Environmental Science (LS)

ENVS1400 401

Course Description

Introductory Earth and Environmental Science course on human interactions with the environment. Biological concepts are taught in the context of how environmental changes impact life. Conservation and management of Earth's spheres including biogeochemical cycles, ecology, sustainable resource management, water and air pollution, and climate change are surveyed. It is recommended that students take ENVS 1405 in the same semester as this course.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 0900 w/C grade or better, or appropriate placement score.
Semester(s): Fall & Spring

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Describe the components of the biosphere and the attributes that living organisms share.

- Analyze the impact of anthropogenic disturbances on key cellular processes including how pollutants can affect cellular reproduction and the role of metabolism in energy flow and biogeochemical cycles within Earth's Spheres.

- Outline the influence of climate and mutations on the evolution of populations.

- Assess the impact of activities associated with an ever-increasing human population on our environment including mining, pollution, waste management, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

- Engage in mutually beneficial civic activities that promote a sustainable society and enhance their understanding of issues important to local, national, and global communities.

- Demonstrate an ability to find, assess, cite, and utilize credible scientific literature and data in a professional and ethical manner.

Textbooks and Readings

You are not required to buy any textbooks for this course. The main text that we will use is An Open Educational Resource book (free online) called Environmental Biology by Matthew R. Fisher. It is accessible here:
https://openoregon.pressbooks.pub/envirobiology/

Schedule of Topics

	Topics
Week 1	What is Environmental Science?
Week 2	Biosphere- Communities and Ecology
Week 3	Chemical Foundations
Week 4	Geosphere
Week 5	Atmosphere
Week 6	Hydrosphere
Week 7	Cellular Systems - Structure and Function
Week 8	Cellular Change - Disturbance and Evolution
Week 9	Energy Flow - Laws and Photosynthesis
Week 10	Nutrient Cycling
Week 11	Human Populations
Week 12	Resources - Materials, Food, and Energy
Week 13	Waste and Pollution
Week 14	Climate Change
Week 15	Conservation and Biodiversity
Week 16	Sustainability

Communication Plan

The BEST way to reach us is via the Canvas email system. We will respond to all emails within 2 business days (Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00pm). Emails sent overnight are not expected to be answered immediately. Plan to email ahead of deadlines if you have questions about a topic or assignments . Similarly, please make sure that you set your email preference in the Canvas system. Unprofessional emails (e.g., text written as messenger/chat style, wrong instructor name) will not be answered or addressed. I will be posting Canvas announcements regarding weekly expectations, exam or practical reminder dates and any changes to this syllabus or the course. Please be sure to check announcements frequently.

General Education Information

LS

Your General Education ePortfolio tells your SLCC learning story. Your ePortfolio enables you to introduce yourself to your professors, showcase your learning, and reflect on how your courses connect to each other, your life, goals, and community. The ePortfolio is intended to help you communicate with professors about how you learn, what you are taking away from your experience, and what supported your learning in their class. Professors can use your ePortfolio to get to know you before class and use your reflections and signature assignments to continuously improve their teaching.

Your General Education ePortfolio will also help you weave together the concepts you learn across all General Education courses. To do this, each General Education course you take at the college will ask you to demonstrate your engagement with the General Education learning outcomes by designing a course-specific ePortfolio page that includes a Signature Assignment and reflection. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio should provide a multi-media showcase of your educational experience and tell the story of your learning growth while at SLCC. You can create a SharePoint ePortfolio by completing the [Consent Form](). Visit the [ePortfolio help]() [site]() to learn more.

SLCC allows students to use any ePortfolio platform of their choosing. We recommend SharePoint for work you want to keep private, like your Gen Ed learning portfolio. We recommend Google Sites for content you would want to make public, like a professional or program portfolio.

In order for us to learn from your ePortfolio and provide effective support, your ePortfolio must be connected to your MySLCC account. If you create your portfolio in SharePoint the link will automatically be added within 24 hours of creating your portfolio. If you are using an external site, like Google, you will have to manually add the link.

