

Introduction to Environmental Science

EVR2001 Class 5325 - Section 16052 (3 credit hours)
Summer B Semester 2021
100% Online via Canvas

Instructor

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(<http://elearning.ufl.edu/>)

Teaching Assistant

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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.

Students should **be aware of the workload expected for this concentrated Summer A course**, in which every two days correspond to a whole week of classes during regular Fall and Spring semesters. Students need to be prepared to work every day and complete assignments on a weekly basis, and quizzes on bi-weekly basis. There are several submissions due each week of the class.

Prerequisites

None

Required Textbook

William P. Cunningham and Mary Ann Cunningham. Environmental Science, 14th Edition (All Access eBook). 2017. ISBN: 9781260627411.

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.**

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 and optional live Q&A sessions. 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) 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 lecture presentation (available for access on Canvas).

Grading Policies

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	20	2.0%
Module Preparation Assignments (5×40 points)	200	20.0 %
NOTE: there are 9 of these assignments posted; you only need to complete 5 of them. If you do more, only your 5 highest scores will be counted.		
Discussion Board Posts and Activities (2x20/4x40 points)	200	20.0%
International Comparison Paper	140	14.0%
Quizzes (4 × 30 points)	120	12.0%
Exam 1	160	16.0%
Exam 2	160	16.0%
Total	1000	100%

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%

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

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.

Module Preparation Assignments: In preparation for each week's content, students should complete readings and respond to questions or do activities that reinforce the read material. These assignments have diverse formats, and can include 350-400 word free response questions, completing guided activities, developing visual materials, and complete textbook questions. Emphasis will be placed on applying scientific reasoning skills, such as formulating hypotheses and interpreting empirical data. For the summer semester, there are five total weekly module preparations. Grades are based on quality and completeness of the work submitted. 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.

There are nine of these assignments posted in the class. You only have to complete five of them, and may choose any five you wish. If you complete more than five (not recommended as it's not a good use of your time!) then the highest five scores will be included in your grade.

Important: Each assignment that needs to be submitted online has a due date and an "available until" date. The due date refers to the date and time by which the assignment must be uploaded for full credit. If you submit after the due date, but before the "available until" date, you will incur a late penalty as outlined in the syllabus. No submissions will be accepted after the "available until" date unless you requested (via e-mail) and received a deadline extension.

Discussion Board Posts & Activities: Each week contains approximately one discussion board-based assignments or activities related to the course material. These discussions take place among small or large groups of students. Grading criteria will be provided on Canvas along with instructions for each discussion or activity.

International Comparison Paper: This is an individual assignment. 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. 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 four online quizzes to assess if students are keeping up with and understanding course materials. These quizzes must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date and may not be retaken. Grading is based on the number of correct answers. These quizzes will be proctored by Honorlock.

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 are closed book and will proctored by Honorlock.**

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 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. **We will not grade work submitted via email, unless prior permission to submit via email is given in a case-by-case basis.**

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: There are no regularly scheduled class meetings for this section of EVR2001. There are, however, scheduled quizzes and exams. Missing these will incur a score of zero.

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.

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.

Technical difficulties are not generally an excuse for missing an assessment or assignment; students should have contingency plans in case any such issues arise.

Make-up Policy: Only work missed due to excused reasons can be made up. The instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule upon receipt of appropriate evidence. 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.

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, a late penalty of 20% per day will be subtracted. If the assignment is more than three 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 instruction team, 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 the online office hours to discuss any questions or concerns with your instructor or TA. If you cannot be present for the regularly scheduled online office hour, the instructor or TA will attempt to accommodate you at an alternate time.

Course Communications and Technology: This section of EVR2001 is 100% online and largely asynchronous, meaning that there are no scheduled class meetings. Content will be delivered via readings, pre-recorded lecture slides, and videos. Note that there are specific due dates 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. The instructor and teaching assistant will be available to assist you via online office hours, and periodic optional live Q&A conferences.

The preferred way to get in touch of the instructor outside 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, 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://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/>

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/>

- *Writing Studio*, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>

- *Career Connections Center*, First Floor JWRU, 392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>

- *Field and Fork Pantry*. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>

- *UF Help Desk*. 392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

- *University Police Department*, 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 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.

Date	Topic	Specific Foci	Module Prep. Due
<u>June 28 - July 2</u>	Module 1: Understanding the Global Environment	What is Environmental Science? Scientific process and inquiry Major environmental issues Human and cultural pressures	none
	Module 2: Geology and Biogeochemistry	Biogeochemical Cycles (C, N, P) Geology and Earth Systems	Module 2 Prep (July 1)

Syllabus and Anti-Plagiarism Quiz: Friday, July 2, online (submit by 11:59 pm)

<u>July 5-9</u>	Module 3: Ecosystems	Biomes - Global Pattern of Life Ecosystem structure Ecosystem functions Ecosystem services	Module 3 Prep (July 5)
	Module 4: Biodiversity	Evolutionary Mechanisms Measures of Biodiversity	Module 4 Prep (July 7)

Quiz 1: Friday, July 9 (covers modules 1-3, submit by 11:59 pm)

Date	Topic	Specific Foci	Module Prep. Due
<u>July 12-16</u>	Module 5: Population Dynamics Human Geography	Human Population Dynamics Demography I=PAT Relationship	Module 5 Prep (July 12)
	Module 6: Energy	Thermodynamics Sources and Generation Evolving Technologies	Module 6 Prep (July 14)

Quiz 2: Friday, July 16, (covers modules 4-5, submit by 11:59 pm)

Exam 1: Tuesday, July 20, (covers modules 1-4, submit by 11:59 pm)

<u>July 19-23</u>	Module 7: Water	Water Cycle Water Pollution Water Use and Management	Module 7 Prep (July 19)
	Module 8: Air	Atmospheric Circulation Air Pollution Air Quality Index Air Management	Module 8 Prep (July 21)

Quiz 3: Friday, July 23, (covers modules 6-7, submit by 11:59 pm)

Date	Topic	Specific Foci	Module Prep. Due
<u>July 26-30</u>	Module 9: Agriculture	Agricultural Practices Genetic engineering Organic agriculture	Module 9 Prep (July 26)
	Module 10: Climate Change	Natural Climate Variability Anthropogenic Climate Change	Module 10 Prep (July 28)

Sea Level Rise
Ocean Acidification
Ecological Impacts
Human Impacts

Quiz 4: Friday, July 30, (covers modules 8-10, submit by 11:59 pm)

International Comparison Paper: Friday, July 30 (submit by 11:59 pm)

Exam 2: Wednesday, August 4 (covers modules 6-10, submit by 11:59 pm)

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.