We are here for you! Please don’t hesitate to ask us for assistance!

Course Description
Delivered from a systems perspective, an interdisciplinary approach explores contemporary environments that are comprised of both human and non-human elements. Explores physical, chemical, and biological processes to understand pressing environmental challenges and cultural values, attitudes, and norms expressed by individuals and populations around the globe.

Course Overview and Purpose
Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary academic field that integrates physical, biological, and social sciences for the study of environmental systems, processes, constraints, and problems. Throughout history, nature has contributed to shaping human culture and vice-versa. In turn, a growing human population and continued economic and technological development subjects Earth's environments to several stresses, in some cases threatening their persistence and often resulting in undesirable consequences for humanity.

The interdependence of physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural aspects in shaping contemporary environments lies at the heart of environmental science.

This general education course introduces students to environmental science as an academic field to improve their environmental and international literacy, while developing skills in scientific reasoning, interdisciplinary thinking and analysis of complex social-ecological issues. Heavy emphasis is placed on international and comparative perspectives on environmental problems and solutions to highlight the important role of culture in environmental matters.

Prerequisites
None

Required Textbook
EVR2001 is an Affordable UF course. Our course textbook is available as an eBook through UF All Access at a heavily discounted price. See https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/G1C/bookstore/allaccess.asp for information and support. Once purchased, you'll access the book through Canvas under the Bookshelf menu.

**General Education Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes**
This course is a physical (P) and biological (B) sciences as well as International (N) subject area course in the UF General Education Program.
These general education objectives will be accomplished in the context of this course through the following course objectives:

1) Students will be able to describe the process of scientific inquiry and apply scientific principles in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary contexts.
2) Students will be able to explain that ecosystems are comprised of physical and biological elements whose interactions engender ecosystem functions that provide humanity with a diverse array of ecological services.
3) Students will be able to discuss the complex and diverse relationships between humans and environments from local and global perspectives, including how cultural values shape patterns of resource use and management and valuation of ecological services.
4) Students will be able to differentiate between non-renewable, exhaustible, and inexhaustible material and energy resources, the physical and biological processes through which they are created, and associated environmental constraints.
5) Students will be able to apply interdisciplinary approaches to evaluating and proposing solutions for US and international environmental problems, taking into account scientific and socioeconomic information, including cultural and political constraints.
6) Students will gain the ability to appraise environmental impacts of behaviors, choices, and activities in their personal lives.

Module-specific learning objectives are included in each PowerPoint presentation (available for download in PDF format on Canvas).

**Grading Policies**

The final grade for this course is based on a 1000-point scale and will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Activities</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Preparation Assignments (10 × 12 points)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Comparison Paper</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Environmental Case Study Presentation</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (4 × 30 points)</td>
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<td>12.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1000</td>
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Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>930.0-1000</td>
<td>93.0-100.0%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>730.0-769.9</td>
<td>73.0-76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900.0-929.9</td>
<td>90.0-92.9%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>700.0-729.9</td>
<td>70.0-72.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870.0-899.9</td>
<td>87.0-89.9%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>670.0-699.9</td>
<td>67.0-69.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>830.0-869.9</td>
<td>83.0-86.9%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>630.0-669.9</td>
<td>63.0-66.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>800.0-829.9</td>
<td>80.0-82.9%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>600.0-629.9</td>
<td>60.0-62.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>770.0-799.9</td>
<td>77.0-79.9%</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.0-599.9</td>
<td>0.0-59.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These grade cutoffs are exact; there will be no rounding of scores at the end of the semester.

Class Attendance and Activities: Students significantly contribute to creating a comfortable and productive learning environment by attending and participating productively in class. I encourage questions and sharing of relevant experiences! Grades are based on attendance, in-class activities, and frequency and quality of student contributions to the class.

Module Preparation Assignments: In preparation for most modules, students complete readings and respond to questions that reinforce the read material. These assignments include 350-400 word free response questions, completing guided activities, and visiting conservation areas on campus. Emphasis will be placed on applying scientific reasoning skills, such as formulating hypotheses and interpreting empirical data. There are ten total module preparations to be completed during the semester, to be submitted online no later than the beginning of class on the due date. Grades are based on quality and completeness of the work submitted.

International Comparison Paper: For the international comparison paper, students will choose an environmental topic related to material covered in class and will reference at least six credible sources to critically analyze the biological, physical, and cultural differences between domestic and international perspectives on the selected topic in an 800-1000-word essay. Students must choose a topic distinct from their assigned International Environmental Case Study Presentation topic. Grading is based on quality and completeness of the work submitted, as well as clarity of writing.

