

ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies

Course Information

MWF 1:25-2:15pm
Harrison Hall 0163
3 Credits
LAC 6 / GTP

Instructor Information

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Student Hours

Location: CAND 2225
Tues 9am-11am
Weds 2:30pm-4:30pm
by appointment

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Welcome

Welcome to *Introduction to Environmental Studies*! This is one of my favorite courses to teach because we are going to answer many common questions regarding how we use our natural resources and how our actions may impact those same resources. My goal is that by the end of the class you will all have a better understanding of how the natural world is connected to you from a local to global scale.

Course Overview

In this course we will explore environmental issues and challenges faced by human societies in the 21st century, from a global scale to our own campus. The course is organized into 6 modules, starting with the scientific bases of environmental challenges.

There are weekly reading quizzes that are open book and designed to help you focus on important parts of the reading. I don't expect you to already know the material we cover in class and lectures will have a mix of presentation and activities to help you understand the material.

Course Purpose

Have you ever thought about where your water comes from or where it has been before getting to your faucet? Have you thought about what scientists really do or how we might use science to create policy? The main focus is critically examining the social, cultural, political, and ethical issues related to how we use natural resources. By the end of the course, you will be able to (1) Identify & remember the fundamental scientific principles governing environmental systems including the cycling of matter, the flow of energy, and the role of feedback, (2) Discuss the role of humans in the ongoing changes to the biosphere and the cultural, political, and economic causes, (3) Present and contrast multiple perspectives to environmental issues, and (4) analyze & evaluate options and strategies available for generating a more sustainable relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world.

Required Materials



You do not need to purchase a textbook or any other materials for this class. Instead, I provide all readings for this class as pdfs on the course Canvas page.

If you are interested in printing materials, I recommend going to one of the High Plains Library District libraries, where you can **print 200 pages a month with a free membership:**

<https://www.mylibrary.us/computer-usage-wi-fi/#printing>



Only within the moment of time represented by the present century has one species - man - acquired significant power to alter the nature of his world.

- Rachel Carson

Course Assessments

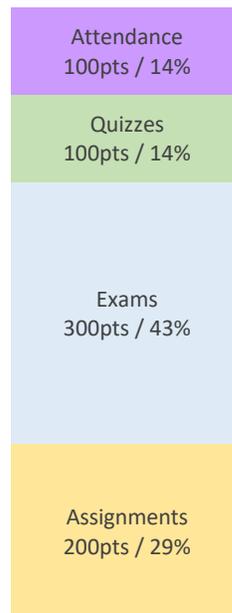
You will be assessed based on class attendance, weekly reading quizzes, two assignments, and three exams. Late work will be reduced one grade per day.

| Attendance | Weekly Quizzes | Exams | Harvest of Shame | Sustainability Project |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance is required and will be recorded every class Everyone gets 3 excused absences to be used for things such as illness or personal situations. Attendance score is calculated as a % of total classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 pts each 11 quizzes, none on exam weeks Lowest Score dropped Due Sunday at 11:59pm Consists of multiple choice and fill in the blank questions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be 3 exams, each worth 100 points. The 3rd exam will be given during finals week and will not be cumulative. Each exam consists of 40 multiple choice and matching questions with 2 short answer/essay questions. Exam study guides are available on CANVAS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near the end of the semester we will watch a CBS documentary and read 2 articles. Then you will write a reading reflection regarding the video and articles There will be prompts provided to guide your reflection, but keep in mind this is an opportunity to showcase your understanding of course topics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student teams will write a proposal for a sustainability project on campus Teams will analyze the root of the problem, propose a solution, and evaluate similar projects at other universities or cities.  |

Grade Breakdown

| ASSIGNMENT | COMPONENTS | POINTS |
|---------------------|--|------------|
| Attendance | 3 excused absences | 100 |
| Weekly Quizzes | 10 points each (lowest dropped) | 100 |
| Exam 1 | | 100 |
| Exam 2 | | 100 |
| Exam 3 | | 100 |
| LEAF Proposal | Topic: 10 pts Plan: 25pts Discussion: 25 pts Proposal: 40 pts | 100 |
| Harvest Assignment | | 100 |
| TOTAL POINTS | | 700 |

Point Distribution



Grading Scale

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| A | 100% - 90% / 630 - 700 pts |
| B | < 90% - 80% / 560 - 629 pts |
| C | < 80% - 70% / 490 - 559 pts |
| D | < 70% - 60% / 420 - 489 pts |
| F | < 60% / <419 pts |

Student Support

What should I do to be successful in this course?

