

SYLLABUS and RULES

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Office - SWR 248

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Mission: This course brings together the fundamental scientific principles to help you understand the environmental problems and issues of today. Toward that goal, objective presentation and discussion is essential. I encourage you to actively participate and ask questions in class; or come by my office for help and discussion at any time. There are no pre-requisites for this course. It is assumed that you have learned fundamental concepts in biology, physics, chemistry, and math during your high school education. If you feel that you have a weakness for the sciences, I recommend setting aside more time for studying. The principal objectives of this course are to:

- 1) introduce you to the environmental/resource problems of the US & World,
- 2) develop a fundamental knowledge and understanding of these problems and their solutions (if they exist),
- 3) initiate critical thinking of your 'place' in the environment, and
- 4) hopefully, make you a better citizen and more-informed voter.

Lecture Text: *Environment* by Raven and Berg (5th edition). You can either buy the book from the bookstore or get the online version through the bookstore or directly from Wiley for \$35.95. This entails purchasing an access code at the following link: <http://www.wiley.com//college/buywileyplus/> Just click on the *WileyPLUS* Registration Codes link, Biology, and then the textbook which is listed among several others. This may also be a helpful link if the above one is not connecting: <http://www.wiley.com/college/sc/first/buy.html>

Grading: Lecture - 75% Two 100 point lecture exams and a 200 point final. The 2 lecture exams are given Thursday, February 20, 2008 and Thursday, April 2, 2008. The COMPREHENSIVE Final Exam, is Monday, May 5th at **8 am!!** Lecture average is 75% of your course grade.

Lab - 25% Your lab period is on WEDNESDAY of each week. Two 100 pt lab exams are given by your lab instructor - these count 80% of your lab grade. They are given during your regular laboratory. Additionally, there are quizzes given in lab, and these count 20% of your lab grade. The lab average is 25% of your course grade.

Letter grades: Based on **A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D= 60-69; F = below 60**

Grade Reporting If you would like to access your grade on the Internet, please provide me with a CODE word on the 1st exam. Your grade can then be accessed at: <http://www.ensc.tcu.edu/grades.html>

Make-up Exams: Do not miss scheduled exams unless you have a doctor's or Dean of Students written excuse. I reserve the right to give an oral exam as a make-up. Unexcused absence for an exam = 0.

Lecture Attendance: I take roll at the beginning of each class, so attendance is strongly encouraged. I never lower grades for lack of attendance in class, but if you cut class, you will be given the exact grade that you make. If you have 3 or less unexcused absences (or cuts) during the semester, however, and are on the grade borderline, then I will raise you to the next higher grade. For example, an average of 69.4 and 3 or less cuts, your final grade would be a C instead of an D - so attendance can make a difference in your final grade. If you come in after attendance has been taken), **it is your responsibility to stop after class and tell me.** Attendance in class is very IMPORTANT! The university attendance policy states that regular and punctual class attendance is essential and that no assigned work is excused because of absence, no matter what the cause.

Excused Absences: Those with University excuses to make up labs or exams must notify the appropriate instructor at least one week in advance of the absence and present a written excuse to make up the lab or exam.

Laboratory: The subject matter between lecture and lab is coordinated as much as possible. Labs may be made up only if you have an excused absence for the lab period missed. Missed labs MUST be made up prior the lab exam covering those labs.

Cell phones, etc: TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES, PAGERS, etc., during class!

“Certified Disability”

You must bring the appropriate paper work to me 1 day prior to the first exam, Thursday, 20 February 2008.

Field Trips: Your participation in all field trips is mandatory unless you have a doctor's or Dean of Students excuse. Please note the walking field trips, and wear appropriate attire.

“Extra Credit” - There is NO EXTRA CREDIT available for this class! There are ample opportunities (grades in both lecture and labs) for you to demonstrate your knowledge of environmental sciences during the semester.

Dropping: The last date to drop this class is Wednesday, March 19, 2008!