



EVPP 302 Environmental Science: Biomes and Human Dimensions Syllabus

Course Information	Lecture Meeting Times: M & W: 12:00PM - 01:15PM Lab Meeting Time: M or W: 01:30PM - 4:10PM Location: Distance Education/Blackboard and your outdoor lab
Instructors Office Hours 11am-12pm Mon, Wed by appointment. Please email me and TA to schedule meetings.	Dr. Cynthia Smith. csmitc@gmu.edu Kathryn Weisbrodt, TA kweisbro@gmu.edu Please refer to your online course: https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/ Office Hours 11:00-12:00am M, W please let me know in advance if you're coming. Please email, myself and cc Kathryn to schedule a meeting.
Course Description	Together with EVPP 210 and 301, this course is part of a three-semester sequence for Environmental Science majors, which provide authentic experiences with environmental skills, ecological issues and policies, as well as techniques to prepare students for future careers.
Course Objectives	Upon completion of the course, students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize information and execute experiments that provide a measurable understanding of human impacts on natural resources. 2. Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze research papers and data, assess reliability, interpret results, draw reasonable conclusions and clearly communicate these in written and oral form. 3. Students will gain insight into environmental career opportunities through coursework and interaction with natural resource professionals across environmental industries.
Course Methodology	The lecture class format will combine reading, lectures, presentations, group activities and other learning tools. The class is interactive and requires every student to be engaged in the classroom discussion and assignments. In addition to the lectures, screencasts and timely completion of assignments, every student will be expected to be an active participant and a dedicated individual applying what you learn to every element of the course work. We value your important contributions AND use them in assignments.
Required textbook(s) and/or materials	Required Text: (these are the same from EVPP 301) S&S: Elements of Ecology. T.M. Smith and R.L. Smith. 9th ed. Other readings and viewings as assigned, found in Course Modules in Blackboard
Computer Requirements	Hardware: You will need access to a Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and access to a fast and reliable broadband internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL). A larger screen is recommended for better visibility of course material. You will need speakers or headphones to hear recorded content and a headset with a microphone is recommended for the best experience. For the amount of Hard Disk Space required taking a distance education course, consider and allow for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the storage amount needed to install any additional software and

	<p>2. space to store work that you will do for the course.</p> <p>If you consider the purchase of a new computer, please go to Patriot Tech to see recommendations.</p> <p>Software: Many courses use Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems. Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Check the syllabus or contact the instructor for details. Online courses typically use Acrobat Reader, Flash, Java, and Windows Media Player, QuickTime and/or Real Media Player. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications. Also, make sure your computer is protected from viruses by downloading the latest version of Symantec Endpoint Protection/Anti-Virus software for free here.</p> <p>Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch this video about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.</p> <p>Note: If you are using an employer-provided computer or corporate office for class attendance, please verify with your systems administrators that you will be able to install the necessary applications and that system or corporate firewalls do not block access to any sites or media types.</p>
Course Website	<p>Blackboard will be used for this course. You can access the site at http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu. Login and click on the “Courses” tab. You will see EVPP 302. NOTE: Username and passwords are the same as your Mason email account. You must have consistent access to an internet connection in order to complete the assignments in this course through Blackboard (http://mymason.gmu.edu). Let us know if this is an issue.</p>
<p>Participation</p> <p>We connect on Zoom link in Blackboard</p>	<p>Learning can only happen when you are playing an active role. It is important to place more emphasis on developing your insights and skills, rather than transmitting information. Knowledge is more important than facts and definitions. It is a way of looking at the world, an ability to interpret and organize future information. An active learning approach enhances long-term retention and better understanding. Please attend class every day.</p> <p>Although an active role can look different for various individuals, it is expected in this class that you will work to explore issues and ideas under the guidance of the professor and your peers. You can do this by reflecting on the content and activities of this course, asking questions, striving for answers, interpreting observations, and discussing issues with your peers. This course asks you to apply and synthesize material you have learned in previous courses.</p> <p>The Zoom link is on the left side of your course webpages in Blackboard</p>
Rules and Expectations	<p>In correspondence/communication students will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Be professional and respectful in correspondence b) Make reasonable requests of the instructor. We will be happy to clarify course material and answer legitimate questions; however, please exhaust other information sources (e.g., syllabus, Blackboard, peers) for answering your question before contacting us and

	<p>remember, “Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part”</p> <p>In regard to honesty in work students will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review the University integrity and honesty policies in the student handbook for guidelines regarding plagiarism and cheating (summarized below). I will gladly clarify my stance on any questionable or “grey area” issues you may have. Refrain from dishonest work as it will receive a minimum penalty of zero on the assignment and a maximum penalty of a zero for the course with a report to the Honor committee. The GMU Honor Code requires that faculty submit any suspected Honor Code violations to the Honor Committee. Therefore, any suspected offense will be submitted for adjudication.
Mason Honor Code	<p>The complete Honor Code is as follows:</p> <p><i>To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:</i></p> <p>Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.</p> <p><i>(From the Catalog – catalog.gmu.edu)</i></p>
Cheating Policy	<p>Any form of cheating on an activity, project, or exam will result in zero points earned.</p> <p>“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to, the following: reviewing others’ exam papers, reviewing online question sources and/or having ANY resources utilized when not allowed, collaborating with another student during an individual assignment, or exam as well as using online sites such as Chegg, Course Hero, Quizlet, ChatGPT etc..</p> <p>If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor or utilize the GMU writing center.</p>
Plagiarism and the Internet	<p>Copyright rules also apply to users of the Internet who cite from Internet sources. Information and graphics accessed electronically must also be cited, giving credit to the sources.</p> <p>This material includes but is not limited to e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission), newsgroup material, information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create in your presentations. Shareware graphics are not free. Freeware clipart is available for you to freely use. If the material does not say "free," assume it is not.</p> <p>Using someone else's Internet material in your assignment is stealing intellectual property. Review the Honor Code here.</p>
Individuals with Disabilities	<p>Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit http://ds.gmu.edu/ for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email:ods@gmu.edu Phone: (703) 993-2474</p>
Academic Integrity and Inclusivity	<p>This course acknowledges that we all have differing perspectives and ideas and we each deserve the opportunity to share our thoughts. Therefore, we will conduct our discussions with respect for those differences. That means, we each have the freedom to express our ideas, but we should also do so</p>