- Recognize that this course will take some **time** and expect to put the **time** into this course needed to earn the grade you want. You will need to do readings, homework, attend class, and study for exams.
- **Study often and regularly.** One of the biggest challenges will be how much material we cover and how quickly we do so. The solution to this is to keep up with the notes and study daily – the reading quizzes will help keep you on track.
- Please make sure you **let me know if something isn't clear.** Every class period builds on the previous class and if there aren't any questions or concerns then we will move on. There will be opportunity to provide input anonymously during class and you are always welcome to stop me during lecture by raising your hand to ask a question.
- Tutorial Services (TS) provides **free peer-led tutoring services and academic skills sessions** to UNC students enrolled in undergraduate-level courses. These aren't just for students who are failing and many high achieving students are successful because they use services like tutoring. You can make an appointment at Michener L49 or online: <https://www.unco.edu/tutoring/>

| BEFORE CLASS | DURING CLASS | AFTER CLASS |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the articles• Do your reading quiz• Note difficult concepts• Check due dates of assignments• Print the lecture slides if you want | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay engaged• Take notes• Circle difficult concepts• Ask Questions• Participate in Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recopy notes in your own words• Find answers to questions• Study as if you have an exam |

What should I do if I need help?

Please contact me if something comes up and you're having a hard time keeping up, if you have a question about the material, a concern about the class, a problem with CANVAS, or you just want to talk sustainability!

If there is something going on that is preventing you from being successful in the class, please let me know or contact one of the support services on campus:

- UNC provides **group, individual, and couples counseling, psychiatric services, crisis support, consultation, and outreach programming to the UNC community.** Our goal is to support students throughout their academic journeys towards healthy and meaningful college experiences. Counseling services are **free** to UNC students. <https://www.unco.edu/counseling-center/>
- UNC offers **assistance to students facing food insecurity** through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A, and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please visit www.unco.edu/bear-pantry for more information.
- Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is also urged to contact Student Outreach and Support (SOS) for assistance. **SOS can assist students during difficult circumstances which may include medical, mental health, personal or family crisis, illness or injury.** SOS can be reached at sos@unco.edu or via phone at 970-351-2796.

Policies

It is very important to me that all my students have the support to be successful in my courses and develop their professional and academic skills. Below is information regarding resources and support services that I commonly see students using and some key policies regarding professional conduct. More information about Equity & Inclusion and other University Policies can be found at the following link:

<https://www.unco.edu/student-affairs/division-support/syllabi-statements.aspx>

Contacting me outside of class

Sometimes it can be intimidating to talk with a professor one-on-one, particularly because the professor will ultimately be assigning you a grade. So, I want to let you know that you are welcome to bring someone else with you to meet with me. For example, you could bring another student in the class, a friend, or another person from the university such as another professor, a director of a cultural center or student success center. I am also ok with you talking with someone else in the university, such as a fellow student, another faculty member, a director of a cultural center or student success center, or your coach and having them call me to talk with me about the issues you are facing.

Disability Resource Center

Disabilities are not a reflection of your intelligence or who you are, but how your brain or body works. If you need some help like extra time on an exam, note taking, use of videos with captions, or have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact Disability Support services. This will help you gain access to resources and also let me know how I can best accommodate your needs. I'm also happy to talk to you about what this entails if you're not sure whether it's for you.

It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Resource Center (DRC) to request accommodations.

Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80.

