ENV 121 Course content and policies

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Office hours:  M 1-2:15pm; W 1-7pm; R 5:30-7pm; or by appointment

**What You Will Learn**

         Welcome to General Environmental Science I.  This course explores the fundamental components and interactions that make up the natural systems of the earth. It introduces the basic science concepts in the disciplines of biological, chemical, and earth sciences that are necessary to understand and address environmental issues.  The material you learn will increase your science literacy and your appreciation of the natural world.

**What I Expect of You**

Come to class ready to learn!  This means that you must arrive on time, only use electronic devices for class, actively participate in class, and respectfully listen to me and to your fellow students.  If you are having difficulty with a concept or assignment, you are encouraged to contact me. This is a challenging course with a lot of material, but you are all serious students who can take the initiative to succeed.

**What You Can Expect of Me**

I will present the material to you in a clear and engaging manner.  I will make myself available to you electronically and in person to clarify concepts.  I will do my best to teach so that students with all learning styles who *desire* to succeed in this course *can* succeed.  I will always treat you with respect.

**Prerequisites**

You should be able to express yourself both orally and in writing at a college freshman level as measured by a college English competency exam (ENG 111 or by my permission).

**Required Text**

Textbook:  Cunningham and Cunningham. *Environmental Science: A Global Concern 14thedition*, McGraw Hill Education. 2018. ISBN: 9781264020508

You can purchase the access code for this book in the bookstore ($87.50) or online ($60).  ***Access your account through our class Canvas page.***

Lab Manual: Individual labs available on Canvas for FREE!

**Class Cancellations**

If class is cancelled, we continue with lecture as if the cancellation did not occur.  If you are unsure what will happen if class is cancelled, check Canvas for announcements.

**Honor Code**

Northern Virginia Community College expects the highest standards of academic honesty.  Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with subsection II of the Student Conduct Rights and Responsibilities, the details of which can be found in your student handbook (<https://www.nvcc.edu/students/handbook/index.html>).  You are prohibited from cheating on exams and assignments, unauthorized access to exams and course materials, and other activities detailed in your student handbook.  Students that violate the honor code will receive a failing grade and will be expelled from this course at my discretion.

         Academic dishonesty shows a lack of respect for your professor, your fellow students, your school, and yourself.

**Drop/Withdraw/Audit/Incomplete**

It is your responsibility to drop or withdraw from this course if you choose.  I will not drop or withdraw you merely because you stop coming to class. If you wish to audit the course, you must be given my permission and you must *begin* the course as an audit.  You may not take the course for a grade and then switch to audit.  I will only grant incompletes if you are in dire circumstances. The division dean and the provost must approve incompletes.  You must have documentation for any health claims from a medical professional.

         Last day to drop with tuition refund: **1/31**

         Last day to withdraw without grade penalty: **3/25**

**Students with Special Needs**

If you are a student with special needs, please contact disability services at<https://www.nvcc.edu/disability-services/index.html>.  Please then contact me to provide me with documentation from disability services and to discuss special accommodations you need.  This should all be done at the beginning of the semester.

**Plagiarism** – As in all your classes at NOVA, plagiarism is not tolerated.  If you simply copy and paste, there is no way for me to know if you understand what you just wrote.  Changing one or two words in a sentence is not a good way to avoid plagiarism. For example, changing, “Of the 578 birds collected, 55% of the species recorded had microplastics in their digestive system” to “Of the 578 birds *found*, 55% of the species recorded had microplastics in their digestive system” is still plagiarism.

**Lab Safety**

         Before our first lab, you must *sign the safety rules*.  Throughout the semester, please be especially aware that you must wear *appropriate footwear* and *clean up* after each exercise.

**Graded Work**

**Online Work** – Reading and Assignments Before Class

         Every week, I will assign you reading and questions in Connect.  These assignments are due each week *before* you come to class.  We will spend time at the beginning of each lecture discussing the reading, so come prepared with your questions.  Connect assignments are worth 20% of your total grade.

**Group Activities** – Guided group or individual work; typically, data interpretation, case study, role-playing, presentations, or other activities; worth 15% of your total grade.  I will drop your lowest group activity grade. You cannot make up missed group activities. I use this general grading rubric for group activities.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Poor | Satisfactory | Excellent |
| Grammar and organization | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Shows critical thinking | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Answers questions correctly | 1 | 2 | 4 |

**Lecture Exams** – During the semester, there will be four exams on material from the textbook and my lectures.  Lecture exams do not explicitly cover group activity material. Lecture exams do not explicitly cover lab material.  Exams will be multiple choice. You will need a scantron. Exams are worth 25% of your total grade. You may not drop any exam grade.

*If you score ≤ 50%, you must meet with me in person before you can take the next exam.*

**Final Project** – A final project in the form of a video is worth 10% of your total grade.  I will work with you along with the Technology Innovation in Learning and Teaching (TILT) office during the last few weeks of class.

**Lab Quizzes**

         After every lab, you will take an open-notes, timed (10 minutes) quiz on Canvas due by the start of the following week’s lab.  These quizzes are worth 15% of your total grade. You may not drop any lab quiz, but extra credit available during the semester will be applied to your lab quiz grade.  You must attend a lab to do the subsequent quiz for that lab, so if you miss a lab, you will earn a zero on that quiz.

**Lab Final Exam**

Your lab final exam is cumulative, so keep your work throughout the semester.  The format is short essay and I will give you a very detailed study guide in advance.  If you are more than 15 minutes late to the lab final exam, you cannot take the exam. The Lab Final Exam is worth 10% of your grade.

**Attendance**

         Since coming to class late is disruptive, I will take attendance at the beginning of each lecture and lab.  If you miss attendance, then you lose points for that day. Attendance is worth 5% of your total grade.

         Additionally, if you are more than 15 minutes late for lab, I reserve the right to deny you entry to the lab.  You also need my permission to leave lab more than one hour early. There will be *no opportunity to make up missed labs.*

*\*\*\** Since ENV counts towards your degree’s Science *with a Lab* requirement, you may miss no more than three labs during the semester, regardless of your grade.  For example, if you are earning a B in the course, but miss four labs, I am required to fail you for the course.  Please do not do this!

**Late work** – You will be excused for *one* late Connect assignment and *one* late lab quiz.  You may take *one* Lecture Exam late, but only with documentation (i.e. doctor’s or employer’s note).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Percent of Grade |
|  |   |
| Online Work | 20% |
| Group Activities | 15% |
| Lecture Exams | 25% |
| Final Project | 10% |
| Lab Quizzes | 15% |
| Lab Final Exam | 10% |
| Attendance | 5% |
|  TOTAL | 100%  |