Syllabus
BIOL 2406 – Environmental Biology
Fall 2014

I. Effective Date: Fall 2014

II. Course Number: BIOL 2406

III. Semester Credit Hours: 4

IV. Time: TR 10:30-11:45am

V. Location: SCIT 302

VI. Instructor: Dr. Kati I. Stoddard
Assistant Professor
STEM 318A
903-334-6658
kstoddard@tamut.edu

VII. Office hours: MW 10-12 pm; or by appointment

VIII. Required Text:
Text Options:
1) Hardbound Print Text + Modified Mastering access, ISBN: 0133899152
2) Loose Leaf Print Text + Modified Mastering access, ISBN: 032197638X
3) E-Text + Modified Mastering access, ISBN: 0321939611

One of the above three choices is required. Students will be required to have access to Modified MasteringEnvironmentalScience. This access is most affordable when purchased bundled with a textbook (hardbound, loose leaf, or e-text). Students who do not purchase a text bundled with the Modified Mastering code will have to purchase the code separately through a BlackBoard link. The code will be required to complete class assignments. Do NOT purchase the code for MasteringEnvironmentalScience from www.pearson.com. This will not give you the access you need to course materials. Instructions for purchasing the Modified MasteringEnvironmentalScience code will be provided on BlackBoard.

IX. Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to the basic principles of environmental biology, ecology, and the relationship between humans and the natural world. This course will provide students with a broad survey of environmental science with emphasis on scientific literacy, current events, global and international issues, and historic context. Conservation, pollution, energy and other contemporary ecological problems are just some of the topics which will be addressed. Expected learning outcomes are listed below.

X. Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs):
Although this course is not part of the TAMUT Core Curriculum, this course is still in pursuit of the four Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs) for the Natural Sciences. These CCOs are as follows:

1. Critical Thinking—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**—to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

4. **Teamwork**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

To achieve the above CCOs this course will take a flipped approach to classroom activities. Students will be expected to read the assigned chapters and complete the online assignments before coming to class. Class time will then be used for engaging activities, discussion, case-studies and other similar activities. In order to succeed in this class you must prepare for class. This class is not a place where you will be able to passively sit and listen. You will be required to be active in YOUR learning process.

**XI. Course Learning Objectives (SLOs)**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Apply information learned through readings and other media posted with the learning management system (LMS)
2. Comprehend the interdisciplinary (e.g. agricultural science, biology, chemistry, ecology, economics, geology, history, policy, etc.) concepts integral to environmental science
3. Analyze current environmental issues and evaluate potential solutions
4. Relate the features of human populations to different types of environmental degradation
5. Assess the costs/benefits of conservation vs. remediation or technological solutions.
6. Recognize the impact of globalization on the environment
7. Recognize the ecological footprints left by different peoples of the Earth
8. Participate in class discussions and review student presentations
9. Work effectively in a group to create a presentation about an assigned country
XIII. Methods of Evaluation:

1) Reading Quizzes:
Environmental science is a massively large field and while it would be impossible to review every individual concept during class time, it is reasonable to expect you can read 1 to 2 chapters from the textbook and review the online material posted each week. Further, there will be 13 online reading Quizzes via Blackboard used to measure mastery of concepts in the readings and online materials. In addition, these quizzes will serve as reviews for material that will be on the unit exams. The 13 assessments (online quizzes) will **count for 30% of the overall grade** (Drop the lowest quiz grade; 2.5 points each). The online Quizzes will be posted each week at 2pm on Tuesday and be available until they close at 10pm on Friday. There will be no time restrictions for how long you take to complete homework assignments aside from the 10pm deadline on Friday. **The syllabus quiz is required for all students. Students must have completed the syllabus quiz to be eligible for future quizzes.**

2) Exams:
There will be **3 unit exams, each worth 10% of the course grade.** The exams will be based on material from readings, posted resources, and class discussions/activities. One week prior to the exam a review will be posted to guide your studying. Dates of exams are indicated in the syllabus.

