

**Environmental Geosciences
Fall 2007**

Syllabus

Instructors:

- **Karen McNeal**
 - **Office Hours: M-F, 8:00 am – 9:00 am (Central)**
- **John Rodgers**
 - **Office Hours: M-F, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Central)**

Information:

- Email contact for the instructors is via WebCT
- For all technical issues email Tracy Craven at TCraven@aoce.msstate.edu
- For all general inquiries email Joy Bailey at JBailey@aoce.msstate.edu
- MSU Bookstore (662) 325-1576 or 325-2249
- Geosciences Fax (662) 325-9423
- Textbook = Environmental Science (10th Ed.) by Richard Wright.
***Other readings (websites, PDFs etc.) will be provided under “Lectures” folder on the WebCT homepage.

Purpose and Course Goals:

This course will examine human interactions with the landscape, and in so doing, it will hopefully synthesize the Earth and Atmospheric courses that you have already had. In addition, course material will focus on the interconnectivity of Geoscience processes and people. Lecture topics for the course include: environmental history, human population, energy, pollution, global climate change, invasive species, solid and toxic waste, environmental policy, and environmental ethics. At the conclusion of the course, TIG students should have a better understanding of the interconnectivity of people and the landscape.

Course Objectives:

- 1) To introduce the history of the Environmental movement & the basic principles of Environmental Science
- 2) To provide students with an understanding of the interrelatedness of Earth's spheres (& the complexity of environmental issues)
- 3) To study human impacts on Earth through case studies so that each student can understand & assess environmental risks/hazards
- 4) To develop critical thinking & analytical skills through the study of environmental issues & their application on a local, regional & global scale

- 5) To improve writing skills by synthesizing information from a variety of sources and expressing your point of view.
- 6) To foster environmental stewardship

Methods of Instruction: This course will be presented in a slightly different manner than most of the TIG/DL classes. First, PowerPoint lectures will be available via WebCT, and these will be used in place of the traditional DVDs. No DVDs will be mailed; all the lecture material will be online. In addition, readings from the textbook and from other advanced sources will be required. The advanced readings will be available as PDF files from the WebCT. Note: This is a new method of instruction in TIG, and as a result there may be some growing pains. The instructors ask for your patience and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Lecture Topics and Readings:

Week #	Dates	Topic	Textbook Chapters
1	Aug. 21 – Sept. 5	Environmental History	1*
2	Aug. 21 – Sept. 12	Human Population	5* and 6*
3	Aug. 21 – Sept. 19	Fossil Fuels	12*
4	Sept. 5 – Sept. 26	Nuclear Energy	13*
5	Sept. 12 – Oct. 3	Renewable Energy	14*
6	Sept. 19 – Oct. 10	Global Climate Change	20*
7	Sept. 26 – Oct. 24	Atmosphere Pollution	21*
8	Oct. 3 – Oct. 31	Hydrosphere Pollution	17*
9	Oct. 10 – Nov. 7	Solid Waste and Toxic Waste	18* and 19*
10	Oct. 24 – Nov. 14	Invasive Species	10*
11	Oct. 31 – Nov. 28	Environmental Policy	22* and 23*
12	Nov. 7 – Dec. 5	Environmental Ethics	23*

Note: * = additional readings may be required.

Grades and Assignments:

Grades will be based on weekly quizzes, quarterly homeworks, and a midterm and final exam.

Item		Points	Due Date
Quizzes*	Quiz 1	10	Sept. 5
	Quiz 2	10	Sept. 12
	Quiz 3	10	Sept. 19
	Quiz 4	10	Sept. 26
	Quiz 5	10	Oct. 3
	Quiz 6	10	Oct. 10
	Quiz 7	10	Oct. 24
	Quiz 8	10	Oct. 31
	Quiz 9	10	Nov. 7
	Quiz 10	10	Nov. 14
	Quiz 11	10	Nov. 28
	Quiz 12	10	Dec. 5
	Total	110* (22%)	
Homework**	Homework 1	50	Sept. 19
	Homework 2	50	Oct. 10
	Homework 3	50	Nov. 7
	Homework 4	50	Dec. 5
	Total	200 (40%)	
Test	Midterm	95	Oct. 17
	Final	95	Dec. 10
	Total	190 (38%)	
Total Points		500	

Note: * = the lowest quiz grade will be dropped, only 11 quizzes will be counted.

Note: ** = submission of all homework is required, not turning in a homework may result in failure of the course.

Final grades will be based on the following point distribution:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points (500 maximum)</u>
A	450+
B	400 – 449
C	350 – 399
D	300 – 349
F	< 300

Course Policies:

Missed Exams: Exam, quizzes, and homework dates are given in advance so take them into account when scheduling doctor's appointments etc. throughout the semester. No make-up exams will be given without sufficient medical or court documentation **on official letterhead**. Late or make up exams must be approved by Dr. Karen McNeal and Dr. John Rodgers.

Technical difficulties: Should you experience technical difficulties during a timed exam, test etc., make a note of the time left on the clock & exit WebCT. Try to log back into WebCT and finish your assignment. If you had 15 minutes on the clock at the time you exited, you are permitted those 15 minutes past the 00:00 deadline. (Don't worry, WebCT has an internal clock so we can verify your time). After you've finished, email Tracy our computer person immediately to document your technical difficulties: Tcraven@aoce.msstate.edu. **You will NOT be penalized for documented and corroborated technical difficulties.** If you cannot log back in to complete your timed assignment, please email Tracy right away. If you experience technical problems on a Saturday afternoon, she will contact you as soon as possible on Monday after she receives your email.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating, you will receive a zero on that assignment and risk other penalties/consequences. Please familiarize yourself with MSU's policy regarding academic integrity:
<http://www.msstate.edu/dept/audit/1207A.html>

Students with Disabilities: Students with any form of disability (physical, learning, psychological) need to contact the office of Student Support Services at: <http://www.msstate.edu/dept/sss/> (SSS Phone: 662-325-3335) and the lead instructor ASAP to discuss the appropriate adaptations to the course.