**Course Syllabus:**

**Wayland Baptist University**

**Virtual Campus**

**School of Mathematics and Sciences**

**WAYLAND MISSION STATEMENT:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

**COURSE:** **ENVS 4101 – VC01 - Environmental Science Seminar**

**TERM: FALL 2017**

**INSTRUCTOR**  Dr. Herb Grover

**Office:** On Line from Home Location

**Phone:** 806-292-2082 (email or text preferred; cell service not reliable)

**email:** herbert.grover@wayland.wbu.edu

**Office Hours:** On Line as needed.

**MEETING TIMES:** Regular participation through Black Board (Bb) is required.

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Capstone seminar course for majors/minors in environmental science and environmental studies. Key topics include advanced readings in human population growth; energy production and use; food production and distribution; air, water, and soil pollution and control; environmental economics; environmental ethics; and sustainability and stewardship.

**PREREQUISITE:** none, but students are expected to be in their last three semesters of study toward a major or minor in environmental science or environmental studies.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

**Readings**: assigned readings from various sources.

**Course website:**  A course website has been established on WBU’s Blackboard server. Each student is REQUIRED to establish an active account for this website and to log on to Bb regularly for posted lecture notes, messages, assignments, handouts, and quizzes.

**COURSE OUTCOME COMPETENCIES:**

As a capstone seminar course, students will gain a more advanced understanding of the following topics through assigned readings, written essays, and participation in various discussion boards and other interactive exercises.

1. causes and consequences of human population growth;

2. patterns in energy production and use;

3. patterns in food production and distribution;

4. pollution of water, air, and soil;

5. environmental ethics from the Christian perspective; and

6. principles and practices contributing to sustainable use of natural resources.

**Attendance/ Class Participation Policy**:

In accordance with university policy, attendance in this course will be documented through a student’s active engagement in weekly assignments, quizzes, or similar course elements requiring deliverables or direct communication between the student and the instructor through the course black board site. Instructions for completing these assignments will be posted by the instructor prior to or at the beginning of each week of the class. Failure to attend or participate in this class may result in administrative withdrawal from the course or grade reductions. Failure to meet posted deadlines will result in a grade of zero or point reductions for the assignments affected.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**:

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Disability Statement**:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations. Students should inform the instructor of existing disabilities the first class meeting.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be required to access readings, videos, or podcasts posted on BB or through various internet sources. Assignments may require participation in various interactive tools including discussion boards, journals, on-line quizzes or exams, written assignments, and student-produced video or audio files. Access to a reliable and reasonably fast internet connection is essential to successful participation in this course.

**Course communication policy:** Wayland email is the official method of communication between instructors and students taking courses through Wayland Baptist University. Students are REQUIRED to establish and activate their Wayland email account. Instructors reserve the right to deny email from other sources.

**GRADING:**

Students will be evaluated through performance on quizzes, exams, and/or assignments designed to assess effective understanding of assigned readings and constructive participation in interactive activities (e.g., discussion boards). Point values and categories of quizzes, exams, and assignments will be identified when they are assigned.

**Course Grade:** Final grades for the course will be assigned on the basis of the proportion of points earned from the total number of points available across all quizzes, exams, and assignments. Final letter grades will be assigned as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; and F = 59% or less.

**TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:**

The attached class schedule is subject to modification by the instructor. Changes will be announced on Bb to give students sufficient opportunity to respond accordingly.

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| **Week 1** | Human Population Growth Readings | TBA |
| **Week 2** | Human Population Growth Response |   |
| **Week 3** | Energy Production Readings | TBA |
| **Week 4** | Energy Production Response |   |
| **Week 5** | Food Production Readings | TBA |
| **Week 6** | Food Production Response |   |
| **Week 7** | Pollution Readings | TBA |
| **Week 8** | Pollution Response |   |
| **Week 9** | Sustainability Readings | TBA |
| **Week 10** | Sustainability Response |   |
| **Week 11** | Christian Env Stewardship Rdgs/Resp | TBA |