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Environmental Biology Course Syllabus

Fall 2024

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCES
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Steph Gorski
OFFICE: BSB 161
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PHONE: (903) 923-2485 (call or text)
OFFICE HOURS: MTH 3:00-4:30, F 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Name: Environmental Biology, BIOL 3491 and BIOL 3491 L, Section 01
Location: Lecture: BSB 204; Lab: BSB 203
Date: Lecture: T H 9:30; Lab: T 3:00

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S): BIOL 1411 and BIOL 1422

TEXTBOOK/COURSE MATERIALS: Empowering Stewards of Nature, Bill Graham (Provided.)

METHODS OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY: This is an in-person course; thus, students are expected to be present.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Study of current problems and social trends as related to the environment. Emphases on pollution, occupational and recreational conditions, health, and public health organizations and their functions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. **Human Dimension**:
   - Analyze the complex relationship between humans and their environment, examining the ways in which human activities impact and shape ecosystems in all sections.
2. **Integration**:
   - Evaluate the role of technology in mediating human interactions with the environment, exploring dependencies, benefits, and consequences across various environmental contexts.
3. **Integration**:
   - Explain the mechanisms driving the proliferation of invasive species, the factors contributing to endangerment, and the ecological dynamics influencing organism success.
4. **Integration**:
   - Synthesize empirical evidence supporting anthropogenic climate change, utilizing scientific research and data analysis to understand its causes and implications.
5. **Integration**:

- Analyze the environmental impacts of food production systems and dietary choices, exploring their connections to sustainability, ethical considerations, and technological advancements.

6. **Human Dimension**:
   - Examine the intersection between human health, socioeconomic factors, and environmental issues, investigating topics such as overpopulation, toxicology, and environmental health to understand their interconnectedness.
7. **Caring**:
   - Develop decision-making skills informed by sustainability principles, understanding responsible choices regarding resource management and environmental issues across all sections.
8. **Integration**:
   - Research and evaluate potential solutions to environmental challenges, integrating scientific knowledge, ethical considerations, and interdisciplinary perspectives to propose effective strategies.
9. **Application**:
   - Design and implement a comprehensive action plan to address a local environmental problem, applying acquired knowledge and skills to enact meaningful change and contribute to environmental stewardship.

GRADING POLICY

Students will be graded on the following scale and criteria:

GRADING SCALE	
100%-90%	A
89%-80%	B
70%-70%	C
69%-60%	D
59% and below	F

GRADING CRITERIA	
Quizzes (Weekly)	25%
Midterm and Final Exam	25%
Case Studies	25%
Group Project (CPI)	25%

QUIZZES: Holidays or other events may change our schedule; however, in general, we will have one quiz per week. Quizzes can be on any material introduced in class or in the video lectures.

CASE STUDIES: During this semester, readings of case studies will be assigned. Students will be expected to prepare for, and occasionally lead, discussions on these topics.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class only. Students who are not present at the beginning of class will be marked absent.
The maximum number of allowable laboratory absences is two. Greater than two laboratory absences will result in a grade of F for the class and lab.

GROUP PROJECT (CPI): Throughout the course of this semester, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with your classmates on creating a real-world solution to an environmental problem of your choice. You will be given instructions during the semester.

EXTRA CREDIT: You are being graded on your knowledge of biology, not on other things. Thus, the *only* extra credit I offer is an occasional point for winning our in-class trivia competitions.

COURSE POLICIES

CLASSROOM POLICY. Students are required to watch video lectures prior to class. Students should refrain from having private conversations during class. In addition, students should not interrupt others when they are speaking. Lastly, kindly do not leave trash or other discarded materials behind in the classroom.

COMMUNICATION STANDARD. The Professor will respond to communications received during the University's operational hours within 24 hours of receipt. To ensure that communications are received, students should use their Wiley University email ONLY in accordance with the University's policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY.
Click the link below to view the attendance policy.
https://wiley.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/downloads/attendance-policy1-1.pdf

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION. All major assignments for this course will be submitted electronically using Canvas. These submissions should be in .doc or .docx format only. Students should include their name, date, and assignment title on all submissions. Please use a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman or Calibri. Use one-inch margins and standard MLA or APA headers, (citation style according to the discipline), and double-space all documents.

Certain daily assignments, such as reading quizzes, will be composed in-class. Therefore, please be sure you are prepared with ample pens, pencils, and notebook paper, and make sure you include your name and date on all submissions and write legibly.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS. Laboratory classes are experiential; thus, there are no makeup laboratories.

The University has clearly articulated its policy governing making up missed assignments and students are encouraged to carefully review its policy. This policy can be found within the Attendance Policy in the Student Handbook and online.

Absence from class, excused or unexcused, does not relieve any student of the responsibility for completing assignments and being familiar with the material covered in class. The student is responsible for arranging make-up work with the instructor of record prior to the absence or departure from campus.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION PLAN. Several interventions are in place to increase positive academic outcomes and supplement the QEP, Wiley Cares: A Roadmap to Student Success. Students who have difficulty with this course have the below opportunities:

- **MEETING.** Students should schedule a meeting with the professor for one-on-one support. Students must bring questions related to the assignment(s) to the meeting.
- **WORK REVISION.** Many assignments can be re-submitted according to instructions in the course.
- **TUTORING.** The tutorial center is available to all students, as is Tutor.com. Students are encouraged to use these services preemptively rather than waiting until there is a problem.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student,

or the attempt to commit such acts. Along with the use of uncredited ideas and content created by persons, the use of uncredited AI-generated content is considered plagiarism.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY.
Click the link below for the student withdrawal policy.
https://wiley.nyc3.digitaloceanspaces.com/downloads/final-student-withdrawal-policy-5.15.2019.pdf

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL. Faculty may submit an administrative withdrawal form to the school's dean for conveyance to the Registrar, to drop a student from his/her course if the student has been identified as a "Non-Performing Student (NPS)" with excessive absences and running grade below C, in spite of documented interventions.

