

Environmental Studies 148, Scientific Principles of Environmental Studies: Fall 2014
1:00-2:15 Tues-Thurs; 330 Strong
Instructor: Dr. Kathleen Nuckolls

Course Description and Expectations: This course presents an overview of the major scientific principles involved in the study of human impacts on the environment. This course is intended to provide you with information which will help you to make informed decisions on environmentally-related issues, whether as a voter or as a consumer. I will attempt to present the material in as interesting and clear a manner as possible to help you learn the information. I expect you to keep up with the readings and attend all lectures (exam questions will assume that you have).

As stated in the Undergraduate Catalog, students are expected to attend all meetings of their classes and to remain in class once class has begun except in the case of sanctioned holidays and religious observances. **It is your responsibility to check blackboard for any announcements if you miss class.**

Required Textbook: *Environmental Science: A Global Concern*, (2014) 13th edition, by W.P. Cunningham, M.A. Cunningham. Published by McGraw-Hill. (ISBN-13: 978-0073532547 ISBN-10: 0073532541).

Homework platform: The course package available at the KU bookstore includes access to McGraw Hill's Connect Plus. The access code is printed on a piece of cardboard that comes with the book. Don't throw the cardboard away! The first time you access one of the chapter modules, you will be asked to enter the code (after that you'll be registered and won't need the code again).

You can also purchase the text as an e-book that is integrated with the homework platform. Or you can obtain the text from another retailer and purchase the homework platform separately. In all cases, you will need to access a homework assignment *from within Blackboard* to be taken to the registration page.

Text website: In addition, the textbook maintains an excellent website at:
http://highered.mheducation.com/sites/0073532541/information_center_view0/index.html
The site includes additional case studies, practice quizzes, and study tools.

Contact Information: Dr. Kathleen Nuckolls: 258A Snow Hall; Course email:
evrngeog148@ku.edu Office hours by appointment.

Grading:	In-class discussions	150 points	
	Chapter modules (on connect)	200 points	
	Exam 1	150 points	
	Exam 2	150 points	
	Final Exam	200 points	(150 points will be new material, 50 will be comprehensive)
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	Total	850 points	

Grades are given according to the following scale based on the percentage of points received out of the total possible points. **There is no extra credit.** The grading scale is given below - **there is no rounding.** If you feel you will be close to one of the cut off points, you need to bring your grade up *before* the final exam. **No changes will be possible after the final.**

89.5	-	100	A
79.5	-	89.4	B
69.5	-	79.4	C
59.5	-	69.4	D
0	-	59.4	F

In-Class Discussion: We will be doing a variety short of in-class discussion activities, designed to help you understand and retain course material. It's important to attend class sessions to help you learn the material more readily, and the in-class discussions will also serve to give you "free points" for doing so.

Please note: We will not have time to cover *all* chapter content during lecture. I will attempt to emphasize concepts and connections that typically give students the most trouble, rather than simply "reading the book" to you. This does not mean, however, that you are not responsible for textbook material that is not covered in lecture. The textbook shows key word in bold print and includes good chapter summaries to help you focus on the important information in each chapter.

Chapter Modules in Connect: Each week, you will be responsible for completing one or two chapters in the Smartbook. These modules integrate the e-book with Learnsmart assessment system to maximize your learning efficiency. The system will prompt you to read your text in the most efficient way and will periodically assess your learning. Both your overall score and the highlighting in the e-book will change as you learn the material. Please note: this system is based on the latest memory and learning research; it will work best if you periodically return to the chapter modules and complete the suggested "recharge" assignments. The system automatically calculates which concepts you need to most practice on and when you should review them so that you won't forget them.

Scoring: As you work through each module, the system tracks your progress and calculates how much of the material you have completed ("mastered"); wrong answers will add yellow highlights in the book to help you locate the passages that you should review. These wrong answers will not count against your score but your percentage completion will not go up until you demonstrate mastery of that concept by answering additional questions correctly. The modules will be available for practice until the exam and you are *strongly encouraged to keep practicing modules*, but your score will only reflect how many points you earned by the module due date. There are 20 chapter modules, each worth 10 points.

Note: The smartbook contains highlighted passages and practice questions that are keyed to the highlighted material. This is the information that you should learn *first*; it will help provide a mental framework for your continued studying. You are **also responsible** for the other (non-highlighted and/or dimmed out) material in the textbook; if you only read the highlighted passages in the text, you will likely do poorly on the exam, because you will not have learned the material in enough depth.

Exams: There will be two required in-class exams and a final exam. You must take all three exams. An approved reason (e.g. University sanctioned travel or a medical excuse) will be required to miss any examination without being awarded a grade of F for the exam. Appropriate documentation of

the excuse is required. ***The time and date of the final exam is fixed by the University in the Fall 2013 timetable and cannot be changed.*** The questions on the exams will be based on the material presented in the lectures, and the textbook. The first two exams will cover material from their respective sections of the course. You will be expected to know information from your regular instructor, as well as any guest instructors or videos. The final exam will have approximately 150 points from the last section of the course and 50 points will be comprehensive. The format of the exams will typically include a mix of multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer. **Use of electronic devices (including electronic translators) will not be allowed during exams.**

The instructor reserves the right to ask you to move from your seat during an examination if the move appears necessary. Any instance of academic misconduct will be dealt with severely; penalties can include failure of the course and dismissal from the University. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving help on the exam, falsifying attendance, or otherwise misrepresenting your work. Similarly, you are expected to be truthful about your course efforts. Technical glitches do occasionally occur and if you have, in fact, completed assignments, then a solution can usually be found. However, if you state that Blackboard "lost" an assignment that you never actually attempted in the first place, you are misrepresenting your work and are liable for academic sanctions.

Review sheets: It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings and attend lecture. Students who identify and collect the important topics every week have better retention and understanding of the material during exams and after the course is over. For this reason, you are expected to construct **your own** review sheet. You are encouraged to compare your review sheet with that of other students, and to ask questions about the material before each exam. (The instructor will not answer questions about what is on the exam, nor will there a review sheet handout).

Students with disabilities: Any student who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

The Office of Disability Resources (DR), 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620, coordinates accommodations and services for KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you may request accommodation in KU classes and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible.