EVR1001 Syllabus

Semester Information

CRN: 10327

Course number: EVR 1001, Online Course

Title: Introduction to Environmental Science

Credits: 3.0

Prerequisites

No prerequisites are required.

Instructor name and credentials:

Alexander Challen Hyman, Ph.D.

Post-doctoral research fellow

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

College of Marine Science

Contact information

Instructor phone:

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Approved Course Materials

Textbook information

Essential Environment by Withgott and Laposata, 6th edition, 2020, ISBN 978-0-13-471488-2. Publisher: Pearson. There is also an electronic textbook (eText) that is available in the GCSC bookstore and is cheaper than the regular print textbook.

Required materials

Computer: A computer with a reliable internet connection is necessary for this e-learning course.

Webcam: A webcam is needed for Respondus Monitor to ensure sterile test conditions.

Student Expectations of the Instructor

Email Response time of instructor

Within 48 hours on weekdays. Contact through Canvas ensures fast response time.

Instructor available for consultation virtually, by appointment only.

Instructor Narrative

Alexander “Challen” Hyman is a marine biologist specializing in quantitative ecology and population dynamics. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida in 2015, his Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary ecology in 2017, and his doctorate in Fisheries in 2023. He is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg College of Marine Science. His current research includes quantitative modeling of Gulf of Mexico reef fish population dynamics and recreational angler effort.

Peer-reviewed publications include:

Hyman, A.C., Chiu, G. S., Fabrizio, M. C., and Lipcius, R. N. (2022) Spatiotemporal Modeling of Nursery Habitat Using Bayesian Inference: Environmental Drivers of Juvenile Blue Crab Abundance. Front. Mar. Sci. 9:834990. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.834990

Barry, S. C., **Hyman, A. C.,** Jacoby, C. A., Reynolds, L. K., Kowalewski, M., & Frazer, T. K. (2021). Variation in seagrass-associated macroinvertebrate communities along the Gulf coast of peninsular Florida: an exploration of patterns and ecological consequences. Frontiers in Marine Science, 8, 184. doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.596966

Hyman, A. C., Lipcius, R. N., Gray, R., & Stephens, D. B. (2021). Influence of salinity on SAV distribution in a series of intermittently connected coastal lakes. Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, 260, 107503. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2021.107503

Hyman, A. C. & Stephens, D. B. (2020). Effects of seawater exchange on water chemistry among coastal lakes with intermittent connections to the sea. Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science, 106934. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2020.106934

Hyman A. Challen, Frazer Thomas K., Jacoby Charles A., Frost Jessica R. and Kowalewski Michał. (2019). Long-term persistence of structured habitats: seagrass meadows as enduring hotspots of biodiversity and faunal stability. 286. Proc. R. Soc. B doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2019.1861

Expectations of Student

Academic honesty

Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college’s mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment and therefore will not be tolerated. “Cheating” includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. “Plagiarism” includes, but it not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or zero) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the program or the college.

Accessibility statement

Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodation, you must register with

Student Accessibility Resources (SAR). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording of Lectures

In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines in the current Student Handbook on the Gulf Coast State College website.

All lectures are pre-recorded and posted on Canvas to be viewed at the student's convenience. PowerPoint Presentations and PDF resources are also available on Canvas.

Attendance and Withdrawal Policy

Attendance Policy: You must login and participate in an academic activity by the end of the first week of class to remain in the course. Students who fail to submit academic work in the first week will be reported as a "no show." Your attendance to orientation, testing dates, and completion of weekly assignments posted on Canvas count as attendance. Please contact your instructor when you miss a test or a weekly assignment.

Withdrawal Policy-Grade Forgiveness-Attempts: Students wishing to withdraw from a course must complete a withdrawal form and submit the form to the Office of Enrollment Services before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of "W".

Consequences of Withdrawals: Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grade Policy

To receive a grade of "I" (for "Incomplete") in a class, the student must submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last day of the course. The "Incomplete" option is only intended to help students who have an emergency arise in the last two weeks of the class that prevents them from finishing all work. The "Incomplete" provides 30 days from the ending date of the course to make up any missing work. If work is not submitted during this time period, the grade will automatically change to an "F".

Laptop/Personal Technology policy

Personal laptops are encouraged, as this is an online class.

Curriculum

Course Description

Introduction to the study of major environmental problems and issues confronting modern society. Topics include ecosystem structure and function; population patterns, and dynamics; pollution of the air, water and land; and resource management. This course satisfies general education requirements for the physical sciences.

Pedagogical Practices

Course material is divided into 4 modules covering the following Textbook chapters:

Module	Covers
Module 1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4
Module 2	Chapters 6, 7, and 8
Module 3	Chapters 9, 11, and 12
Module 4	Chapters 13, 14 and 15
Module 4	Chapters 10, 16, and 17

Each Chapter consists of 3-5 recorded lectures and associated PowerPoint presentations. Students are expected to watch these lectures prior to assessments and exams. The instructor can be reached for any questions related to course materials or assessment questions.

Course goals

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of how the earth functions and how humans have altered processes on earth to sustain their current lifestyle. Students are expected to think critically about their impact on the earth. Scientific literacy is also a major goal of this course.

Approved student learning objectives

Students will be able to explain how living things interact with each other and their environment and they will describe how humans have altered the Earth.

Measure of student performance

Method of assessment

All student work will be submitted digitally through our Canvas learning site.

Weekly Assignments: Weekly assignments are at their specified calendar dates. To access the weekly assignments, please click on the following links on Canvas: MODULES. Each assignment will require 3-4 hours of your time. Please note that not all weeks may have scheduled assignments. ***It is your responsibility to check the Canvas calendar to determine which weeks assignments will be due.***

Quizzes: Chapter quizzes covering course material are due prior to each of the four comprehensive tests. To access chapter quizzes, please click on the following links on Canvas: MODULES. **All quizzes are meant to be study materials and are open book.**

Testing: You will have four tests and a final exam. All tests and the final exam require a personal computer with Respondus-Lockdown Browser and a webcam for Respondus Monitor. Students are expected to install this program prior to the first exam. Use this link and follow

directions to install Respondus. **Exams are meant to be assessments of student learning, and as a result are closed book. Use of any virtual or physical materials on Exams will be considered cheating.** https://www.gulfcoast.edu/administration-departments/information-technology-services/students/how-to/respondus.html

Note: the final exam will replace the lowest test grade.

Grading scale

TESTS	**40%**
QUIZZES	**20%**
WEEKLY ASSN.	**20%**
FINAL EXAM	**20%**

1. **Letter Grades:** The college catalog will be used to convert the numerical average to a letter grade. The college grading scale is A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), and F (59-0).

2. **Grades posted on Canvas:** All of your grades will be posted on Canvas. Your grades for weekly assignments, quizzes, tests, scientific essay, the final exam, and your overall average will be posted on Canvas.

3. **Make Up Work:** The benefits on online courses include flexibility of accommodations and schedule. Students should contact the instructor to reach agreements on grades for late assignments.