

Course Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading
August 26	The environment and the human scorecard Evolution, human nature, and the environment	Ch 1-2
Sept 2	Concepts of ecology	Ch 3-4
9	Concepts of ecology	Ch 5-6
16	EXAM 1 Human populations,	Ch 7
23	Economics, Environmental health, human disease	Ch 8-9
30	Food and agriculture, pest control	Ch 11-12
Oct 7	FALL BREAK	
14	Biodiversity, Land Use	Ch 13-14
21	EXAM 2 Preserving Nature	Ch 15
28	Earth science, mineral resources, the atmosphere	Ch16-17
Nov 4	Air pollution Water resources	Ch 18-19
11	Water pollution, conventional energy	Ch 20-21
18	EXAM 3 Sustainable energy	Ch 22
25	THANKSGIVING	
Dec 3	Waste problems, Urban issues	Ch 23-24
9	FINAL EXAM, at regular time and place	

Class Notes

Text: Cunningham and Saigo: *Environmental Science*, 7th ed.

Grading:	Exam 1	100	Tentative scale:	90 - 100% (270-300): A
	Exam 2	100		80 - 89% (240-269): B
	Exam 3	100		65 - 79% (195-239): C
	<u>Final</u>	<u>100</u>		55 - 65% (165-194): D
				< 55% (< 165) : F

Drop lowest score

Total 300

Course overview: This course is a very broad introduction to current environmental issues. We will explore principles of ecology, economics, and human behavior and how they influence the interaction of human society and the environment. We will emphasize the inter-relatedness of environmental problems and their roots in the conflict between individual benefits and population-level consequences of human behavior and societal choices.

Attendance is now mandatory in all 1000- and 2000- level classes. Role now must be taken at each class meeting, and 2 points will be deducted for each absence. Please note that my policy is quite firm: **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT YOUR ATTENDANCE IS CORRECTLY RECORDED**. I will call the roll at the beginning of class, give out tests, or hand back assignments or tests. Should you not be present to answer when your name is called, or to receive a test or a returned assignment, you will be marked absent. If you come late, it is your responsibility to see me personally and to make sure that your attendance is marked correctly. After class is dismissed, no changes will be made in attendance records. Should you fall below a grade cut-off due to a mistaken attendance record, that is not my problem. No exceptions will be made.

Grades will be assigned on the basis of a 300 point total. The grading scale listed above is tentative and may be curved at the option of the instructor. The lowest exam score will be dropped. This may include the final exam; should you be satisfied with your grade after the first three hourly exams you may choose to drop the final exam and need not come to it. Make-up exams will not be given; if you miss an exam you must take all remaining exams and lose the option to take 4 and count the 3 highest grades. In the event of cancellation due to a hurricane/tropical storm, the exam will be held at the beginning of the next session.

Reading assignments are listed for each lecture; you are expected to come to class prepared for lecture, having previously read the assignment (except for the first day of class). The lectures will in general develop major concepts introduced in the text rather than focus on facts and figures. Readings and other assignments may be posted on the course website. Please pay attention to announcements in class and check the website periodically for such documents.

Exams will be given during the first lecture hour. Each exam will be followed by a full lecture. Exams may contain multiple choice, short answers, and essays, and you will be informed of the format prior to each exam. Exams will be challenging, and will emphasize understanding of concepts and reasoning ability over memorization of numbers. In studying for exams, pay close attention to lecture notes and use the text to reinforce major concepts. At times specific assignments may be given over material in the text; these will invariably be covered on the next exam.

Student Learning Objectives: After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain important concepts of functional, population, community, and ecosystem ecology.
2. Analyze environmental issues and identify the underlying ecological processes that have

- been altered by human activities.
3. Describe major resources used by human society and current trends in availability.
 4. Distinguish between natural and anthropogenic sources of environmental change, and compare their relative importance.
 5. Analyze novel environmental problems and, knowing the major principles of ecology and related sciences, predict consequences and evaluate potential responses to these problems.
 6. Explain the role of economics in promoting strategies in resource use, production of goods and services, and pollution control.
 7. Concisely describe, analyze, and propose solutions to problems in essay format.

Academic honesty policy: You may be asked to complete assignments outside of class, and this and all other course work is expected to be your own, written in your own words. Using material from other sources without attribution is a form of cheating and is a violation of the UNO judicial code. Cheating of any kind will result in a grade of F for the assignment and will be referred to the Assistant Dean for Judicial and Student Assistance for disciplinary action. For more information on University policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, see the UNO Student Policy Manual at <http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/> .

Final drop date is November 8, 2004.

Special note on Disability Policy

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact: Coordinator, Disabled Student Services, 260 University Center, 286-6222 (voice/TDD) or 286-3975 (fax).