No exam grades will be dropped. Question format will include a combination of multiple-choice, matching, short answer diagramming/labeling, and essay. Make-up exams may be arranged with an appropriate, University-sanctioned excuse or approved medical excuse. You must contact Dr. Stoddard within 48 hours of the exam to discuss your eligibility for a make-up and schedule a make-up date. Students who wait longer than 48 hours to contact the professor forfeit their opportunity to make up an exam.

Exam Policy:
- No student taking an exam may leave the classroom after the exam begins until the exam has been completed.
- No student may begin an exam after the first student has left the classroom.
- Students arriving after the first student has left will receive a zero for that exam.
- No electronic devices may be used during a testing event, unless approved by the Disability Services Office and the instructor.
- Alteration of scantron bubbles after the exam was graded is considered as cheating. (See “Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty” statement for information on the consequences of cheating.)
- Students will provide their own scantrons for exams.

The **FINAL EXAMINATION is scheduled for: Tuesday December 8, 2014—10:30-12:30 pm**

3) Attendance and Class Participation (A&P):
Regular and punctual class attendance (both physical and mental) is expected. You are expected to arrive on time and remain until the class is dismissed by the professor. **Attendance and class participation** will account for **10% of the grade** (28 class days; 0.36 pts/class meeting). An attendance sign-in sheet will be circulated each day of class. Each unexcused absence will be a deduction of 0.36 points up to a total of 10 points associated with attendance and participation total. One half of the points attributable to A&P will be awarded for attendance and 1/2 of the A&P points will be awarded for participation. (See BlackBoard Section “How My A&P Points are Calculated” for additional information). Participation will involve the subjective assessment by the instructor of the degree to which you contribute meaningfully to class discussion as well as evidence of active listening.
A student with perfect attendance and with perfect participation will earn 5 points for attendance and 5 points for participation.

Authorized absences are granted for students who are approved by the appropriate administrator of the University to miss class. Examples of authorized absences include class field trips, University-sponsored workshops, musical performances, and intercollegiate sports participation. Students missing class because they were sick will be allowed to make up the missed work under the following conditions:

1. They have a dated doctor’s note which either excuses them from class on the day and time they missed or took place on the day and time they missed.

2. Students missing class for non-emergency and routine doctor visits will not be considered eligible for making up missed work (i.e. if you schedule a doctor’s appointment for a physical or teeth cleaning during class, you will not be able to make up the work you miss)

Extenuating circumstances, which cause students to class, but which do not fall in the above categories can be communicated to the professor, who will evaluate the situation on a case-by-case basis. Prompt and courteous communication is highly recommended.

In the event of an absence, notes should be obtained from a classmate (i.e. MAKE FRIENDS). You will be responsible for all class material that was discussed during your absence.

4) **Group Presentations:** Students will work in learning teams of 2-3 students. Each team will select a country from a list provided by the instructor to prepare a poster presentation highlighting the demographics and environmental issues of that country. Each team will prepare 1) a list of references which will be approved by the professor, 2) a rough draft of the poster, and 3) a poster to present at a poster session at the end of the semester. Student grades for the poster will be based on a combination of the professor’s assessment of the project, student evaluations of each member on the team, and peer evaluations from other teams.

Teams will present their posters at the poster session. Attendance at the poster session is **required.** A minimum of 4 approved references must be used to prepare the poster. Instructions regarding the details of the poster and suitable references will be posted on Blackboard and discussed during class meeting times. The poster session is scheduled for **Friday November 21 from 4-7pm.**

**Grade Point Distribution:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Assessments/Online Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2 Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Poster Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Grading Scale:
A = 90 to 100%
B = 80 to 89%
C = 70 to 79%
D = 60 to 69%
F = 59 and below

