

**Geography 44:019 Contemporary Environmental Issues
Fall 2012**

Lecture: Monday/Wednesday, 12:30pm-1:20pm, Building: LIB Room: SHAM

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30-4:00 pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: H. Hiruma, S. Hubbard, T. Williams; office hours to be announced

Geography Departmental Office: 316 Jessup Hall

DEO: David Bennett, Chair, 306 Jessup Hall, 335-0158

Course description:

In this course, we will explore the causes and consequences of today's global environmental problems. We will begin with a basic overview of the biological, physical, and social processes and patterns that shape the earth's environment. We will then focus on many of earth's most urgent environmental issues, exploring them from an interdisciplinary perspective that emphasizes their causes and consequences and potential solutions. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Identify the main causes and consequences of environmental problems,
- Identify potential means for addressing environmental problems,
- Critically analyze environmental problems from an interdisciplinary perspective,
- Identify ways in which they interact with and impact the environment.

This course is approved for General Education Credit in the Social Sciences.

Required text:

Please note that the version of the text we are using, which includes a subscription to a companion website, cannot be purchased at websites such as Amazon.com and must either be purchased through the University of Iowa Bookstore or from the publisher. If you purchase a book from such a website, be sure to consider the additional cost of purchasing WileyPLUS independently (\$55.00) when making your choice.

Hardcopy:

P.H. Raven, D.M Hassenthal, L.R. Berg. 2012. *Environment*, 8th edition. John Wiley and Sons. ISBN-13: 978-1-118-28630-2. Be sure to get the version with WileyPLUS access or you will have to pay substantially more to purchase it separately. The version from the University of Iowa Bookstore includes Wiley Plus. Note that the bookstore ordered two versions, a hard cover and a loose leaf version. You only need one of these.

Etext: As an alternative to the hardcopy of the textbook, an e-text available with a WileyPLUS subscription (Go to <https://www.wileyplus.com/WileyCDA/>, click "Get started" under students, navigate to the University of Iowa and this course, click "Create Account", and "Buy Course Access".)

NOTE: We will begin using WileyPLUS in September. You will be required to complete assignments on this website for this course.

Additional readings: Available via ICON or on reserve in the main library

Tentative course schedule and readings (subject to change, internet assignments will be listed on-line, see separate handout):

Week	Date	Topic	Lecture readings	Discussion activities
<i>Environmental Foundations</i>				
1	20-Aug	Course overview		
	22-Aug	Environmental Science and Sustainability	Syllabus, Ch. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion overview • Calculating Your Ecological Footprint
2	27-Aug	Social Science Foundations – Ethics, Economics, and Policy	Ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue discussion I—Sustainability • Write-up due at start of class
	29-Aug	Social Science Foundations continued	Ch. 2	
3	3-Sept	Labor Day – no classes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz I (lecture material weeks 1-3) • Activity I – Ecosystem structure and function
	5-Sept	Ecological Foundations – Energy movement in ecosystems	Ch. 3	
4	10-Sept	Ecological Foundations – Non-living parts of ecosystems	Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity II – Density-dependent limiting factors
	12-Sept	Ecological Foundations – Living parts of ecosystems	Ch. 5	
5	17-Sept	Ecological Foundations – Living parts of ecosystem (continued)	Ch. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam review
	19-Sept	Ecological Foundations – Earth’s ecosystems	Ch. 6	
6	24-Sept	Exam I		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster session project overview and planning
<i>The Human Population</i>				
	26-Sept	Human Population Growth and the Environment	Ch. 8	
7	1-Oct	Environmental Health	Ch.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue discussion II – Environmental Health • Write-up due at start of class
<i>Environmental Issues on Land</i>				
	3-Oct	Land Use and Environmental Impact	Ch. 17	
8	8-Oct	Agriculture and the Environment – Soils	Ch. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz II (lecture material weeks 6,7, & 8) • Activity III -- Human population
	10-Oct	Agriculture and the Environment – Food Production	Ch. 18	
9	15-Oct	Agriculture and the Environment – Pests and Their Control	Ch. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Discussion III Video
	17-Oct	Cities and the Environment	Ch. 9	
10	22-Oct	Cities and the Environment II	Ch. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Discussion III video continued • Video discussion • Poster outline due

