham and Mary Ann Cunningham. Environmental Science: A Global Concern, 16th Edition. 2024.
- Need by Week 4 (purchase most likely not required)
    - Four types of different items (e.g., toothpicks, candy, paperclips, etc).
- Need by Week 6 (purchase most likely not required)
    - Flat container (e.g., plastic containers or cardboard drink carton), two matching plastic containers, two thermometers, tape, lamp with ability to produce heat **(heat lamp ideal but not mandatory)**, funnel, measuring cup (for water), aluminum foil, plastic wrap, two rubber bands, and ice cubes.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the college catalog. Several essential policies are provided below.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
Academic Integrity	Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. They are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.
Accommodations	The Accommodation Resource Center at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.
Attendance	Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected.
Tutoring Services	Tutoring services are available in person and online.
Counseling Services	All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.
Student Code of Conduct	Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
Student Complaints	NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.
Student Rights and Responsibilities	Understanding your role as a student.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES

Below you will find the weekly schedule of chapters, lectures, assignments, tests, and holidays.

Date	Chapters to read/lectures to watch	Assignments due Mon & Wed
Week 1 Jan 12th	Become Familiar with Course in Canvas Review syllabus and welcome video Ch. 1. Understanding Our Environment	Buy textbook Get familiar with the textbook & assignments.
Week 2 Jan 19th	**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Ch.2. Principles Of Science and Systems Ch. 3. Matter, Energy and Life	**Welcome Video due!** Chapter assignment 1 due Laboratory Activity 1 due
Week 3 Jan 26th	Ch. 4. Evolution, Biological Communities and Species Interaction	Chapter assignments 2 & 3 due Laboratory Activity 2 due
Week 4 Feb 2nd	Ch. 5. Biomes: Global Patterns of Life Ch. 6. Population Biology	Chapter assignments 4 due Laboratory Activity 3 due
Week 5 Feb 9th	Ch. 7. Human Populations Ch. 8. Environmental Health and toxicology	Chapter assignments 5 & 6 due Laboratory Activity 4 due
Week 6 Feb 16th	Ch. 9. Food and Hunger Ch. 10. Farming: Conventional & Sustainable Prac.	Chapter assignments 7 & 8 due Laboratory Activity 5 due
Week 7 Feb 23rd	Ch. 11. Biodiversity: Preserving Species Ch. 12. Biodiversity: Preserving Landscapes	Chapter assignments 9 & 10 due Laboratory Activity 6 due
Week 8 Mar 2nd	Ch. 13. Restoration Ecology Ch. 14. Geology and Earth Resources	Chapter assignments 11 & 12 due Laboratory Activity 7 due
Week 9 Mar 9th	Ch. 15. Climate Systems and Climate Change Ch. 16. Air Pollution	Chapter assignments 13 & 14 due Laboratory Activity 8 due
Week 10 Mar 16th	Ch. 17. Water Use and Management Ch. 18. Water Pollution	Chapter assignments 15 & 16 due Laboratory Activity 9 due
Week 11 Mar 23rd	**Spring Break!**	**No assignments due**
Week 12 Mar 30th	Ch. 19. Conventional Energy Ch. 20. Alternative Energy	Chapter assignments 17 & 18 due Laboratory Activity 10 due
Week 13 Apr 6th	Ch. 21. Waste: Solid, Toxic, and Hazardous Ch. 22. Urbanization and Sustainable Cities	Chapter assignments 19 & 20 due Laboratory Activity 11 due
Week 14 Apr 13th	Ch. 23. Ecological Economics	Chapter assignments 21 & 22 due Laboratory Activity 12 due
Week 15 Apr 20th	Ch. 24. Environmental Policy, Law, and Planning Ch. 25. What Then Shall We Do?	Chapter assignment 23 due
Week 16 Apr 27th	No lectures Finish Final assignments	Chapter assignments 23, 24 & 25 due **Envirotank Presentations due on Wed by 11:59 pm CST/CDT**
Week 17 May 4th	No lectures Finish Final assignments	**Reflection for Enhancement due on Mon by 11:59 pm CST/CDT**

GRADING SCHEME

Course Components	Points	Percentage
Welcome video	25 points	5%
Chapter assignments	25 points each assignment (25*25=625 points)	30%
Laboratory activities	50 points each lab (50*12 = 600 points)	40%
Envirotank	**250 points**	20%
Reflection for Enhancement	100 points	5%
Total		**100%**

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY

This course is entirely online. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!