EVR1001 Syllabus Honors Fall 2025 – CRN 85493

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.

Course Materials

Textbook: *Essential Environment* by Withgott and Laposata, 6th Edition. ISBN 978-0-13-471488-2.

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

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

Course Objectives

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.

Student Learning Objectives

After completing the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the structure of an ecosystem and explain how matter and energy move through a food chain.
2. Explain why the human population is experiencing exponential growth and explain how this growth affects the environment.
3. Distinguish between industrial, traditional, slash and burn and organic farming practices and explain how each technique impacts the environment.
4. Explain how renewable and non-renewable energy sources are used to provide the energy humans need to maintain their lifestyle and list the pros and cons of each energy source.
5. Describe the different ways to handle solid waste and hazardous waste and explain how each technique impacts the environment.

Attendance & Withdrawal Policy

1.   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.

Instructor:

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Course Information:

Title: Introduction to Environmental Science

Number: EVR 1001

Credits: 3.0

2.   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".

3.   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.).

4.   Incomplete Grade Policy: To receive a grade of "I" (for "Incomplete") in a class, the student must submit a <u>written</u> 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".

Exams

Please see 'Course Summary' below for exam dates

Exam Schedule	Covers
Exam 1	**Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4**
Exam 2	**Chapters 6, 7, and 8**
Exam 3	**Chapters 9, 11, and 12**
Exam 4	**Chapters 13, 14 and 15**
Final Exam	**Material from all previous tests, plus chapters 10, 16, and 17**

Graded Work

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

1.   Weekly Assignments: <u>Weekly assignments are at their specified calendar dates.</u> 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.***

2.   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.**

3.   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.

4. Term paper and presentation: Honors students will complete a 10-page literature review on an environmental science topic of their choice, paired with a 20-minute final presentation. Each student must develop a focused, instructor-approved scientific question that can be addressed through a comprehensive review of existing research. To support progress and maintain appropriate scope, students will meet with the instructor monthly. Both the final paper and the presentation are due at the end of the term.

Your Grade

TESTS	**40%**
QUIZZES	**10%**
WEEKLY ASSN.	**10%**
TERM PAPER	**15%**
FINAL PRES	**5%**
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. **Extra Credit:** *No extra credit is offered for this course.*

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.

Communication

Direct emails via ahyman@gulfcoast.edu will typically be answered within 1-3 days. Canvas messages are preferred, and messages sent to the instructor will generally be answered sooner than email.

All information regarding this course will be posted on Canvas. The instructor will communicate with you via *e-mail on Canvas*, announcements on your Canvas home page, and alerts when you click on the course Canvas site. Please check the Canvas calendar to determine when assignments are due.

Academic Integrity Policy

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.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI): See the Student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, class work, and throughout all stages of the work process, such as brainstorming, outlining, or drafting. This includes, but is not limited to, tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, and Grammarly's AI function. Use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

In addition, academic misconduct may include the following:

- Destroying, damaging, or stealing another person's work or work materials including, but not limited to, lab experiments, computer programs/files, term papers, projects, or copy of an examination.
- Theft, damage, or misuse of library resources; removing uncharged material from the library; defacing or damaging library materials; intentionally displacing or hoarding library materials within the library for one's unauthorized private use, or any other abuse of reserved materials.
- Theft, damage, or misuse of computer resources including, but not limited to, computer accounts codes, passwords, or facilities; damaging computer equipment or interfering with the operation of any computer system in the college.

Student Accessibility Resources

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.

Other GCSC Policies: HB 233

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.