International Environmental Case Study Presentation: Teams of students apply scientific methodology to formulate and disseminate a biologically and physically possible, economically feasible, and culturally appropriate solution to a controversial environmental issue outside of the United States to the class. Team presentations should be 8 to 12 minutes in length. Creativity of visual and oral dissemination methods is encouraged. Grading is based on each student’s individual contribution to the project, as well as clarity and quality of presentation materials and narration, plausibility of the proposed solution, and creativity in presentation design and information dissemination. Presentations less than eight minutes or exceeding 12 minutes in duration will be penalized with a grade deduction of 10 points per minute.

Syllabus and Anti-plagiarism Quiz: There will be a quiz at the beginning of the semester to ensure that students understand important rules specified in the syllabus and are able to identify proper methods of citation. This quiz will be on Canvas and may be retaken an unlimited number of times up to the deadline until the student is satisfied with their score.

Quizzes: There will be five online quizzes to assess if students are keeping up with and understanding course materials. These quizzes must be submitted by 10 pm on the due date and may not be retaken. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Grading is based on the number of correct answers. These quizzes will be on Canvas.
Exams: There are two 50-minute multiple choice exams during the semester that will assess comprehension of course content. Grading is based on the number of correct answers. Exams will be in class.

Specific grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on Canvas. Students are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course. Should the need arise for a re-submission of papers or a review of graded submissions, it is the student’s responsibility to make these materials available. In case of a grading dispute, students must notify the instructor via e-mail within three business days of the date the assignment is returned in class or on Canvas. It is your responsibility to ensure that all assignments are successfully uploaded to Canvas. Missing, corrupt, or incompatible files may result in grade penalties up to a score of zero for the assignment.

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx. A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Course Policies

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx. Requirements specific to EVR2001 are outlined below:

Attendance Policy: Attendance is taken daily. Students are permitted three unexcused absences without grade penalty. Additional unexcused absences incur a score of zero for the day’s attendance score. Point deductions may also be incurred for repeated tardiness.

Absences may be excused
- In case of illness, upon receipt of a doctor's note or equivalent, or by following the procedure outlined here: https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications.
- In case of religious holidays, by informing me via e-mail ahead of time.
- In case of military duty, jury duty, participation in academic conferences, or participation in official University or UAA events, by providing appropriate evidence ahead of time.
- In case of family emergencies or other extenuating circumstances, by following the procedure outlined here: https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications.
- In all other cases, or if you are unsure, please e-mail me as soon as feasible. Absences are generally not excused for non-emergency travel and vehicle problems.

If absent, it is the student’s responsibility to make themselves aware of all due dates via the course e-learning site and/or contacting the instructor. Students are still responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via e-mail and approved by the instructor prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, the instructor may waive this requirement.

Make-up Policy: Only work missed due to excused absences can be made up. For absences excused ahead of time, the instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule. In case of documented illnesses or emergencies, arrangements for completing make-up exams or assignments should be made upon return to class. If experiencing truly extenuating circumstances resulting in longer absences, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to develop a plan to make up missed work. Extra credit opportunities associated with in-class group work may not be made up.

More information regarding class attendance and make-up policies for class work are consistent with University of Florida policies and can be found at:
**Late Work:** For each day international comparison papers are submitted late, 10% will be subtracted from the assignment grade. If the assignment is more than five days late, a score of 0 will be entered. For module preparations, submissions after the beginning of class on the due date are assessed a 20% penalty; no credit will be given for module preparations that are submitted on a later day.

I highly recommend starting work on assignments early to preclude unexpected emergencies or late-semester stress from compromising your grade. Deadline extensions may be available on certain assignments if requested ahead of time via e-mail. If extended deadlines are not met, late penalties will be assessed based on the original, not the revised due date!

Finally, please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss problems with the course material or performance in class. Your performance and success are important to the instructor, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and University of Florida, so please contact the instructor to discuss your concerns as soon as they arise.

**Office Hours:** Please take advantage of office hours to discuss any questions or concerns. If you cannot be present for the regularly scheduled office hour, the instructor will attempt to accommodate you at an alternate time.

**Course Communications and Technology:** The preferred way to get ahold of the instructor outside of class and office hours is via Canvas e-mail, or direct e-mail. All students are expected to check the course website on Canvas (http://elearning.ufl.edu) on a daily basis. In addition, the instructor may use your UF e-mail for specific communications and, therefore, you should check it daily as well. You should enable Canvas notifications for this class, so that you are notified immediately about grading, assignment feedback, due date changes, announcements, etc.

**University of Florida Policies**

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**
Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. University of Florida students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment"."* The UF Honor Code is available in its full form at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/. It specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You should be sure to read and understand the Honor Code in its entirety. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any conditions that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor of this class.

