



Down to Earth: Environmental Science

The University of Toledo

Department of Environmental Sciences, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Course Number: EEES 1130, Section 004, Fall 2015

Instructor:	Dr. Daryl Moorhead	Term:	Fall 2015
Email:	daryl.moorhead@utoledo.edu	Class Location:	Snyder 2100
Office Hours:	T&R 9:00-11:00am & 6:00-7:00pm	Class Day/Time:	T&R 2:00pm-3:15pm
Office Location:	BO 3007-F	Credit Hours:	3 (not for credit in the major)
Office Phone:	419.530.2017		

COURSE/CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Evaluation of environmental controversies using ecology, economics and human values. Issues range from global change, overpopulation, food production, pollution, disease, endangered species, to unique habitats including rainforests and coral reefs. Natural Sciences core course.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Our society's interactions with our environment are increasing in their complexity. The interdependencies among human systems (ethics, risk, economics, policies, etc.) and natural systems (organisms, communities, ecosystems, etc.) are critical to the ecosystem services (food, shelter, water quantity and quality, air quality, waste disposal) provided by the environment for our quality of life both locally and globally. In this course, we will explore the importance of these interactions for our lives through five learning modules, detailed in the schedule below.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is approved for credit for the Natural Science Core Requirement, is on UT's list of Ohio Transfer Module approved courses, and satisfies the State Distributive Requirement for Natural Sciences (note that it does not count as a TAGs – Ohio Transfer Assurance Guides – course). This course primarily fulfills the Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning competency and secondarily the Literacy and the Personal and Social Responsibility competency.

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Describe the nature of the scientific method
- Analyze and evaluate scientific graphs and tables
- Interpret scientific information regarding environmental science
- Demonstrate scientific reasoning skills.

PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

None



REQUIRED TEXTS AND ANCILLARY MATERIALS

You are required to purchase access to the online Mastering Environmental Sciences along with the companion text Withgott & Laposata, Environment – The science behind the stories, 5th Ed. Pearson Publishers. A copy of this textbook will be available in the Carlson Library on Reserve, but even if you use the reserve copy you must purchase access to Mastering Environmental Sciences. Options include Mastering + electronic textbook (ISBN 9780133998948); Mastering + looseleaf textbook (ISBN 9780134096520); and Mastering + electronic & bound books (ISBN 9780134096490). More information will be provided in the first week of class. I RECOMMEND THAT YOU NOT PURCHASE ANYTHING UNTIL YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO LISTEN TO THE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE on the second day of class. There will be no reading assignments in the first week of class.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read [The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability Americans with Disability Act Compliance](#).

Academic Accommodations

The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the [Student Disability Services Office](#).

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty of any kind is prohibited. Students who violate the University's policy should expect disciplinary action. University of Toledo's academic dishonesty policy statement can be viewed at <http://www.utoledo.edu/dl/students/dishonesty.html>

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance: Although attendance is not a requirement, your presence or absence at each class will impact your grade. Success in this course is strongly correlated with attendance. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain any class notes or pertinent information from a fellow student.

Courtesy: Please remember that all others in this classroom have paid for this time. Any distractions (conversations, cell phones, mp3 players, social media, shopping, etc.) deplete the value of the course to others, regardless of the distraction you cause for yourself. If you attend a class session, I ask you to stay for the entire time period. If you must leave early, please be considerate of the others who have paid for this course and find a seat near the exit.

All email correspondence will be sent to your UT account.



GRADING

Exams: Five exams, each worth 100 points, will be administered online on the course website, one at the end of each module. Exams will cover all reading and lecture material in the module; note that exams are NOT the same format as the homework (below). Each exam will be available on the course website for a period of one week and may be completed at any time during that week. Once you begin taking an exam it must be completed within **35 minutes**. Do-overs are not allowed, so make sure you are fully prepared before you begin taking the exams. The exam will follow a multiple-choice format. All exams must be completed on the course website and will be available online for exactly one week, from the date it is posted until midnight on the date it is due. Students can find practice quizzes on the Mastering Environmental Science site. No late exams will be accepted.

Homework: There will be five homework assignments each worth 80 points, one covering the reading for each module, as described in the schedule below and on the course website. Homework assignments all must be completed on the course website and will be available online for a minimum of one week, from the date it is posted until midnight on the date it is due. No late homework will be accepted.

Make-up Exams and Homework: You will have one week to complete all exams and homework assignments, so make-ups should not be necessary. However, life does happen, but only extreme cases with valid excuses will be accepted (e.g. severe injury, life-threatening illness, or death to an immediate family member). **The more quickly you communicate an issue, the more simply the solution will arrive.** The university's missed class policy is: http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/missed_class_policy.html.

In-Class Writing Activities: To practice critical thinking about topics, in-class writing activities will be written and discussed during each lecture session. There will be 20 activities, and will count for 5 points (1-3-5 scale based on effort). *Because there are 28 lectures, make ups will not be accepted, regardless of reason.* Turn in only your assignment, do NOT submit someone else's assignment for them.

Extra Credit:

In-Class Writing Activities Once 20 in-class writing activities are reached in the grade book, additional writing activities will continue to be worth 5 extra credit points, for a maximum of 40 **extra credit** points (8 lectures x 5 points).

Survey on Environmental Perspectives To help assess student environmental perspectives, two online surveys will be provided through the course, one at the beginning and one at the end. Each are worth 5 points, however, you must take the first to be allowed to earn points on the second. (2 x 5 for 10 maximum points – *essentially 2 in-class writing activities*)

Service Learning activities will be provided throughout the semester both on campus and at area nature preserves. Due to the nature of the work, and as an incentive for you to participate, 10 points will be awarded per hour worked at the various projects. These activities will be capped at 10 hours (100 points), but you are free to participate on your own accord beyond this time limit.

Any of these above points are a bonus (essentially two test grades available) and not required, so NO MAKE UP EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN.

Grading Scale: Your overall grade will be calculated on a straight scale (A, 100 – 93%; A-, 92 – 90%; B+, 89 – 87%; B, 86 – 83%; B-, 82 – 80%; etc.) based on your earned points total *divided* by 1000 total points.

Grading Summary:

	Frequency	Points	Percent of Final Grade
Exams (online)	One at the end of every module, 5 total	500 (100 per exam)	50%
Homework Assignments	One during every module, 5 total	400 (80 per assignment)	40%
In Class Activities	Once per lecture, 20 total	100 (5 points per lecture)	10%
Additional In Class Activities	Remaining lectures, after first 20 are complete	Up to 40 (5 points per lecture)	Extra Credit
Survey on Environmental Perspectives	Once at the beginning and Once at the end	Up to 10 (5 points per survey, must take 1 st to get credit for the 2 nd)	Extra Credit
Service Learning	To be arranged	Up to 100 (10 points per hour worked up to 10 hours)	Extra Credit