

The Changing Natural Environment

Section: L18

EC-128

Spring 2012

Instructor Name: Dr. Aaron Howard
Contact Information: ahowardneiu@gmail.com
Office Hours: R 5:00-6:00 P.M. (immediately before class), or by appointment, location: instructors office
Meeting Times: Lecture: 6:10-8:50 P.M.
Blackboard: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Attitudes toward the natural environment. Exploitation of the natural plant and animal communities and the effects of overpopulation and increasing pollution of the environment on the biological world. Lecture only. (*Does not fulfill major or minor requirements in biology.*)

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

University Goals: NEIU identifies five areas where it is critical for students to gain some general knowledge to enrich their lives and enhance their academic experience. The program called the General Education Program of NEIU, identifies one of those areas as the natural sciences. This course fulfills part of the natural science requirement and assists students in developing the following abilities and skills in the natural sciences:

1. The ability to communicate orally.
2. The skills required to gather, analyze, document, and integrate information.
3. An understanding of the modes of thought, concerns and methodologies of the natural sciences.
4. The ability to use quantitative methods in the natural sciences.

TEXT AND SUPPLIES:

Required: Botkin and Keller. 2011. *Environmental Science: Earth as a Living Planet*, 8th ed, Wiley.

GRADING: There are a total of 680 points from the following assessments:

ASSESSMENTS	Number	Points per	Total points
In class activities	12	15	180
Weekly writing assignment	7	15	105
Case Study: Topic	1	10	10
Case Study: Summary and Literature Cited	1	20	20
Case Study: Presentation	1	50	50
Case Study: Paper	1	100	100
Exams	2	50	100
Final Exam (Cumulative)	1	100	100
TOTAL POINTS FOR COURSE:			680 PTS

Final Grades: Final grades are based on the following percentage ranges:

Percentage	Points Needed	Final Grade
90-100%	612-680	A
80-89%	544-611	B
70-79%	476-543	C
60-69%	408-475	D
<60%	≤ 407	F

Grading Policy: The total number of points and distribution of points is subject to change. Exam dates will be announced in advance. Assignments are due on the day announced, and late assignments WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED without prior instructor approval. There will be no make-ups for quizzes and exams. Special accommodations will NOT be given to accommodate travel or vacation plans. If you must miss class for an approved (by the instructor) reason, you must let the instructor know BEFORE that class period in order to be able to make up any work.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: There are several writing assignments in this course. All writing projects must utilize Standard English. The quality of the writing, including correct spelling, syntax, and grammar, will be reflected in the grade. Additional guidelines will be given for writing assignments, but in general all writing projects must comply with the following regulations and failure to meet these criteria will result in your manuscript being rejected and returned ungraded:

- All writing projects must be submitted in the assigned format in hard copy on white, unlined paper or electronically **ONLY** when permission from the instructor is given.
- The following page set-up and formatting must be followed for all papers:
 - 12 point Arial or Times New Roman font
 - 1.0” top, bottom, left, and right margins
 - Portrait orientation, paragraphs with left alignment
 - Double-spaced
 - Staple your paper in the upper left corner

OTHER COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Academic Conduct: The following dishonest and unethical behaviors: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, obtaining unfair advantage, unauthorized access to computerized records or systems, and facilitating academic dishonesty regardless of intent. Therefore students are expected to do their own academic work. In addition, I expect active participation and equitable contributions of students involved in group assignments. Cheating will result in automatic failure. You are not to represent someone else’s work as your own in any class assignments. You will not receive credit for any plagiarized assignment nor will you be allowed to make it up.

Attendance: You are expected to be at all class sessions. If you miss a lecture it is your responsibility to get lecture notes from other students. If you must be absent for approved functions, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know in advance so we can make other arrangements. Unapproved absences will result in zero points for missed assignments, including quizzes and tests.

Class Preparation: You should read textbook assignments and all other assigned readings and review your notes from previous classes before coming to class. Daily preparation will aid in retention of material and will ease the task of studying for tests. All of the material in this class builds on the prior material and, therefore, all assignments are cumulative throughout the semester.

Classroom Conduct:

1. **Guests and Children in the Classroom:** Please ask permission of the instructor before bringing any guests or children to class with you. We must be considerate of other students who are paying tuition and have a right to an appropriate learning atmosphere.
2. **Talking and Disturbances in Class:** I expect you to comply with the following classroom rules any time class is in session: 1) Always respect the rights of others, 2) Come to class on time and refrain from visiting during the class time, 3) Cell phones will be placed on SILENT MODE during class. You will not send or receive text messages during class. If you must use a cell phone, please leave the classroom, 4) Individuals will be asked to leave the room if their actions are interfering with the learning experiences, rights, and/or safety of others.