Week	Date	Topic	Lecture readings	Discussion activities
<i>Environmental Issues in the Water</i>				
	24-Oct	Water and Human Use	Ch. 13	
11	29-Oct	Water Pollution	Ch. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue discussion 3 write-up due at start of class • Activity IV – Carbon in the atmosphere
<i>Energy and the Environment</i>				
	31-Oct	Energy Use and the Environment	Ch. 10	
12	5-Nov	Fossil Fuels and the Environment	Ch. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster draft due • Exam Review
	7-Nov	Energy Alternatives	Ch. 12	
13	12-Nov	Energy Alternatives continued	Ch. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity V Energy use
	14-Nov	Exam II		
	19 & 21-Nov	Thanksgiving break, no classes		
<i>Environmental Issues in the Atmosphere</i>				
14	26-Nov	Air Pollution (use Smog City or assign as HW)	Ch. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster Session
	28-Nov	Global Climate Change	Ch. 20	
<i>Environmental Issues and Wild Species</i>				
15	3-Dec	Biodiversity Loss	Ch. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 (lecture material weeks 14-15) • Exam Review
<i>A sustainable future</i>				
	5-Dec	A plan for the future	Ch. 24	
	TBA	Final Exam		

Major assignments and grading scheme:

Discussion activities – These are simulation activities related to class topics that you will complete in your discussion section. Although we will provide laptops for work on these activities in groups, you may also bring your own laptop to use if you wish. More information is provided in the handout on this topic on ICON.

WileyPLUS assignments – These are assignments that you will complete on-line prior to each lecture starting in September. Instructions for these assignments will be given separately.

Lecture quizzes – These are unannounced quizzes that will occur in lecture and will be based on the readings for the day on which they occur.

Discussion quizzes – These are announced quizzes that will occur during your discussion section on the dates specified in the syllabus. These will be based on lecture material from recent classes.

Poster project – This is a project that will be assigned during one of your discussion section meetings. For this project you will work with a group to explore a particular environmental issue and will prepare a poster to present your findings to the class. More information is provided in the handout on this topic on ICON.

Exams – This course will have three exams – two midterms and a final exam. The final exam will be cumulative, but will focus on material from the last two weeks of class.

Assignment	Points possible	Date/location
Discussion activities (5)	75	15 points each, for dates see course schedule above
Lecture quizzes	50	Occasional lectures, unannounced
WileyPLUS assignments	100	Completed on-line prior to lectures starting in September
Discussion quizzes (3 total)	45	15 points each, for dates see course schedule above
Issue discussion write ups (3 total)	60	20 points each, for dates see course schedule above
Exam 1	100	24-Sept in lecture
Poster outline	10	Discussion section meeting week of 22-Oct
Exam 2	100	14-Nov in lecture
Poster draft plan	15	Discussion section meeting week of 12-Nov
Poster session	50	Discussion section meeting week of 26-Nov
Discussion participation	15	On-going assessment
Final Exam	100	TBA
Total	720	

Final grade	Percentage of total points	Final grade	Percentage of total points
A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	Below 60

Final grade calculation example:

Assignment	Points possible	Points earned
Discussion activities	75	64
Lecture quizzes	50	40
WileyPLUS assignments	100	85
Discussion quizzes (3 total)	45	38
Discussion article write ups (3 total)	60	50
Exam 1	100	85
Poster outline	10	10
Exam 2	100	95
Poster draft plan	15	15
Poster session	50	45
Discussion participation	15	10
Final Exam	100	83
Total	720	620
Final Grade	86%	B

Attendance policy:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. If a student is unable to attend a given lecture or discussion section, arrangements must be made with the instructor beforehand. **Students who miss or are late for a lecture or discussion section and miss a quiz or exam will not be allowed to make it up unless cleared beforehand with the instructor or a TA.** Students will be permitted to make up exams and quizzes missed because of documented illness (e.g., with a doctor's note), mandatory religious obligations, and some University activities. Please discuss all exam absences with your instructor and discussion section absences with your TA.

Instructions for submitting assignments:

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates specified above. With the exception of exams, all assignments must be submitted to your TA at the start of your scheduled discussion section.

Resources

Writing assistance – The Writing Center, <http://www.uiowa.edu/~writing/>

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Policies and Procedures

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced around the fifth week of the semester by the Registrar. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. **No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes.** All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the dates and times of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.