

Introduction to Environmental Science

EVR2001 Class# 14275 (3 credit hours)

Fall Semester 2021

Face-to-face class meetings: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:40 - 11:30 AM in FAC 127

Instructor

Dr. Ryan Good(he/him/his)

Office Location: remote via Zoom

Office Hours: Mon & Thur, 9:00 – 10:00AM

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Teaching Assistant

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Office Location: remote via Zoom

Office Hours: Fri 8:30 – 10:30AM

Email: ashpreetkaur@ufl.edu

We are here for you! Zoom links will be posted on Canvas. Please don't hesitate to ask us for assistance!

This section of EVR2001 meets face-to-face each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There is an attendance requirement for this section. Wearing properly fitting masks that cover mouth and nose in the classroom is expected regardless of vaccination status. If you prefer a version of EVR2001 without on-campus class meetings, you may try to register for any of the following sections if there are any open seats:

- Sections 14305, taught by Dr. Coenen, is 100% asynchronous, meaning all course materials are pre-recorded. There are no live class meetings, and therefore no attendance requirement. This section does have a course schedule with specific deadlines and due dates, however.
- Section 14304 is an online synchronous class that I teach through Zoom. There is an attendance requirement for the synchronous section.

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 cultures. In turn, a growing human population and continued economic and technological development subjects Earth's environments to many stresses, in some cases threatening their persistence and often resulting in undesirable consequences for humanity. The interdependence of physical, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural aspects in shaping contemporary environments lies at the heart of environmental science.

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

Prerequisites

None

Required Textbook

William P. Cunningham and Mary Ann Cunningham. Environmental Science, 15th Edition (All Access eBook). 2020.

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://businessservices.ufl.edu/services/uf-bookstore/uf-all-access/> for information and support.

Required Technology

Students need to have access to a personal computer or laptop with a working webcam and microphone in order to access all features of the course Canvas site, and to participate in online office hours. Broadband internet access is required. Proctoring services are provided by Honorlock. Students are expected to review the Honorlock system requirements and use their compatibility tool before the end of the drop/add period by visiting <https://honorlock.com/support/> and scrolling down to the *Simple Single-Click Test* section of that page. The student guide to testing with Honorlock can be accessed via <https://static.honorlock.com/assets/2017/students/HonorlockGuidelines.pdf>.

General Education Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is a physical (P)/biological (B) sciences as well as International (N) subject area course in the UF and Florida State Core General Education Programs.

The 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 to global scales, including how cultural values shape patterns of resource use 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 U.S. 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 lecture presentation, available through Canvas.

Course Structure

EVR2001 consists of 11 modules, each dedicated to an environmental topic. In general, you will move through each of these modules in the following sequence:

1. Complete assigned readings for important background information and context
2. Apply what you have learned in the readings by completing a module preparation assignment
3. By watching pre-recorded lecture materials and videos along with attending live lectures during class, the read material is placed into context and expanded upon.
4. Reflect on the module's content through engaging in discussion with fellow students in small groups.

Grading Policies

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

Grading scale

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

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

Grade Component	Points	Percentage
Syllabus Quiz	25	2.5%
Class Attendance and Activities	150	15.0%
Module Preparation assignments (10 × 15 points)	150	15.0%
Quizzes (4 × 40 points)	160	16.0%
<i>Note: The class will have 5 quizzes, and your lowest score will be dropped from your grade</i>		
Exam 1	130	13.0%
Exam 2	130	13.0%
Exam 3	130	13.0%
International Environmental Issue Essay	125	12.5%
Total	1000	100%

Grade cutoffs are exact; you should not expect any rounding of scores at the end of the semester.

Syllabus and Anti-plagiarism Quiz: There will be a quiz during the first week of the semester to ensure that you understand important rules specified in this 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 you are satisfied with your score.

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.

Unique requirements for the Fall 2021 semester: We continue to experience pandemic conditions. You are expected and strongly encouraged to wear properly fitted masks over mouth and nose while you are entering, within, and exiting the classroom to minimize infection risk to yourself and others, including vulnerable members of our local community. This applies whether you are vaccinated against COVID-19 or not. Thank you! Should you contract or believe you have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please call UF Health Screen, Test & Protect at 352-273-9790 to initiate contact tracing.

Module Preparation Assignments: In preparation for most modules, you will complete readings and respond to questions that reinforce the read material. These assignments include 350-400 word free response questions, completing worksheets, and visiting local parks and conservation areas. Emphasis will be placed on applying scientific reasoning skills, such as formulating hypotheses and interpreting data. There are nine total module preparations to be completed during the semester. These assignments are graded through rubrics that are posted along the assignment instructions on Canvas. A Turnitin.com score of less than 10% is expected for free response questions.

International Environmental Issue Essay: You will watch a documentary film about an environmental issue outside the United States, and reflect on the causes, impacts, and possible solutions of the issue in the form of an 800-1000-word essay. This assignment is graded through a rubric that is posted along the assignment instructions on Canvas. A Turnitin.com score of less than 10% is expected.