To make sure your portfolio is accessible in MySLCC:

1. Click here to access your ePortfolio links. If the link is already there, make sure it is correct.

2. If it is not there or needs to be updated, click "Submit" under "General Education ePortfolio."

3. If there is no link, Copy the URL for your ePortfolio Welcome page from the web browser and paste the copied link into the submission box.

4. Click "Save."

5. Finally, confirm that your ePortfolio Welcome page was submitted correctly by clicking on the link that now appears in the General Education ePortfolio box.

If you would like virtual or in-person help with your ePortfolio please sign up for an ePortfolio appointment here.

Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

Assessment	Points Possible
Exams 3 about 80 points each	240 points (30%)
Signature Assignment	160 points (20%)
Community Engagement Hours + Forms	120 points (15%)
Module Quizzes Weekly, about 8 points each	120 points (15%)
In-Class Activities	80 points (10%)
Attendance & Participation	80 points (10%)
Total	800 points (100%)

Grading Scale

92-100 = A 90-91= A- 88-89 = B+ 82-87 = B 80-81 = B- 78-79 = C+
72-77 = C 70-71 = C- 68-69 = D+ 63-67 = D 60-62 = D- 0-59 = F

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

You can access the document by clicking on the following link:
https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab:
https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, please visit the Institutional Syllabus under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab: https://slcc.instructure.com/courses/530981/pages/institutional-syllabus. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

SLCC Student Academic Calendar

Additional Policies

Syllabus:

This syllabus represents an "agreement" between you the student and the instructor. It is designed to ensure course integrity and fairness as well as provide students with a clear understanding of course expectations. The instructor and students are expected to use the syllabus and schedule as a guide for the semester. Any deviation from the syllabus or schedule will be discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and students.

Attendance:

Attendance and participation within the first week is mandatory or you risk an administrative drop for non-attendance. Students are expected to attend each session within reason. Your presence in the classroom is valuable to me! Attendance is important for your learning, effective two-way communication, and community in our class. I want you to be here! If you are sick, stay home as you feel is appropriate. If you have an emergency, make the best choice as necessary. You will be responsible for missed work. Repeated absences may impact your credit in the Attendance and Participation category.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Dishonesty is absolutely NOT tolerated & includes all forms of cheating and plagiarism as outlined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities and outlined here. There is NO tolerance for dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to claiming another person's work or words as one's own, accessing answers to lab reports, quizzes, and exams from the Internet, completing quizzes or exams with other individuals. Students must write all answers in their own words. Exams are to be completed individually by the student. Penalty for first offense will result in grade of "0" on the assignment or exam & second offense may result in an "E" for the course.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) software is a rapidly emerging tool that students may be interested in using. If doing so, SLCC students are expected to adhere to the same standards as the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities statement on plagiarism. Presenting generative AI software content as your own is a violation of academic integrity. If you use generative AI in your work, you must indicate that you have done so.

Due Dates and Late Work Policy:

Late Work: It is your responsibility to plan ahead and allocate enough time to complete the assignments. Late work will be penalized at 10% per day, up to **FIVE days** after original deadline. No late assignments will be accepted if they are more than **FIVE days late.** Contact your instructor if you have extenuating circumstances.

Drop, Withdraw or Incomplete Grade: Last day to drop from class with refund is September 10th, withdraw without refund is October 22nd. A grade of "I" (Incomplete) is at the instructor's discretion and can be given if a student is facing extenuating circumstances preventing them from finishing the semester. In order to receive an incomplete, most of the course work must be completed (e.g. ~70%) with a passing grade. If you have any questions about grades or grading policies please visit: https://www.slcc.edu/student/enrollment/grade-policies.aspx.

Electronic Devices:

Cell Phones are to be turned off during class. Computers can be used for notetaking and course-related purposes ONLY but should not be used during class for working on other tasks (e.g., answer emails, Facebook, other classes etc.). You will be asked to leave if your electronic device disrupts the class in anyway. Cell phones MUST be turned completely OFF during exams.

Classroom recordings:

Students may NOT record or publish information from the class without written authorization from the instructor. If used without authorization you have violated Privacy/Intellectual Property Rights.

SLCC Academic Policies:

SLCC academic policies may be found in the SLCC 2024-2025 Catalog, and the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities.