

Environmental Science (BIOL 3350)

Syllabus - Fall 2013

Dr. Gretchen Bielmyer

Office: BSC1097

Phone: (229) 333-5766

Email: gkbielmyer@valdosta.edu

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 10:45-11:45 am, 3:15-4:00 pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview of relevant environmental issues. Topics discussed will include environmental pollution, energy uses, global climate change, threatened and endangered species, introduced and invasive species, and sustainability.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

This course will study human impacts on the environment and will help the students express themselves clearly, logically and precisely in writing and in speaking (Gen Ed Outcome 1). The proposed course will also help students demonstrate knowledge of scientific and mathematical principles (Gen Ed Outcome 2), and interpret ecological data pertaining to the behavior of the individual organism in its natural environment; to the structure and function of populations, communities, and ecosystems; and to human impacts on these systems and the environment (BIO Learning Outcome 5).

TEXT: Environmental Science by Richard T. Wright

GRADE DETERMINATION:

Grades will be assessed by three exams, a presentation, a project, participation, and class assignments. All exams will be scheduled in advanced. They should be planned for and taken on the day they are scheduled. Students are required to learn the lecture material, the readings from the text, and all supplemental information for all exams. Exam format will be specified by your instructor. **There are NO MAKEUP EXAMS**, with the exception of those students with a University related excuse or an emergency. Otherwise, a missed exam will be equal to zero points.

Procedure for exams:

- No books, electronic devices, or notebooks will be allowed during exams. Students using such items will be asked to leave and will receive a zero for the exam.
- No talking will be allowed during the exam, but students are permitted to ask the instructor questions.
- Students must bring a pencil and will take the exam during the stated lecture time only.
- **NOTE:** You will have the class time only to complete each lecture exam.

GRADING SCALE:

3 Exams	300	A 100-90%	450-500 points
Class participation & Assignments	100	B 80-89%	400-449 points
Presentation	50	C 70-79%	350-399 points
<u>Final project</u>	<u>50</u>	D 60-69%	300-349 points
Total	500	F ≤ 59%	≤ 299 points

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Copying or allowing someone to copy exams, quizzes, in class assignments, papers or presentations is cheating. Using another's words or ideas without proper quotation or attribution is plagiarism. Such misconduct is punishable at least by failure of the assignment in question and in severe cases failure of the course may be in order. See the VSU catalog under the same heading.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance in this course is highly recommended, unless you have a medical emergency. Students should be seated at the beginning of class. If you are late, your attendance may not be acknowledged. The student is responsible for all material missed regardless of the reason for absences. It is the instructor's prerogative to accept the excuse or not.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION: Students should have in their possession at all times their VSU student identification card. In order to verify the identification of students officially enrolled in the course, it is the instructor's prerogative to request official student photo identification cards at any time during lecture. During examinations, students will routinely be asked to display their VSU student identification cards visibly on the desk top and to make them available for inspection by their instructor and/or assistants.

PRIVACY ACT (FERPA): The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the public posting of grades by social security number or in any manner personally identifiable to the individual student. No grades can be given by email or over the telephone, as positive identification cannot be made by this manner.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: No disruptive behavior of any kind will be tolerated in this course. Students should restrict talking and discussion to pertinent questions related to course material and these questions should be directed toward the instructor. Entering a classroom late or early is discouraged. Any student disrupting lectures will be required to leave the classroom. Use of cellular telephones, pagers, or any similar remote communication device is prohibited during scheduled lectures, laboratories, or examinations. If students bring cellular telephones or similar devices to lecture, it is their responsibility to switch them off prior to the beginning of the lecture period.

BIOLOGY TUTORING: The Student Success Center (SSC) at Valdosta State University is located in Langdale Residence Hall above the Tech Shop and is available to all students. The SSC provides free peer tutoring in core curriculum courses, including biology, chemistry, math, writing, and foreign languages. The SSC also provides free professional academic advising and on-campus job information in one location. Call 333-7570 to make an appointment, or visit the website: www.valdosta.edu/ssc.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone number is (229) 245-2498.

TENTATIVE LECTURE OUTLINE:

Date:	Topics:	Chapters :
August 13 (T)	Introduction	1
August 15 (TH)	Ecosystems	2-4
August 20 (T)	Ecosystems	2-4
August 22 (TH)	Water	7
August 27 (T)	Water video	7
August 29 (TH)	The Production and Distribution of Food	9
Sept. 03 (T)	Food video	9
Sept. 05 (TH)	Wild Species and Biodiversity	10
Sept. 10 (T)	Wild Species and Biodiversity	10
Sept. 12 (TH)	EXAM # 1	1-4; 7,9,10
Sept. 17 (T)	Coral Reefs	
Sept. 19 (TH)	Ecosystem Capital: Use and Restoration	11
Sept. 24 (T)	Energy	12-14
Sept. 26 (TH)	Energy	12-14
Oct. 01 (T)	Presentations- Wood, Coal, Petroleum,	
Oct. 03 (TH)	Presentations- Natural Gas, Nuclear, Solar	
Oct. 08 (T)	Presentations- Biomass, Wind, Hydropower	
Oct. 10 (TH)	Pests & Pest Control	16
Oct. 15 (T)	EXAM # 2	11-14; & Supplemental info
Oct. 17 (TH)	Water Pollution	17
Oct. 22 (T)	Water Pollution	17
Oct. 24 (TH)	Municipal Solid Waste	18
Oct. 29 (T)	Hazardous Chemicals: Pollution & prevention	19
Oct. 31 (TH)	Modeling Pollution	
Nov. 05 (T)	Atmosphere & Change	20
Nov. 07 (TH)	Air pollution	21
Nov. 12 (T)	Sustainable Communities and Lifestyles	23
Nov. 14 (TH)	Special Topics	
Nov. 19 (T)	NO CLASS; Fundraising extra credit assignment	
Nov. 21 (TH)	EXAM # 3	17-23 & Supplemental info
Nov. 26 (T)	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; NO CLASSES	
Nov. 28 (TH)	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY; NO CLASSES	
Dec. 05 (TH)	Final Projects Due (10:15-12:15 pm)	