The instructor emphasizes that **PLAGIARISM, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL, IS A SERIOUS AND POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING FORM OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. Copying and pasting is never okay in academia, except for direct quotes clearly identified as such. Direct quotes are not commonly used in science writing; paraphrases accompanied by a proper citation should be used instead.**

**Grades and Grade Points**
For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx
Software Use
All UF faculty, staff and students are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Services for Students with Disabilities
Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Upon registering, the DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted by visiting 001 Reid Hall, calling 352-392-8565, or visiting their web site at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Course Evaluation
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

Student Complaints
https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/

Campus Helping Resources
Your well-being is important to me and the University of Florida community. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being or academic performance are strongly encouraged to talk to the instructor or take advantage of the university’s counseling resources, available at no cost for currently enrolled students.

- **U Matter, We Care.** 292-2273. UF’s umbrella program for UF’s caring culture. Provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. http://umatter.ufl.edu

- **University Counseling Center & Wellness Center,** 3190 Radio Rd., 392-1575. Personal and career counseling, as well as therapy for anxiety, stress and mental health issues. http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/

- **Dean of Students Office,** 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromises their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues (including mental health crises). https://www.dso.ufl.edu/care
• **Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. [http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/](http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/)


• **Career Connections Center**, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, [https://career.ufl.edu/](https://career.ufl.edu/).

• **Field and Fork Pantry**. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. [https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/](https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/).

• **UF Help Desk**. 392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. [http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/](http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/)

• **University Police Department**, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). [http://www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/)

• **Library Support**, [http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask](http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask). Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.

### Course Topics, Timeline, and Detailed Learning Objectives

For each Module, we will explore an environmental science topic from a cross-cultural, international perspective. Class meetings provide content through lecture, discussion, and activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Specific Foci</th>
<th>Module Prep. Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jan 6-10   | **Module 1**: Understanding the Global Environment | What is Environmental Science?  
Scientific process and inquiry  
Major environmental issues  
Human and cultural pressures | none |

**Syllabus and Anti-Plagiarism Quiz: Friday, January 10, online (submit by 10 pm)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Specific Foci</th>
<th>Module Prep. Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jan 13-17  | **Module 2**: Geology and Biogeochemistry | Biogeochemical Cycles (C, N, P)  
Geology and Earth Systems | Module 2 Prep (Jan 14) |
| Jan 21-28  | **Module 3**: Ecosystems | Biomes - Global Pattern of Life  
Ecosystem structure  
Ecosystem functions  
Ecosystem services | Module 3 Prep (Jan 21) |

**Quiz 1: Thursday, January 30, online (covers modules 1-3, submit by 10 pm)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Specific Foci</th>
<th>Module Prep. Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Jan 30-Feb 6 | **Module 4**: Biodiversity | Evolutionary Mechanisms  
Measures of Biodiversity | Module 4 Prep (Jan 30) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Specific Foci</th>
<th>Module Prep. Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Feb 10-14  | **Module 5**: Population Dynamics  
Human Geography | Human Population Dynamics  
Demography  
I=PAT Relationship | Module 5 Prep (Feb 11) |

**Quiz 2: Monday, February 17, online (covers modules 4-5, submit by 10 pm)**
Exam 1: Tuesday, February 18, in class (covers modules 1-5)

Feb 20–28  **Module 6: Energy**  Thermodynamics Sources and Generation Evolving Technologies    Module 6 Prep (Feb 20)

Mar 9-17  **Module 7: Water**  Water Cycle Water Pollution Water Use and Management    Module 7 Prep (Mar 10)

Quiz 3: Thursday, March 19, online (covers modules 6-7, submit by 10 pm)

Mar 19-24  **Module 8: Air**  Atmospheric Circulation Air Pollution Air Quality Index Air Management    Module 8 Prep (Mar 19)

Mar 26-31  **Module 9: Agriculture**  Agricultural Practices Genetic engineering Organic agriculture    Module 9 Prep (Mar 26)

Quiz 4: Wednesday, April 1st, online (covers modules 8-9, submit by 10 pm)

Apr 2-10  **Module 10: Environmental Change**  Natural Climate Variability Anthropogenic Climate Change Sea Level Rise Ocean Acidification Ecological Impacts Human Impacts    Module 10 Prep (Apr 2)

International Comparison Paper: Friday, April 10 (submit by 10 pm)

Apr 14-17  **Module 11: Environmental Economics**  Economic systems Natural Resource Valuation    Module 11 Prep (April 14)

Quiz 5: Friday, April 17, online (Covers modules 10-11, submit by 10 pm)

Exam 2: Tuesday, April 21, in class (focuses heavily on modules 6-11). Last day of classes.

Course Alterations
Due to unforeseen circumstances or to enhance class learning opportunities, it may be necessary to alter the information given in this syllabus during the semester. Such changes are not unusual and should be expected. All changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and/or posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with any syllabus changes.