Course Syllabus

Name of Course

EVR 1001 / CRN 85538 / Fall 2026

Credit Hours 3/Contact Hours 3

Pre-requisites/Co-requisites - None

Contact Information

Instructor

Name: A. Challen Hyman, PhD.
Title: Adjunct Professor Environmental Science
E-Mail: ahyman@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850-890-8935

Office Location: NA
Office Hours: By appointment
Response Time: 48 hours, bar holidays

Division Chair

Name: Dr. Dana Hutchinson, PT, DPT
Title: Division Chair
E-Mail: dhutchin1@gulfcoast.edu
Phone: 850-872-3848

Division Administrative Assistant

Name: Kathy Bleday
Title: Administrative Assistant
E-Mail: kbleday@gulfcoast.edu
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Course Information

Catalog 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcomes: *Upon successful completion of the course student will be able to…*

1. 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. Describe the different ways to handle solid waste and hazardous waste and explain how each technique impacts the environment.

Course Materials & Resources:

Text: Essential Environment by Withgott and Laposata, 6th edition. ISBN 978-0-13-471488-2.
[e-Text or earlier edition from online are acceptable]
Computer: You will need access to a computer to regularly follow along with the online portion of this course on Canvas.
Recommended: A dedicated notebook for lecture notes and other materials and some sort of calendar/planner to track course and assignments.

Delivery Method:

This is a web-based course. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours. **Remember:** This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week, there are learning modules, assignments, online lectures, online discussions, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Student Expectations

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours. Review the statements below so that you understand the expectations for communication.
As a student at Gulf Coast State College, you are expected to:

- **Adhere to Course Guidelines:** Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus, along with any additional instructions provided by the instructor. This includes understanding and complying with the course objectives, grading criteria, and academic policies.
- **Maintain Regular Contact:** Keep in touch with your instructor and classmates via your GCSC E-Mail or directly through the course. Regular contact helps clarify doubts, share ideas, and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- **Active Participation:** Engage actively in class discussions and submit assignments on time. Your active participation is crucial for your academic success and contributes to a vibrant learning community.

As your instructor, my commitment to you is to:

- **Provide Timely Feedback:** I will review and provide feedback on your assignments and submissions promptly. My goal is to help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement, which is crucial for your academic growth.
- **Respond Via Canvas Inbox:** I will respond to your emails or messages within 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays), unless otherwise noted. I understand the importance of clear and timely communication in addressing your questions and concerns.

Course Schedule

Date	Module	Assignments Due
	Orientation	
Aug 18		Orientation Quiz
Aug 19		Introductions
	Module 1	
Aug 24		Quiz Chapter 1
Aug 26		Eco Footprint Assignment
Aug 26		Quiz Chapter 2
Aug 28		Respondus “Test” Quiz
Sep 1		Quiz Chapter 3
Sep 3		Quiz Chapter 4
Sep 11		**Model 1 Exam**
	Module 2	
Sep 14		Quiz Chapter 6
Sep 16		Population Assignment
Sep 18		Quiz Chapter 7
Sep 21		Quiz Chapter 8
Oct 2		**Module 2 Exam**
	Module 3	
Oct 5		Quiz Chapter 9
Oct 6		Water Calculator Assignment
Oct 8		Quiz Chapter 11
Oct 9		Groundwater Depletion Assignment
Oct 12		Quiz Chapter 12
Oct 23		**Module 3 Exam**
	Module 4	
Oct 27		Quiz Chapter 13
Oct 29		To Buy or Not to Buy Assignment
Nov 3		Quiz Chapter 14
Nov 6		Quiz Chapter 15
Nov 9		Hydraulic Fracking Assignment
Nov 20		**Module 4 Exam**
	Module 5	
Nov 23		Quiz Chapter 10
Nov 26		Quiz Chapter 16
Dec 2		Quiz Chapter 17
Dec 4		Lifestyle Change Activity
Dec 11		Final Exam

* Chapter reading homework assignments are due before we meet for class.

Grading

GCSC Grading Scale

A 90-100% B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 0-59%

Calculation of Grades

Activity	Number of	Points	Percent of Final Grade
Assignments	16	10	20%
Quizzes	5	20	20%
Exams	4	100	40%
Comprehensive Final Exam	1	100	20%

* This point breakdown is tentative. Additional course work/homework may be assigned.

Incomplete Grades

This is a completely online class. As such, students are encouraged to submit assignments on their associated due dates. However, given that online formats are designed for students requiring flexible accommodations, students may submit assignments and quizzes up to one week before the course end date for full credit. After this date, missing grades beyond the posted due date will be assigned a value of 0. Regular module exams due dates will consistently fall on Fridays. These exams will open the Monday before the due date, providing students with 5 days to complete their exams. In addition, a 2-day weekend grace period is available upon request. Missing exam grades after this grace period will not be reopened. The lowest unit exam grade will be replaced by the final exam if the final is higher, allowing students to miss one regular unit exam without penalty to accommodate emergencies and other exogenous events.

Course Policies

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 accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. Please visit GCSC's Student Accessibility Resource (SAR) webpage to learn more. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Attendance Policy

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you do not participate in class work during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for

the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Withdrawal Policy

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.). There are two kinds of withdrawals---student and administrative.

- *Student Withdrawal (W1)* - Students wishing to withdraw must complete the online Student Withdrawal Form before the scheduled withdrawal deadline as published in the College catalog. Student withdrawals initiated prior to the scheduled withdrawal deadline will be recorded as a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.
- *Administrative Withdrawal (W2)* – A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the published withdrawal deadline for violation of the class attendance policy in which case the student will receive a grade of “W.” The withdrawal deadline for an off-term or condensed term is one week after midterm.

Students cannot withdraw from developmental studies courses (college-preparatory classes) after the drop/add period without written permission from their instructor and/or their academic advisor.

Academic Integrity

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. GCSC professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student’s records.
Most course syllabi include an academic honesty policy and the consequences for violating this policy. Familiarize yourself with course policies regarding authorized or unauthorized use of AI to avoid the pitfalls of academic dishonesty.

The following definitions will apply:

"Cheating"

includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials belonging to a member of the College's faculty.

"Plagiarism"

includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. It can also include overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by

an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructor's guidelines of AI material.

"Self-plagiarism"
occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)"
is technology that uses machine learning to create new content, such as text, images or code, based on user input. These systems are trained on vast amounts of data, including large language models and image or code generators. Common examples include ChatGPT, GitHub, Copilot, Google Gemini, Perplexity, and the Grammarly AI function.

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 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Classroom Recording

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 GCSC Student Handbook.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The use of generative AI tools in academic work requires clear guidelines to maintain academic integrity. Please review the policy selected for this course regarding the use of AI tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI features, and similar platforms for assignments, research, and other coursework.

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions about acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Prohibited Use of AI

The use of AI-generated content is strictly prohibited in all assignments, coursework, 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.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Amanda Reed, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-769-1551, ext. 3516. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Syllabus Policy

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

Student Support Resources

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the academic and student support resources provided at GCSC on the Student Services web page.

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** Up-to-date web browser that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the system requirements for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed**: Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software:** Available for free download through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the ITS Help Desk, available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.