Quizzes: There will be five online multiple-choice quizzes to assess if students are keeping up with and understanding course materials. These quizzes must be submitted by midnight 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. Quizzes are proctored by Honorlock.

Exams: There are three 50-minute multiple choice exams during the semester that will assess your comprehension of course content. Grading is based on the number of correct answers. Exams are proctored by Honorlock.

Specific grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on Canvas. You are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course until the end of the semester. In case of a grading dispute, you must notify the instructor via e-mail within one week of the date the grade is posted. 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.

Course Policies

Diversity and Inclusiveness Statement

Diversity is one of our biggest assets in the classroom and in environmental science. Different perspectives enrich our understanding of the variety of human-nature interactions and are imperative to developing just solutions to complex environmental problems.

This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect, and I welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities & races, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religions (if any), sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. This does not mean that you are not allowed to disagree with others, but that such differences should be explored without ad hominem judgment.

Attendance Policy

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/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Missing scheduled quizzes or exams will incur a score of zero unless you can provide evidence that the assessment was missed due to an excusable reason.

Excusable reasons:

- 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.

You 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

Quizzes and exams missed for excused reasons can be made up. For absences excused ahead of time, I 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, please notified me as soon as possible to develop a plan to make up missed work. Missed extra credit opportunities cannot be made up.

Late Work

You are responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via e-mail prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, I may waive this requirement. Technical difficulties are not generally an excuse for missing an assessment or assignment; you should have contingency plans in case any such issues arise. I recommend storing your documents on a cloud service that can be accessed from any device (Dropbox and OneDrive are free to UF students), and having a plan for internet outages (such as identifying a source for public WiFi near you or tethering through your cell phone). Try not to wait until the last minute to submit assignments!

- For **module preparation** assignments, late submissions will incur a penalty of 20% per day. Submissions more than three days late will receive a grade of zero.
- For late submissions of the **international environmental issue essay**, 10% will be subtracted from the assignment grade per day. If the assignment is more than five days late, a score of 0 will be entered.

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. Contact your teaching assistant for basic questions, help with assignments, and clarifications regarding grades and feedback. Contact me regarding absences, grading disputes, concerns about other students, and any other issues. If you cannot be present for the regularly scheduled office hour, we will attempt to accommodate you at an alternate time.

Course Communications and Technology

The preferred way to get ahold of me or your TA outside of class and office hours is via Canvas e-mail or direct e-mail. You can expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays. All students are expected to check the course web site on Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) on a daily basis. In addition, we may send specific communications directly to your UF, which you should check 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.

Note that there are specific due dates and times for assignments, activities, presentations, quizzes and exams, meaning that you will need to stay on track and complete assigned work on schedule to do well in this class.

External Communication

You are encouraged to use GroupMe or similar tools to communicate with other students about the class and environmental science-related topics. **You may not, however, discuss quiz and exam questions/answers with others, or collaborate on any assignments intended to be worked on individually.**

Canvas Display Name Change

Canvas uses the "Display Name" as set in myUFL. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as "Ally" instead of "Allison." To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, click on the dropdown at the top right, and select "Directory Profile." Click "Edit" on the right of the name panel, uncheck "Use my legal name" under "Display Name," update how you wish your name to be displayed, and click "Submit" at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records.

University of Florida Policies

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit 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."* It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

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.** 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/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Zoom Conference Privacy

Should it become necessary or convenient to hold classes virtually using zoom, those class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments

live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university 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, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center 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. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office 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.ua.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.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Student Complaints

Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Campus Helping Resources

Your wellbeing is important to me and the University of Florida community. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general well-being are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling Center & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575. Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library & Wellness Coaching. <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>
- *U Matter We Care*. 352-292-2273. 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>
- *Career Connections Center*, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- *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://care.dso.ufl.edu/>
- *Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- *Writing Studio*, 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>.
- *Fork and Field Pantry*. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>.
- *UF Help Desk*. 352-392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- *University Police Department*, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
- *Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.

Course Outline (subject to change – please check the Canvas calendar for the latest information)

Critical Dates

Syllabus quiz	Sunday, August 29
Quiz 1	Friday, September 17
Exam 1	Friday, September 24
Quiz 2	Wednesday, October 6
Quiz 3	Friday, October 15
Exam 2	Monday, October 25
Quiz 4	Friday, November 5
International environmental issue essay	Friday, November 19
Quiz 5	Friday, December 3
Exam 3	Wednesday, December 8

Please refer to Canvas for due dates of module preparations.

Lecture Schedule

Module	Dates (Week beginning)
1 Understanding the Global Environment	August 23
2 Geology and Biogeochemistry	August 30
3 Ecosystems	Sep 6 & Sep 13
4 Biodiversity	Sep 20
5 Population Dynamics & Human Geography	Sep 27
6 Energy	Oct 4
7 Water	Oct 11 & Oct 18
8 Air	Oct 25
9 Agriculture	Nov 1
10 Environmental Change	Nov 8, Nov 15, & Nov 22
11 Environmental Economics	Nov 29

Course Alterations

Due to COVID-19, 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 posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with any syllabus changes.