XIV. Library/Media Resources Assessment:
A. Books/Periodicals/Electronic Data Bases/Software/Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Available?</th>
<th>If “No,” Est.Cost</th>
<th>Signature, Library Director</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All University library resources are available for student research and as sources.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Computing/Multimedia/Online Media Resources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Available?</th>
<th>If “No,” Est.Cost</th>
<th>Signature, Assoc. VP, IT</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All University library online resources are available for student research and as sources.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XV. Student Participation:

a. Participation Policy:
Students are expected to be active and engaged learners in the course. Students will meet this expectation by reviewing/reading the chapter before coming to class, coming to class prepared to learn, participating in Learning Catalytics Exercises and in class-assignments/exercises, and by actively participating in the group poster project.

b. Course Etiquette/Expectations:
Disruptions and disrespectful behavior are damaging to the educational process. Therefore, the following class rules will apply to all students.

- Cell phones, pagers and other wireless communication devices (e.g. pda’s, blackberry devices, etc.) must be turned OFF or set to silent mode during class and put away.
- Electronic devices will be used in class for learning purposes. However, if a student is using an electronic device for an unapproved purpose (e.g. texting, playing games, etc.) the professor may confiscate the device for the remainder of the class or dismiss the offender from class.
- You will be expected to be in class, seated and ready to participate at the beginning of the class time.
- You will be expected to spend the entire period in class. Attend to restroom and other needs before class so that you will not have to leave during class time.
Talking and texting during class is disrespectful to me and to your classmates. Offenders may be asked to leave the class.

You are expected to do your own work for all graded material. The professor will inform you when you are encouraged to work in teams or pairs on assignments.

You are expected to contribute to class discussions.

Be tolerant of differences in opinion. Keep an open mind and treat members of this class, guest speakers and me with respect.

Exceptions to any rule should be approved by the professor prior to the class period.

c. **Attendance and Absences:**

   Regular and punctual class attendance (both physical and mental) is expected. You are expected to arrive on time and remain until the class is dismissed by the professor. Authorized absences are granted for students who are approved by the appropriate administrator of the University. Examples of authorized absences include class field trips, University-sponsored workshops, musical performances, and intercollegiate sports participation. Students missing an in-class assignment/lab activity or exam because they were sick will be allowed to make up the missed work under the following conditions:

   1. They have a dated doctor’s note which either excuses them from class on the day and time they missed or took place on the day and time they missed.

   2. Students missing class for non-emergency and routine doctor visits will not be considered eligible for making up missed work (i.e. if you schedule a doctor’s appointment for a physical or teeth cleaning during class, you will not be able to make up the work you miss)

   A student who misses class for a medical reason or University authorized absence must contact me promptly to inform me of their excused absence and to set up a time to make-up the missed work. All work missed by a student must be made-up within a week’s time from the date of absence.

   Extenuating circumstances, which cause students to miss an assignment, quiz or exam, but which do not fall in the above categories can be communicated to the professor. The professor will evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis. Prompt and courteous communication is highly recommended.

   It is understood that students have life obligations or have some other reason for not attending class. Therefore, class attendance will be taken at randomly selected times. Because information in this course builds with each successive class meeting, success in this course is heavily influenced by attendance. In the event of an absence, notes should be obtained from a classmate (i.e. MAKE FRIENDS). You will be responsible for all class material that was covered during your absence.

d. **Discussion Board Standards:** not applicable for this class

XVI. **Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

XVII. **Academic Integrity:**

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of ‘F’ in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.
XVIII. A&M-Texarkana Email Address:
Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

XIX. Drop Policy:
To drop this course after the census date, a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website (http://tamut.edu/Student-Support/Registrar/Dropping.html) or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

XX. Student Technical Assistance:
Solutions to common problems and FAQ’s for your web-enhanced and web courses are found at this link: http://www.tamut.edu/Training/Student%20Training/index.html

If you cannot find your resolution there, you can send in a support request detailing your specific problem here: http://www.tamut.edu/techde/support.htm

Blackboard Helpdesk contacts (office hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00a to 5:00p)
Julia Allen (main contact) 903-223-3154 julia.allen@tamut.edu
Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu
Jayson Ferguson (alternate) 903-223-3105 jayson.ferguson@tamut.edu

