INTRODUCTION to ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

EVR 1001

Course Description:

Introduction to Environmental Science (EVR 1001) is a survey of basic chemical, biological, and physical principles of environmental science and their applications to environmental issues. This course is appropriate for students in a wide range of disciplines or programs.

The course covers a broad range of key topics in environmental science including population dynamics, critical thinking in environmental science, unique Earth, energy and hydrologic cycles, biogeochemical cycles, ecosystems and ecology, biodiversity, conservation biology, climate change, ecological restoration, agriculture and food supply, water resources and pollution, waste management, fossil fuels, environmental health, alternative energy sources, and environmental policy and economics.

The primary goal is to give science and non-science majors including students in the liberal studies program an understanding of how science works, the elemental, hydrologic and energy cycles, as well as major environmental issues facing the growing population on Earth and how these may be addressed using data driven analyses.

Course Learning Objectives (including liberal studies learning objectives assigned to the course):

State of Florida Core Learning Objectives:
1. Students will apply critical thinking to analysis and interpretation of environmental information and model output.
2. Students will apply the scientific method to explain natural experiences and phenomena.
3. Students will explain the basic chemical, biological, and physical principles of environmental science.
4. Students will use empirical evidence to describe the historical and modern context of environmental problems and their solutions.

Additionally, at the end of this class students:
1. will be able to describe the relationships between components of the natural world and the effect of the built world upon it.
2. will be able to analyze environmental problems and identify the risks caused by them.
3. will have a basic knowledge of hazardous materials.
4. will understand basic concepts of air and water pollution, especially nutrient pollution.
5. will be able to describe solid and liquid waste disposal and treatment issues.

Natural Sciences Objectives:
This course has been approved to meet FSU’s Liberal Studies Natural Sciences requirement and helps you become an effective interpreter of scientific results and a critical analyst of claims about the natural world.

By the end of this course, students will:
1. Pose questions or hypotheses based on scientific principles.
2. Use appropriate scientific methods and evidence to evaluate claims or theoretical arguments about the natural world.
3. Analyze and interpret research results using appropriate methods.

Grading Assignments: (Assignments typically associated with the course. Not every section is expected to have all the assignments on this list; but the list should include all possible assignments.)
- Class attendance & participation
- Quizzes
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam
- Scientific Reasoning Paper

University Attendance Policy
Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family, and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of student’s academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy

Academic Success
Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

Americans With Disabilities Act
Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with the academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet the integral requirements of the course.
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:
(1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
(2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
(3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in an alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the: Office of Accessibility Services, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), oas@fsu.edu, https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas

Confidential Campus Resources: Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Room 4100
(850) 644-7161, Available 24/7/365,
Office Hours: M-F 8-5 https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
Florida State University’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) primary mission is to address psychological needs and personal concerns, which may interfere with students’ academic progress, social development, and emotional well-being. The following in-person and virtual (tele-mental health) services are available to all enrolled students residing in the state of Florida:
1. Individual therapy
2. Group therapy
3. Crisis Intervention
4. Psychoeducational and outreach programming
5. After hours crisis-hotline
6. Access to community providers for specialized treatment
Call 850-644-TALK (8255) for more information on how to initiate services.

Counseling & Psychological Services
250 Askew Student Life Building
942 Learning Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Phone: 850-644-TALK (8255)
Walk-in and Appointment Hours:
M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Services at UHS are available to all enrolled students residing in Florida:
The mission of University Health Services (UHS) is to promote and improve the overall health and well-being of FSU students. UHS provides a coordinated continuum of care through prevention, intervention, and treatment.
Services include general medical care, priority care, gynecological services, physicals, allergy injection clinic, immunizations, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and a medical response unit. The Center for Health Advocacy and Wellness (CHAW) assists students in their academic success through individual, group, and population-based health and wellness initiatives. Topics include wellness, alcohol and other drugs, hazing prevention, nutrition and body image, sexual health, and power based personal violence prevention. For more information, go to uhs.fsu.edu.

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
960 Learning Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Hours: M-F, 8 am – 4 pm
Phone: 850-644-6230