DRESS CODE POLICY. The University has clearly articulated its policy governing dress code, students are encouraged to carefully review its policy. Classroom instructors have the right to address policy violators and/or deny admission to students dressed in any of the prohibited attire. Clothing and personal appearance should be neat, becoming, and appropriate. The following is required of all students at Wiley University:

- Appropriate distinction shall be made between proper attire for class, work, convocation, business and formal affairs, relaxation, and play. Learning to use socially acceptable manners and selecting attire appropriate to specific occasions and activities are critical factors in the total educational process.
- Inappropriate attire will be considered: sheer or provocative garments without proper undergarments to obscure their transparency; form-fitting clothing without proper support undergarments; micro-mini dresses/skirts/shorts that do not continuously cover the middle of the thighs while standing/sitting; halter tops; midriff blouses; t-shirts bearing profane language/indecent messages, and cutout or torn jeans, any outfits that reveal undergarments and/or private parts.
- Neither males nor females shall show any visual display of underwear.
- Neither males nor females shall wear baseball caps, stocking caps, skullcaps, sun-visors, do-rags and bandannas in public buildings except in the privacy of the student's living quarters or for religious or cultural dress.
- Males shall not wear undershirts of any color worn outside of the private living quarters of the residence halls.
- Appropriate attention must be given to personal cleanliness and good grooming including hair; to present a clean, neat, and orderly appearance representative of the Wiley University community and the University's values and mission.
- Dress must be in good taste and appropriate for the occasion or setting. During special occasions (convocations, career/graduate and professional school fairs, employment opportunities, coronation, banquets, etc.) business or formal wear (shirt and tie, business suit, blazer and dress skirt/slacks, or dress/tuxedo, dresses with sleeves may be worn [sleeveless, strapless, halter and one shoulder dresses are inappropriate for the above]) should be worn.
- Pajamas, hair rollers, and/or bedroom slippers shall be worn only in the residence halls and not be worn in public or in common areas of the University.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY. Wiley University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students or employees, based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, age, disability and sexual orientation. Moreover, the University is open to people of all races and actively seeks to provide racial integration by recruiting and enrolling students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. For more information about this policy or to lodge

complaints or grievances under this policy, contact the Human Resources Office in the Nelson House or call 903-927-3345.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in this course fully, contact the Office of Student Disability. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services. All accommodations must be presented to the instructor of record before midterms. The name, telephone number, and email for the accessibility coordinator: Ms. Yumeaka Pickings, telephone: 903-927-3375, email: ypickings@wileyc.edu. The Accessibility Coordinator Office is located in the Hodge building, room 105.

ACADEMIC PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT CONCERNS.
Students may express concerns regarding a grade in a professional manner. All concerns must be addressed with the instructor of record. If this concern is not addressed, it may be discussed with the chairperson (or Dean, if the instructor is the Chairperson). If the concern is still not addressed, an appointment can be made with the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Asst. Dean, School of Education and Sciences – Mrs. Morgan King, mking@wileyc.edu, (903) 927-3348
Dean, School of Business and Social Sciences – Dr. Samuel Tabi, stabi@wileyc.edu, (903) 927-3363
Dean, Graduate and Leadership Studies – Dr. Parris Carter, pcarter@wileyc.edu
Associate Provost – Dr. JoAnn Scales, jscales@wileyc.edu, 903-923-1690
Vice President for Academic Affairs – Dr. Kimberly McCleod

ACADEMIC CALENDAR.
Click the link below for the academic calendar.
https://wileyc.edu/academics/academic-calendar

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE
NOTE: We must complete all these topics for the final exam. Thus, if we get behind, we will have to double up quizzes for the week.

WEEK	TOPICS AND READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS	CONTACT HOURS
1	**Introduction Connections, Cycles, Flow, and Feedback Loops**	**Quiz 0 and 1 Case Study: Ecological Literacy**	**4**
2	**Ecosystems, Communities, and Species diversity**	**Quiz 2 Case Study: Coyote Ecology**	**4**
3	**Ecosystem Management**	**Quiz 3 Case Study: Restoring Nature's Wildlife Corridors**	**4**
4	**Endangered Species**	**Quiz 4 Case Study: The Monarch Butterfly**	**4**

5	Invasive Species	Quiz 5 Case Study: Stewardship Strategies	4
6	Climate change	Quiz 6 Case Study: Isle Royale	4
7	Midterm	Midterm	4
8	Solid Waste	Quiz 7 Case Study: Salmon and Forests	4
9	Overpopulation	Quiz 8 Case Study: A Letter to my Students	4
10	Environmental Health	Quiz 9 Case Study: The Conservation of Quiet	4
11	Toxicology	Quiz 10 Case Study: The Salmon Wars	4
12	Food and Food Production	Quiz 11 Case Study: Killing Prairie Dogs	4
13	Food Philosophies	Quiz 12 Case Study: Letting Nature Take Her Course	4
14	Technology and Food Production	Quiz 13 Case Study: Wolves and Other Great Predators	4
15	Review	Review	4
16	Final Exam	Final Exam	4