Students can learn more here: www.unco.edu/disability-resource-center

Honor Code & Academic Integrity

While you will likely work closely with your classmates on many assignments in this class and I encourage you to study together, in accordance with the student honor code, any copying or cheating will result in a zero score for that entire assignment. Depending on the nature of the situation, the paper will be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office with a recommendation for disciplinary action. Plagiarism is a serious offence and I will be working with you through activities and assignments to help you identify what, exactly, is considered plagiarism. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website:

http://www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code/index.html.

gtPathways

This course meets requirements for GT Pathways, which means it transfers easily to other Colorado Universities. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to

<http://highereducation.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>

COURSE OUTLINE

| Week | Dates | Topics & Presentations | Graded Assigns | Due | |
|--|---|---|------------------------|--------|--|
| Module 1: Science & Scientific Principles | | | | | |
| Week 1 | 26-Aug | Introduction, Syllabus, Course Description and Expectations | | | |
| | 28-Aug | What are “Environmental and Sustainability Studies”? | | | |
| | 30-Aug | What is Environmental Science? | | | |
| Week 2 | 2-Sep | No class - Labor Day | Reading Quiz 1 | 3-Sep | |
| | 4-Sep | Biodiversity & Conservation | | | |
| | 6-Sep | Biodiversity & Conservation | | | |
| Module 2: The Anthropocene | | | | | |
| Week 3 | 9-Sep | Human Population Growth | Reading Quiz 2 | 8-Sep | |
| | 11-Sep | Student LEAF - Introduction Campus Sustainability Projects | | | |
| | 13-Sep | Human Population Growth | Topic Choices Due | 13-Sep | |
| Week 4 | 16-Sep | Careers & Values - Guest Presentation from Career Services | Reading Quiz 3 | 15-Sep | |
| | 18-Sep | Media, Communication, Behavior Change | | | |
| | 20-Sep | Group Project Work in Class | Groups Assigned | | |
| Week 5 | 23-Sep | Media, Communication, Behavior Change | Reading Quiz 4 | 22-Sep | |
| | 25-Sep | Campus Sustainability | | | |
| | 27-Sep | Campus Sustainability | Proposal Plan Due | 27-Sep | |
| Week 6 | 30-Sep | EXAM 1 - Covers Modules 1 and 2 | No Reading Quiz | | |
| | Module 3: Sustainable Development, Design, and Education | | | | |
| | 2-Oct | Ecological Footprint / Library Instruction | | | |
| | 4-Oct | Ecological Footprint / Library Instruction | | | |
| Week 7 | 7-Oct | Economics, Policy, & Development | Reading Quiz 5 | 6-Oct | |
| | 9-Oct | Economics, Policy, & Development | | | |
| | 11-Oct | Economics, Policy, & Development | | | |
| Module 4: Resources and The Use | | | | | |
| Week 8 | 14-Oct | Facilities Building Tour – Meet by Tobey Kendel | Reading Quiz 6 | 13-Oct | |
| | 16-Oct | Water | | | |
| | 18-Oct | Water | Post Discussion Boards | 18-Oct | |
| Week 9 | 21-Oct | Energy | Reading Quiz 7 | 20-Oct | |
| | 23-Oct | Energy | | | |
| | 25-Oct | Energy | Discussion Boards Due | 25-Oct | |
| Week 11 | 28-Oct | Food | Reading Quiz 8 | 27-Oct | |
| | 30-Oct | Food | | | |
| | 1-Nov | Food | | | |
| Week 12 | 4-Nov | EXAM 2 - Covers Modules 3 and 4 | No Reading Quiz | | |
| | Module 5: Earth and Atmospheric Health | | | | |
| | 6-Nov | Pollution | | | |
| | 8-Nov | Video: The Silent Spring of Rachel Carson | | | |
| Week 13 | 11-Nov | Pollution | Reading Quiz 9 | 10-Nov | |
| | 13-Nov | Pollution | | | |
| | 15-Nov | Global Climate Change | | | |
| Week 14 | 18-Nov | Global Climate Change | Reading Quiz 10 | 17-Nov | |
| | 20-Nov | Global Climate Change | | | |
| | 22-Nov | Global Climate Change | Final Proposals Due | 22-Nov | |
| Module 6: Environmental Justice & Social Equity | | | | | |
| Week 15 | 25-Nov | Video: 'Harvest Of Shame' | Reading Quiz 11 | 24-Nov | |
| | 27-Nov | THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS | | | |
| Week 16 | 2-Dec | Cultural Diversity & Social Justice | | | |
| | 4-Dec | Cultural Diversity & Social Justice | | | |
| | 6-Dec | Course wrap up and final quiz | Harvest of Shame Due | 6-Dec | |
| FINALS | Finals Week Dec 9 – 13: Final Exam - Covers Modules 3 and 4: Tuesday Dec 10th at 1:30pm | | | | |