**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 3301 – VC01 – Environmental Science**

**Term: Summer 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Matthew Allen

**Phone:** 405-762-1139 (email or text preferred; cell reception sometimes unavailable)

**Office:** Online from home location

**Office Hours:** Online

**Email:** [**matthew.allen@wbu.edu**](mailto:matthew.allen@wbu.edu)

**Catalog Description:** Study of human interactions with the environment focusing on human population growth, renewable resource usage, energy usage, industrial pollution and waste minimization, sustainable technologies.

**Prerequisite:** none

**Required Materials:**

Wright, R. and D. F. Boorse 2017. *Environmental Science: Toward A Sustainable Future. 13th edition*. Pearson.

**Course website:**  A course website has been established on WBU’s Blackboard (Bb) 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:**

By completion of this course, students will demonstrate an understanding of:

1. principles of and patterns in human population growth

2. interactions between humans and the hydrologic cycle

3. principles of soil fertility and food production

4. effects of human activities on biodiversity and ways to mitigate those effects

5. renewable and non-renewable sources of energy used by human societies

6. patterns in industrial pollution and mitigation measures to prevent pollution

7. principles and implications of global climate change

**Attendance/ Class Participation Policy**:

In accordance with university policy, attendance in this course will be documented through a student’s active engagement in assignments, quizzes, or similar course elements requiring deliverables or direct communication between the student and the instructor through the course BlackBoard 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**: Your course grade will be determined based on the number of points you earn on lecture exams, chapter quizzes, research paper or field assignment, and through class participation, as described below. The following is the expected grading scheme for the course. Modifications may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified via BlackBoard or email if changes occur.

*Exams*: Lecture exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer and/or essay questions as appropriate for the material. In accordance with the School of Math and Sciences policy, there will be at least ONE major PROCTORED lecture exam. Information regarding options for face-to-face or remote proctoring services may be obtained from Virtual Campus.

*Making it personal:* A goal of this course is for you to become personally invested in the field of environmental science. In that view, some of the assignments will allow you latitude in exploring topics of particular interest to you. These are the major assignments fulfilling this portion of the course:

**Research Report** – investigating a topic in Environmental Science of particular interest to you.

**Field Project** – visiting a natural area and documenting your experience there

**Current Events in Environmental Science** – investigating recent events in environmental science and sharing them with your classmates.

*Other Assignments:* This grades will be based on exercises posted on Bb

*Expected assignments/exams and point values:*

| **Assignment** | **Point Value** | **Exam** | **Point Value** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Syllabus quiz | 10 | Exam 1 | 100 |
| Introduce Yourself | 10 | Exam 2 - proctored | 100 |
| Academic Integrity Training |  | Exam 3 | 100 |
| Ecological Footprint | 20 | Exam 4 – proctored (tentative) | 100 |
| Current Event 1 | 35 | **Total:** | **400** |
| Current Event 2 | 35 |  |  |
| Current Event 3 | 35 |  |  |
| Outline Version 1 | 25 |  |  |
| Outline Version 2 | 15 |  |  |
| Research Report | 100 |  |  |
| Field Project | 60 |  |  |
| Other quizzes/assignments | (will likely not cumulatively exceed) 35 |  |  |
| **Total:** | **~400** |  |  |

*Final Grades*: 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.

**Exam and assignment deadlines will be adhered to! Any variance from posted deadlines must be arranged IN ADVANCE! Students requesting extensions must communicate with the instructor in advance and provide verification of the extenuating circumstances leading to the request.**

**Academic Standards:** Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Class Schedule (see supplemental schedule for more detail):**

| **Week #** | **Weekly Topics and Chapter Readings** |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Introduction to Environmental Science (Ch. 1)  Economics and Public Policy (Ch. 2) |
| 2 | Topics in Ecology (Ch. 3-5) |
| 3 | Biodiversity, Conservation, & Restoration (Ch. 6-7) |
| 4 | Human Pop. Growth and Development (Ch. 8-9) |
| 5 | Water and Soil (Ch. 10-11) |
| 6 | Food and Pests (Ch. 12-13) |
| 7 | Fossil fuel and nuclear energy (Ch. 15-16) |
| 8 | Renewable energy & Climate Change (Ch. 16 & 18) |
| 9 | Air and Water pollution (Ch. 19-20) |
| 10 | Solid Waste and Hazardous Chemicals (Ch. 21-22) |
| 11 | Sustainability and stewardship (Ch. 23) |