

GEOS 130: Introduction to Environmental Science

Syllabus

Fall 2015

Dr. Kristen Kaczynski

Office: PHSC 119A (entrance through the courtyard)

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Prerequisites: None

Course Time and Room: T/TH 2-2:50 in AYRS 120

Course Goal: This course provides an analysis of present and long-term global and local environmental problems, coverage of scientific concepts needed to understand human society and its environmental interactions, and an examination of sustainable practices and other solutions. This is an approved General Education course.

Learning Objectives: Following completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize the basic laws of matter and energy that govern the environment.
2. Identify the impacts of humans on natural systems.
3. Explain the process of global climate change, including proposed causes, impacts, and solutions.
4. Describe the utility of science in addressing environmental problems.
5. Develop critical thinking skills needed to make complex scientific and social choices related to the environment.

Text: Essentials of Environmental Science. by Andrew Friedland, Rick Relyea and David Courard-Hauri. W.H. Freeman and Company. 1st edition.

Laboratory Manual: The manual for the lab will be sold during the first lab meeting. It costs \$18.00 and will need to be purchased with cash. Please bring \$18 cash to the second week of lab!

Office Hours: Tuesday 11-noon and 3-4pm; Wednesday 10-11am; Thursday 11-noon
Other times by appointment: Please email or see me in class to make arrangements.

Assignments and Exams:

Weekly online quizzes	5%
In class exercises	5%
Midterms (2)	20%
Current Events assignment	10%
Lecture Final Exam	15%
Lab Exercises	30%
Lab Exams (2)	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Tentative Grades:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	60	<60

Deadlines: Deadlines will be strictly enforced and no late work will be accepted, unless prior arrangements had been made with the instructor.

Quizzes: There will be (nearly) weekly quizzes on the readings for you to take on Blackboard Learn. They are due Thursday by 1pm and are open book/open note. They will be ~5 multiple choice (or similar type questions). Please note that Blackboard Learn has scheduled maintenance every Thursday from 5am-8am, so plan accordingly!

Current Events: Each student will be expected to collect 6 news articles during the course of the semester which illustrate "real life" examples of points covered in class. For each article you will type a one paragraph description explaining the relevance of the article to the ideas we are covering in class on environmental science. Do not simply summarize the article. Electronic versions of newspapers are encouraged. Some examples: Sacramento Bee, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Kansas City Star, Huffington Post, NPR, etc. If you have any questions about whether or not the article is appropriate, just ask. You will upload each assignment to Blackboard Learn – both your write up and the article (or full web address of your article). You will be graded on your best 5 out of 6, so if you miss one of the assignments, it's not a huge deal. Because this is a "current events" assignment, all articles should be from 2015 – even better if they are from Fall 2015! The point of this assignment is to demonstrate that conservation biology is part of our everyday lives. It is not the isolated domain of academics; it's relevant!

At the top of each assignment, please use this heading:

Title of article:

Date when article was written:

News source:

Important Dates:

Assignment/exam	Date
Current events assignment #1	Sept 3 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Current events assignment #2	Sept 17 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Midterm #1	Sept 29 (in class)
Current events assignment #3	Oct 8 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Lab Exam #1	Week 8 (in lab)
Current events assignment #4	Oct 22 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Midterm #2	Nov 5 (in class)
Current events assignment #5	Nov 12 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Current events assignment #6	Dec 3 (upload to Blackboard Learn)
Lab Exam #2	Week 16 (in lab)
Final Exam	TBD

Etiquette: Remember that the classroom is a professional environment. Cell phones, iPods, etc. must be turned off or silenced while in class. Please don't be a distraction to the students who are here to learn.

MISCELLANEOUS CLASS INFORMATION

Dropping the Course

If you decide this is not the course for you, you are responsible for dropping it. During the first two weeks of the course dropping may be done without the instructor's permission. **After the third week, you will need a "serious and compelling" reason to drop. Your request must be approved by the Department and the College** (Failing the course or incompatibility with the instructor is not serious or compelling.) The Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences strictly enforce this policy.

Policies Regarding Exams and Quizzes

Quizzes and exams cannot be taken late, and the final exam cannot be rescheduled without a serious and compelling reason. Vacation plans do not qualify as acceptable excuses. Exams will cover material from lectures and from the text and will emphasize material in the preceding segment of the class.

Warning: if you are found to be cheating you will be referred to the CSU, Chico Student Judicial Affairs office. Penalties can be severe, so please do your own work.

OVERALL GUIDANCE

It is absolutely imperative that you work consistently on the class. Do not skip lecture, or wait to complete readings until the last minute before each exam. If you are having difficulty with any aspect of the course, PLEASE contact the instructor as soon as possible rather than wait until days or weeks go by and you fall behind.

The Student Learning Center

In addition to your classmates, the Student Learning Center provides an opportunity to talk with writing assistants about the work you are doing for this and other classes. They are located on the third floor of the Student Services Building (SSC 340). You can reach them by phone, 530-898-6839, or by email: slc@csuchico.edu

Non-Discrimination Policy

According to the *University Catalog* the Cal State does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color, or national origin. The CSU complies with both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the American Disabilities Act (1990). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at CSU, Chico, please talk with me or call Disability Support Services (x5959). For other concerns about discrimination or harassment, please talk with me, your advisor, or department chair, or Student Judicial Affairs (x6897).

The students, faculty, administrators, and staff of CSU, Chico are committed to a culture of honesty in which members of the community accept responsibility to uphold academic integrity in all they say, write, and create. I expect all students to fully embrace such academic integrity. For more details please consult <http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/2004/04-036.shtml>

If you have special needs (e.g., disability, diversity) please contact me. I will do my best to accommodate your needs or direct you to help, while keeping the issue confidential.

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This schedule is firm, but not set in stone. Please listen and watch for updates

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Lab Exercise	Assignment
	August				
1	25, 27	introduction to the course & syllabus; Scientific observation	Ch 1	Scientific Observation	
	September				
2	1, 3	Energy, Matter & Change	Ch 2	Trees lab	current events #1
3	8, 10	Ecosystem Ecology	Ch 3	Ecosystem Properties	
4	15, 17	Biodiversity & Community Ecology	Ch 4	Biodiversity assessment	current events #2
5	22, 24	Human Population Growth	Ch 5	Human Population Growth	
6	29, 1	Exam on 29th & Geological Processes,	Ch 6	Rivers of Salt	
	October				
7	6, 8	Geological Processes, Soils	Ch 6	Lab Exam 1 review	current events #3
8	13, 15	Land Resources	Ch 7	Lab Exam 1	
9	20, 22	Renewable and non-renewable energy	Ch 8	Solar Radiation	current events #4
10	27, 29	Water Resources	Ch 9	Groundwater	
	November				
11	3, 5	Water Resources and Exam on 5th	Ch 9	Water Quality	
12	10, 12	Air pollution	Ch 10	Density, Buoyancy	current events #5
13	17, 19	Human Health Risks	Ch 12	Sun Climate Connection	
14	24, 26	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>			
	December				
15	1, 3	Climate Change	Ch 14	Lab Exam 2 review	current events #6
16	8, 10	Conservation of Biodiversity	Ch 13	Lab Exam 2	
		Final Exam time/date TBD after Census Day		50% material after Midterm #2 and 50% commulative	