XXI. Technical Requirements:
Minimum Windows PC Requirements:
- Pentium IV 1.5GHz+ (preferred: Core Duo)
- 1 GB RAM minimum (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum – Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Windows 2000, XP, Vista or 7
- Web browser (Internet Explorer 7.0+; Firefox 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97
- Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10+, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment (Java 1.6.0_15), Windows Media Player 10+, RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.
- Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)
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- Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Windows Operating Systems:
  - Internet Explorer 8 or 9 (IE is not supported on Windows XP)
  - Mozilla Firefox 3.6+
  - Google Chrome

Minimum Apple Macintosh Requirements:
- Intel Core 2.0GHz+
- 1 GB RAM (preferred: 2 GB)
- 128MB Video Card minimum - Sound Card is required for some courses
- 56K modem minimum (Cable or DSL required for some courses)
- Web browser (Firefox 3.0+ ; Safari 3.0+)
- Microsoft Word, minimum Office 97
- Some courses will need plug-ins such as Flash player 10+, QuickTime player 7.0+, Adobe Reader 9.0+, Java Runtime Environment, RealPlayer, and Macromedia/Adobe Shockwave.
- Some online courses may also require a CD ROM (8x minimum, higher recommended)
- Blackboard has certified the following browsers for computers running Macintosh Operating Systems:
  - Mac OS 10.2 (Jaguar): (Safari 1 is compatible)
  - Mac OS 10.3 (Panther): Safari 1.2 (Firefox 1.5 is compatible)
  - Mac OS 10.4 (Tiger): Safari 2 and Firefox 1.5
  - Mac OS 10.5 (Leopard): (Firefox 2.0 is compatible)

I-OS and Android Devices

These devices are currently supported using the Blackboard Mobile App, available for free from your App Store or scan the code below:

To access Texas A&M University - Texarkana, there is an individual license fee of $1.99 per year or $5.99 lifetime. This fee gives you access to the university from all your (same platform) devices; it is not necessary to pay the fee for each device you own.

Release of Grades:
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (1974), does not permit faculty or staff to report grades by phone or email. In addition, per University policy, grades cannot be posted. Grades will be posted continuously on Blackboard.
### Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 31- Oct 19</td>
<td>Pre-registration (according to classification) for 2nd 8 week session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18-22</td>
<td>Emergency Loans for Fall I available</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 18-22</td>
<td>Book Vouchers for Fall I available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>First class day for 16 week (full term) &amp; 1st 8 week term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25-27</td>
<td>Late Registration for 16 week (full term) &amp; 1st 8 week term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, noon</td>
<td>Last day to pay tuition for 16 week (full term) and 1st 8 week term. First installment payment is due. (Students will be dropped for non-payment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, noon</td>
<td>Due date for Housing and Meal Plans (for payment options contact Business Office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Labor Day. No classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>1st 8 week census. Last day to drop/withdraw no grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>16 week (full term) census. Last day to drop/withdraw no grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Last day to apply for fall 2014 graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>2nd installment due by 4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Last day to drop/withdraw 1st 8 week with a W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>3rd installment payment due by 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>16 week (full term) midterm grades due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 16</td>
<td>Last class day, 1st 8 week term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17</td>
<td>1st 8 week finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>First class day, 2nd 8 week term</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Late Registration for 2nd 8 week term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>2nd 8 week census, last day drop/withdraw- no grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 3- Jan 19</td>
<td>Pre-Registration (according to classification)- Spring 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Final installment due by 4:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>16 week last day to drop/withdraw with a W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>2nd 8 week last day to drop/withdraw with a W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27-28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday. University Closed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Last class day- 16 week (full term) &amp; 2nd 8 week</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8-10</td>
<td>Final Exam week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Final grades due for graduating seniors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>December 2014 commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 15</td>
<td>Final grades due for all students - 5 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>