

Fall 2015

EES 1002

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University of New Orleans

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EES 1002: Introduction to Environmental Science Syllabus – Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Melanie Thompson Stiegler **Email:** mstiegle@uno.edu
Office: Geology & Psychology Rm 1042
Office hours: M 12:30-2:00 & Th 1:00-2:30
Lecture: TTh 3:30-4:45
Prerequisite: eligibility to enroll in ENGL 1157

Course materials: *Environmental Science: A Global Concern, 13th ed* by Cunningham and Cunningham. The book is available in the bookstore or as an ebook. The ebook can be either downloaded to your computer as a pdf or accessed online from anywhere. For online access, there is an ebook subscription fee that is nonrefundable. There is an option for 180-day registration, after which you will not be able to access the ebook. Additional readings will be available through Moodle. A scantron and #2 pencil are required for exams and quizzes.

Course overview: The goal of this course is to help you develop the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze and evaluate the complex information and science involved in understanding environmental issues. This course covers human impacts on biological communities, soil, water, and air quality and discusses sustainable strategies to mitigate these impacts. We also will explore the basic principles that govern environmental policy in Louisiana, the United States, and worldwide.

Student responsibilities: Respect your instructor and your classmates and we will return the favor. Respect includes creating an environment conducive to learning, which means being on time, turning off cell phones, listening, and contributing. A record of class attendance is required by the UNO registrar, there will be a daily sign in sheet. It is to your advantage to come to class and to keep up with the material. I do not lecture straight from the text and many points will not be in the book. There will be three quizzes that will be announced in the prior class session. You must be in class to earn those quiz points. Please be on time for exams as no one will be allowed entrance after the first person finishes.

Grading:	Exam 1	100 pts
	Exam 2	100 pts
	Exam 3	100 pts
	Quizzes (3)	10 pts (5 pts each, one will be dropped)
	Homework	30 pts
	<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 pts</u>
	Total	440 pts

Grading Scale: A = 90-100%
 B = 80-89%
 C = 68-79%
 D = 55-67%
 F = Below 55%

Make-up policy: If you must miss an exam, contact me *at least 48 hours prior* to the exam. If there is a medical excuse, you must present a note signed by a doctor. If no such notice is given, I will expect formal evidence of a sudden emergency that excuses your unannounced absence. *Make-ups will be written exams.* There are NO make-up quizzes. No mechanical devices (cell phones, PDAs, calculators, etc.) are allowed at your desk or on your person during the exam; if caught with one, your exam will be discarded.

Tentative lecture schedule:

TOPIC

Ch.1. Understanding Our Environment
Ch.2. Principles of Science and Systems
Ch.3. Matter, Energy, and Life
Ch.4. Evolution, Biological Communities, and Species Interactions
Ch.6. Population Biology
Ch.11 & 12. Biodiversity
Ch.7. Human Population
Ch.9. Food and Hunger
Ch.10. Farming: Conventional and Sustainable Practices
Ch.14. Geology and Earth Resources
Ch.15. Climate Change
Ch.19. Conventional Energy
Ch.20. Sustainable Energy
Ch. 16. Air Pollution
Water Use and Management – A California Case Study (see Moodle)
Ch.18. Water Pollution
Restoration Ecology – Coastal Louisiana (see Moodle)
Ch.24. Environmental Policy, Law, and Planning

Exam schedule:

EXAM 1: T Sept 15
EXAM 2: T Oct 13
EXAM 3: T Nov 10
FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 8, 3:00-5:00 pm

Course assistance: If you are having difficulties, don't wait. Come see me! It shows that you care about your education and keeps me from getting too lonely during office hours. If you are having problems the best plan is to see me EARLY in the course. Additionally, the EES department provides free tutoring services staffed by EES graduate assistants and volunteers from the Sigma Gamma Epsilon Honor Society. The Tutor Center is located in Geology & Psychology 1022 and is open M-Th from 10 am to 4 pm.

Students with disabilities: The University of New Orleans is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). DS is located at 248 University Center. Phone is 504-280-6222. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ODS forms and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.