

**ENVS 101 - 001 (CRN 20062, 3 credits)**

## **INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

**Spring 2012: TR 12:30-1:45, Owens Hall 102**

**Instructor:** Dr. Marsha Bollinger, G06 Bancroft Annex, 323-4944, [bollingerm@winthrop.edu](mailto:bollingerm@winthrop.edu)

**Office hours:** TR 2-3:30 pm, but feel free to drop by other times as well or to make an appointment

The **goal** of this course is to introduce several current environmental issues to students who are either environmental sciences or environmental studies majors or who simply have an interest in these issues. The course does not count towards the general education science requirement. The semester will be divided into sections dealing with issues ranging from water quality and quantity, to energy sources, to air quality, and land use. For each topic, we will cover some basic facts, explore some potential problems and solutions, and review pertinent laws and policies. Methods of instruction in the course will include lectures, discussions, readings, and videos.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will be conversant with the basic concepts related to selected environmental issues.
- Students will be able to discuss selected environmental problems and their potential solutions.
- Students will begin to understand the interrelated nature of selected environmental issues and of human interactions with the environment.

**Global Learning Initiative:** Students are exposed to cultures different from their own through selected readings that illustrate relevant environmental topics.

**Required text:** Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, 2012, Withgott and Laposata

**Syllabus change policy:** Changes may be necessary during the semester. Students will be notified of posting of changes via class email listserv as soon as possible. Changes will also be mentioned in class. Note that both this page and the schedule page have a date of last modification at the top.

**Grading:** Your grade will be based on your performance on three in-class tests (3 @ 100 pts. each), a comprehensive final exam (100 pts.; required of all students), the lifestyles project (3 journals @ 25 pts. each), written summaries of one DVD and one activity (2 @ 25 pts. each), and four write-ups of important points from instructor provided articles (4 @ 25 pts. each.). Your average will be determined by adding up the number points you earn and dividing by the total possible points (625). Letter grades will be assigned approximately on the following scale: 100 – 93 = A, 92 – 90 = A–, 89 – 87 = B+, 86 – 83 = B, 82 – 80 = B–, 79 – 77 = C+, 76 – 73 = C, 72 – 70 = C–, 69 – 67 = D+, 66 – 63 = D, 62 – 60 = D–, 59 and below = F.

**Student code of conduct:** As noted in the Student Conduct Code: "Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals." The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the "Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy" in the online *Student Handbook* (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

**Topic Outlines:** Outlines of material (introduction, water, air, energy, land use) will be provided through this web page and can serve to help you with reading assignments, taking notes in class, and reviewing for tests and the final exam. These outlines will include specific instruction on which portions of the text you should be reading.

**Power point presentations from lecture:** These will be made available through this web as we begin each topic.

**Tests and Exam:** Tests will be a mixture of question types (matching, multiple choice, short answers). The final exam is required of all students and will be given at the designated time during exam week. Make-ups for tests will only be given in extreme circumstances. If you miss a test, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Lifestyle Project:** Details of this assignment will be provided here. In general, you will be asked to make changes in your daily life which will positively impact the environment. You will be given several choices; for three weeks you will make changes on selected days and will record what you did and how it impacted you in a written journal. This project will be worth 75 points.

**Attendance:** Students are responsible for everything that goes on in class. This requires regular attendance. Please respect others by being on time and staying for the entire class. Please turn cell phones and other electronic devices off while in class, unless otherwise directed.

**Students with Disabilities:** Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Disability Services, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

Winthrop's **Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students become effective and efficient learners. The services available to students are as follows: peer tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located in University College on the first floor of Dinkins Hall, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or [success@winthrop.edu](mailto:success@winthrop.edu). For more information on ASC services, please visit [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success).

<i>02 Jan 2012 update</i>	<b>ENVS 101, Spring 2012</b>	<b>Readings*</b>	<b>Bring to class</b>
10-Jan	Introduction to course and to environmental studies	Ch. 1	
12-Jan	<a href="#">Easter Island DVD</a> and discussion		
17-Jan	Environmental ethics and economics	Ch. 5	<a href="#">Easter Island write-up</a> (25)
19-Jan	Introduction to water issues	Ch. 12	
24-Jan	Water issues; article discussion	<a href="#">Is Vegas Burning? article</a>	<a href="#">Article important points</a> (25)
26-Jan	Ecosystem services	Parts of 2 and 5	
31-Jan	Environmental policy development	Ch. 5	
2-Feb			
7-Feb	<b>Test #1 (100)</b>		
9-Feb	Introduction to air issues; introduction to Lifestyles Change Project	Ch. 13	
14-Feb	Selected air pollution topics		
16-Feb	Air topics, cont.; Smog (Smog City activity)		Journal #1 (25)
21-Feb	Non-renewable energy topics	Ch. 15	Smog City write-up (25)
23-Feb	Renewable energy topics	Ch. 16	Journal #2 (25)
28-Feb	Article discussion; Climate Change	<i>Nuclear Power after Fukushima</i> article	Article important points (25)
1-Mar	Climate change	Ch. 14	

6-Mar			Journal #3 (25)
8-Mar	<b>Test #2 (100)</b>		
13-Mar	Spring Break		
15-Mar	Spring Break		
20-Mar	Land use topics introduction		
22-Mar	Urban settings; article discussion	<i>Sustainable Transportation</i> article	Article important points (25)
27-Mar	Urban settings	Ch. 18	
29-Mar	Forests and wild lands	Ch. 9	
3-Apr	Forests and wild lands		
5-Apr	Agricultural practices	Ch. 7	
10-Apr	Agricultural practices; article discussion	<i>Climate-smart agriculture</i> article	Article important points (25)
12-Apr			
17-Apr	<b>Test #3 (100)</b>		
19-Apr	Preparing for the final exam; course wrap-up		
24-Apr	Study Day		
27-Apr	Friday, 11:30 am Final Exam		

Readings come from Withgott and Laposata 2012. Essential Environment