Classroom Conduct Policy: Students have the right to learn in an environment where all individuals are treated equitably and with respect. Behaviors in class that interfere with the learning experience are not permitted. Disruptive or disrespectful behaviors may result in dismissal from the class for that day by the instructor.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

Resources for All Students: NEIU-EI Centro offers holistic academic advising, tutorial assistance, academic workshops, and mentorship opportunities, as well as a variety of co-curricular programs designed to assist students to accomplish their personal, academic and career goals.

Academic support program: In an effort to address student challenges that may prevent students from continuing their university studies, NEIU-EI Centro has developed a retention program that includes the following components:

Academic advising: (Students meet with their advisor at least 3 times per semester) Academic advising sessions take place in the month of February, March, and April for the spring semester and September, October, and November in the fall semester.

Progress reports: Progress reports are mailed out to faculty during the months of March (spring semester) and October (fall semester). Upon receipt of completed progress reports, academic advisors meet with advisees to review progress reports and address any issues or concerns. Academic plans will be developed for students who are not performing satisfactorily in their courses.

Academic and co-curricular programs: METAS Series (at least one per month) These workshops will help student develop the skills they may need to be a successful student. The topics include writing, presentation skills, study skills, etc. NEIU-El Centro Campus has works with various departments and offices including the Student Union to organize programs and activities to enhance the social aspect of the college experience.

GUIAS peer mentoring program: The mission of NEIU-El Centro Guidance Inspiration and Academic Support (GUIAS) Peer Mentoring Program is to help NEIU-El Centro freshmen students to persist and make reasonable progress towards graduation by providing the resources necessary to obtain academic success. GUIAS will focus on fostering an environment of student support, motivation, learning, and guidance through peer-mentoring. GUIAS will strive to cultivate strong relationships between mentors and mentees through individual mentor/mentee contact and group activities. Mentors will in addition provide information about university resources, tutoring, and social support as their mentees strive to reach their educational and personal goals.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

All aspects of the schedule are subject to change at the instructors discretion. All changes will be posted on blackboard. Additional readings will be given as handouts in class and uploaded onto blackboard.

Week	Class schedule	Readings*	Other Activities or Due Dates
1 – Jan. 12	Lecture: Syllabus Introduction to science In class activity.	Ch. 2	
2 – Jan. 19	Lecture: Systems of change Human population growth Discuss weekly writing assignments. In class activity.	Ch. 3 and 4	
3 – Jan. 26	Lecture: Biology and Cycles Discuss Case Study assignment. In class activity.	Ch. 5 and 6	Weekly writing assignment due.
4 – Feb. 2	Lecture: Diversity, Invasions and Restoration In class activity.	Ch. 8 and 9	Weekly writing assignment due. Case Study topics due.
5 – Feb. 9	Lecture: EXAM 1 Environmental Health	Ch. 10	
6 – Feb. 16	Lecture: Agriculture and Forests In class activity.	Ch. 11 and 12	Weekly writing assignment due.
7 – Feb. 23	Lecture: Wildlife Management Energy Introduction In class activity.	Ch. 13 and 14	Weekly writing assignment due.
8 – Mar. 1	Lecture: Energy Resources In class activity.	Ch. 15, 16 and 17	Case Study summary and literature cited due.
9 – Mar. 8	Lecture: Water In class activity.	Ch. 18 and 19	Weekly writing assignment due.
10 – Mar. 15	Lecture: EXAM 2 Climate Change	Ch. 20	
11 – Mar. 22	SPRING RECESS – NO CLASS		

Week	Class schedule	Readings*	Other Activities or Due Dates
12 – Mar. 29	Lecture: Air pollution In class activity. Case Study Presentations	Ch. 21	Weekly writing assignment due.
13 – Apr. 5	Lecture: The Urban Environment In class activity. Case Study Presentations	Ch. 22	Weekly writing assignment due.
14 – Apr. 12	Lecture: Materials Management In class activity. Case Study Presentations	Ch. 23	Case Study final paper due.
15 – Apr. 19	Lecture: Money and the future In class activity. Case Study Presentations	Ch. 7 and 24	Weekly writing assignment due.
16 – Apr. 26	Lecture: Environmental Ethics In class activity. Case Study Presentations	Handout	
17 – May 3	Final exam – TBD		

* Readings without a letter prefix refer to chapters within Botkin and Keller, other readings will be specifically noted.