

Spring 2022

EVPP 201

Environment and You: Issues for the 21st Century

Instructor	Colin Chaddock (cchaddock@gmu.edu)
Class Time	1:30-2:45 pm
Class Place	Nguyen Engineering Building 1108
Office Hours	Monday and Wednesday 12:00 pm -1:00 pm and by appointments (Please email me ahead for appointments)
Office	David King Hall 3018
Course Supervisor	Dr. Younsung Kim (ykih@gmu.edu)

Course Description

Throughout human history, we have modified our environment. By doing so, we have enriched our lives, improved our health, prolonged our life spans, and secured greater material wealth, mobility, and leisure time. Yet many of the changes we have made to our surroundings have degraded the natural systems that sustain us. Air and water pollution, soil erosion, species extinction, and other impacts compromise our well-being and jeopardize our ability to survive and thrive in the long term.

Environmental science is the scientific study of how the natural world works, how our environment affects us, and how we affect our environment. Understanding these *interactions* helps us devise solutions to society's many pressing challenges. It can be daunting to reflect on the sheer magnitude of dilemmas that confront us, but these problems also bring countless opportunities for creative solutions.

This course introduces the foundational concepts of environmental science, today's most challenging environmental issues including global climate change and biodiversity loss. It helps students understand the interdisciplinary nature of the environment and bring together many diverse perspectives and knowledge from traditional established disciplines. Students will develop a more profound understanding of ecosystems and environmental degradation.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to

- 1) Understand the basics of environmental science and ecological principles
- 2) Be familiar with scientific research methods from observations to results generation

- 3) Investigate ecological concepts, principles and applications behind diverse environmental issues
- 4) Integrate different disciplinary knowledge to research a specific environmental issue and its science behind the issue

Mason General Education Requirement

This course fulfills the Mason General Education Requirement for the category of non-lab natural science course. The course helps students engage in scientific exploration, foster curiosity, enhance enthusiasm for science, and apply scientific knowledge and reasoning to personal, professional, and public decision-making.

Textbook

Withgott, Jay, and Laposata, Matthew. 2019. *Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*. NY: Pearson Education, Inc.

Grading

Class Participation: 15%
 Quizzes: 15%
 Midterm and Final Exam: 50%
 Environmental Issue Brief: 20%

Class participation includes attendance, in-class activities, and active participation in class discussions. Exams and quizzes will help you master course topics. There will be short open-book quizzes, which will help you prepare the midterm and final exams. More guidance on quizzes and exams will be given in class as time approaches.

Environment Issue Brief augments your learning, helping you develop detailed knowledge on a specific environmental issue and cultivating your research capacity surrounding environmental science-related literature. The issues will be guided by the instructor, while you may have a latitude to choose your own issue. More detailed guidelines will be explained in class.

Grade

A+: 98-100	A: 93-97	A-: 90-92
B+: 88-89	B: 83-87	B-: 80-82
C+: 78-79	C:73-77	C-:70-72
D: 65-69	F < 65	

Course Policies

Course Schedule Details

The schedule can be found in the “Syllabus” tab in Blackboard. Lesson and Unit due dates must be followed closely for students to be successful in this course.

Late/Missed Assignments

Please note that I will enforce the deadlines for assignments strictly. If you submit your assignments within 72 hours after the deadlines, you will lose 30% of your grade. After one week past, your assignment will not be accepted. However, I will make an exception for students with genuine medical or personal problems that get in touch with me at least 3 days before the due date. The bottom line is to communicate with me as early as possible.

COVID-19 Related Note

Do not hesitate to email me and any health-related concerns and assistance. Please do not wait until the final weeks of the course to ask for help as it will greatly impede my ability to provide assistance.

University Policies

Student Privacy

Student Privacy is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and is an essential aspect of any course. This means that the instructor will not give information regarding grades or class status to anyone except the student, unless the student has provided the instructor with written permission stating otherwise.

Additionally, students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of University to provide an academic and work environment free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is contrary to the standards and mission of the University. Sexual harassment is illegal and will not be tolerated. Each member of the University community has a responsibility to maintain an academic and work environment free from sexual harassment. The University will take whatever action necessary to prevent, stop, correct, or discipline harassing behavior. Same-sex sexual harassment violates this policy and is subject to discipline under the same procedures. More information available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1202gen.html>.

Non-Discrimination Policy

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information. George Mason University shall adhere to all applicable state and federal equal opportunity/affirmative action statutes and regulations. More information at

<http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1201gen.html>.

Students with Disabilities and Student Services

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the GMU Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 9932474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

Services are also available to you if you need some assistance in writing, research, or counseling. For assistance with writing you can schedule an appointment with the Writing Center online at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>. If you need help with research they can find resources and contact the Environmental Science and Policy research librarian by visiting <http://infoguides.gmu.edu/ESP>. If you have a technical problem please contact IT Services. Finally, if at any time you need additional assistance or support you can find resources at Student Academic Affairs and Student Health Services.

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism)

All written and presented work submitted for this class must be original; i.e., it must be your work and your work alone. You must not simply cut-and-paste the work of others into your work, nor should you simply paraphrase existing work. You must use quotations and the proper citation (see Syllabus Appendix – Citation and Reference Guidelines). Be warned: Plagiarism (defined below) will not be tolerated. If there is any suspicion of plagiarism the case will be turned over to GMU's Office of Academic Integrity with the instructor's recommendation for the maximum penalty. Plagiarism is a GMU Honor Code violation that will have a serious impact on your academic record. Additionally, all other forms of cheating will be dealt with in the same manner.

Plagiarism includes the following:

- 1) Presenting as one's own the words, work, or opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment.
- 2) Borrowing the sequence of ideas, arrangement of material, or pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment.

The University has made software available to the faculty to use for scanning student submissions and it will be used in this class. Contact your instructor if you have any uncertainty regarding the use of other sources before you submit any written assignment.