

Environmental Science (GEO1330)
(Fall 2013)

Class meets: M,W 1:25-2:15 pm, Bellamy 005; F online activities

Office hour: M,W noon-1pm or by appointment

Instructor

Dr. Tingting Zhao, Department of Geography, Bellamy 304

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Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

This course is designed to explore basic concepts and applications of environmental science. Topics include spread of human population and its impacts on the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere of the Earth. Students are expected to understand lecture and reading materials, with focus on

- Growth of human population and increase in food and energy demand
- Human impacts on climate, hydrological cycle, soil, and ecosystems
- Pollution control, waste management, and natural resources conservation
- Human-environment interactions and environmental sustainability

Required Textbook

Withgott JH and Laposata M. 2012. *Essential Environment: The Science behind the Stories with MasteringEnvironmentalScience (4th Edition)*. Benjamin Cummings. ISBN-10: 0321752546; ISBN-13: 9780321752543.

(Check Pearson <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/> for purchasing choices.)

Note: **You are required to purchase the MasteringEnvironmentalScience license.**

This gives you the access to our Friday's online activities.

Electronic Materials

Class announcements, exam study guides, and test grades will be posted on Blackboard course site ENVIRON SCI (GEO1330.FALL2013). Friday's online activities will be posted on MasteringEnvironmentalScience course site EnvSci2013.

Grading

You will be graded based on combined performance of online activities and two exams. Exams cover all lecture and reading materials. **Students in the honor session are required to submit a term project, which includes an oral presentation and written report. The project topic is of your own choice but must be approved by the instructor.

Grade weights:

Session	Online activities	Exam 1	Exam 2	**Term Project
Regular	40%	30%	30%	n/a
Honor	40%	20%	20%	20%

Grading scale:

A (>96%)	B (84-86%)	C (74-76%)	D (64-66%)
A- (90-95%)	B- (80-83%)	C- (70-73%)	D- (60-63%)
B+ (87-89%)	C+ (77-79%)	D+ (67-69%)	F (<59%)

Course Policies

Attendance is required throughout the semester. **The first two unexcused absences will not affect grading. Each additional absence decreases the final grade by 5%.**

Absences due to your outside work schedule, extended job interviews, routine family or spousal responsibilities, and/or vacations are not excused absences. Conserve your two absences and use them when the situation arises. If an unplanned absence occurs, you will need to bring verification of your absence (e.g., a note from a physician or the Health Center) in order to 1) reclaim a lost attendance day or 2) take the makeup exam.

Makeup exams must be taken in a week after the scheduled exam day. You are required to schedule a makeup exam with the instructor prior to the scheduled exam by email. Makeup exams are only permitted for reasons such as illness, conflicting exams, >4 exams in 24-hour period or certain emergencies. After the first person finishes an exam, all late arrivals will be required to take the makeup exam.

No delay will be accepted for online activities and term project.

Persistent informal talking and any reading or studying of other materials will not be tolerated during formal lectures.

The instructor reserves the right to direct students to the Division of Student Affairs Dean of Student Affairs for absence verification.

Students are responsible for all missed class materials. The instructor will not provide handouts or notes; you will have to get them from your classmates.

All changes to the course schedule made in class are the responsibility of the student. The class schedule on our Blackboard course site gives the most up-to-date listing of our schedule.

Office appointments will be made only when there is a clear conflict with the student's course schedule. In office appointments, please ask specific questions to show you have attempted to master the material.

Honor Code Statement

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "be honest and truthful

and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University”
(Academic Honor Policy, <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>).

Liberal Studies Program Statement

The Liberal Studies Program at Florida State University has been designed to provide a perspective on the qualities, accomplishments, and aspirations of human beings, the past and present civilizations we have created, and the natural and technological world we inhabit. This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for *Liberal Studies Area III, History and Social Science*, and in combination with your other Liberal Studies courses, provides an important foundation for your lifelong quest for knowledge. The statements for all three areas can be found at <http://facsenate.fsu.edu/Liberal-Studies-Competency-Forms>.

Americans with Disabilities Act

During the first week of class, students needing academic accommodations should: 1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and 2) bring a letter to the instructor from the Student Disability Resource Center, indicating the need for academic accommodations. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact

Student Disability Resource Center
97 Woodward Avenue, South
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is subject to change with advance notice.

Schedule
(subject to change)

Note: Each week's reading is associated with online activities that require your completion no later than Friday of that week. The online activities will be posted on the MasteringEnvironmentalScience course site.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Aug 26,28	Environmental science	Ch. 1
2	Sept 4	Sustainability	Ch. 18
3	Sept 9,11	Earth as a living system	Ch. 2, 11
4	Sept 16,18	Ecosystems	Ch. 4, 9
5	Sept 23,25	Biodiversity	Ch. 3, 8
6	Sept 30, Oct 2	Human population; Exam 1 ¹	Ch. 6
7	Oct 7,9	Screening of "Food, Inc." (2009)	Ch. 7
8	Oct 14,16	Food, soil, and agriculture	Ch. 7
9	Oct 21,23	Non-renewable energy	Ch. 15
10	Oct 28,30	Renewable energy	Ch. 16
	**Honor students: Topic of term project due by 5 pm on Wednesday, Oct 30		
11	Nov 4,6	Env toxics and air pollution	Ch. 10, 13
12	Nov 13	Water resources & pollution	Ch. 12
13	Nov 18, Nov 20	Waste management; Exam 2 ²	Ch. 17
14	Nov 25 (online)	Climate change	Ch. 14
15	Dec 2,4,6	Honor students term project presentation; all students are required to attend all THREE presentation sessions	
16	**Honor students: Term project written report due by 5 pm on Wednesday, Dec 11		

¹ Exam 1 covers materials from week 1 to week 6.

² Exam 2 covers materials from week 8 to week 13.