	<p>keeping in mind that our colleagues deserve to hear differing thoughts in a respectful manner, i.e. we may disagree without being disagreeable.</p> <p>http://oai.gmu.edu/</p> <p>We are an intentionally inclusive community, promotes and maintains an equitable and just work and learning environment. We welcome and value individuals and their differences including race, economic status, gender expression and identity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, first language, religion, age, and disability.</p> <p>Name and pronoun use: If you wish, please share your name and gender pronouns with me and indicate how best to address you in class and via email. I use she/her for myself and you may address me as Dr. or Professor Smith, in email and verbally.</p>
Student Privacy Policy	<p>George Mason University strives to fully comply with FERPA by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records.</p> <p>Please see George Mason University's student privacy policy https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/</p>
E-Mail Policy	<p>When corresponding with your instructors, please be professional. Address your professor as Dr. Smith or Professor Smith. Next, state your question or comment and indicate what you understand after reading the instructions and checking in with peers. Sign your full name and even better if, add a signature describing yourself (e.g. Junior, Environmental Science and Policy). Emails are typically answered within 24 hours during the week, M – F from 9-5pm.</p> <p>Students must use their Mason email account to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. I will not respond to messages sent from or send messages to a non-Mason email address. Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback and job/internship leads. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.</p>
Course Grading & Evaluation	<p>Grades will be assigned as follows: A = 92% and above; B = 82% and above; C = 72% and above; D = 62% and above. Late work is penalized 10% each day it is late. Please let instructors know if you are ill or quarantined.</p>
LATE work policy	<p>All work is due on time. Late work will be penalized by 10% each day that it is late. After 10 days late the assignment is graded as a zero. If an extension is requested, the request must be submitted 24 hours prior to assignment due date by emailing Professor and TA. Extensions will not be granted for Final LCA projects and final Stream Bioassessments.</p>
Discussions– (50 points)	<p>There will be six discussion board synthesis posts each worth 10 pts. Students may drop their lowest grade on discussions unrelated to the LCA. If students do all 6, the sixth DB is extra credit.</p>
Assignments – (80 points)	<p>You will complete five (5) assignments that are 20 points each on Heat Islands, Environmental Consulting, Community Ecology, Energy Sectors and your Resume will be submitted. You will submit one resume for 20 pts and receive an outrageous amount of help making it great. We want to prepare you for great success in your field.</p>

Life Cycle Analysis Presentation (110 points)	To gain a broad understanding of global environmental impacts from products, each student will research and present to class, a product life-cycle analysis, which describes environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a specific product's life (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair, maintenance, and disposal or recycling). Research will be conducted outside of class. Each presentation has an 8–10 minute limit. The uploaded draft presentation is worth 10 pts. Final Presentation is 100pts
IMRAD Article Reviews (60 points)	You will complete two (2) IMRAD 30pts assignments. Students will work in groups (or individually) to fully analyze relevant research papers initially during in class and/or out of class time.
Exams – Exam 1 (100 points) Final Exam (100 points)	Students will take one mid-term exam and a cumulative final based on a synthesis of readings, lecture and discussion material. Exams are short answer/ essay format, with a mix of multiple choice and matching. Questions allow students to demonstrate their synthesis of course concepts. Students will contribute content to the final exam from their individual LCA projects.
Laboratory (184 points)	Your lab activities are integrated into the full course and include thinking critically about the scientific method, research, collecting and analyzing your own data as well as applying your results to new situations. Equipment and supplies will be picked up prior to classes starting. Students are expected to fully participate in lab activities remotely. Lab manual and learning objectives are located in your lab course Blackboard site.
Unlimited Extra Credit:	Occasionally points will be allocated for in-class activities. These points can only be earned by students present in class. Additional extra credit points may be earned by attending and reporting (including photos) on related seminars and outreach activities (e.g. stream clean-ups, conferences, deer check stations, etc.) and online trainings. Submit extra credit via the "Extra Credit" tab on blackboard.
Student Support Services	Please check: https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/knowning-mason-students/student-support-resources-on-campus/

Lecture Points

Point Totals

Exam Total Points	200
Midterm	100
Final Exam	100
Life-cycle analysis presentation (LCA) Total Points	110
Life Cycle Analysis draft presentation	10
Life-cycle analysis presentation (LCA)	100
IMRAD Total Points	60
IMRAD #1	30
IMRAD #2	30
Assignments Total Points	100
Urban Heat Islands Assignment	20
Environmental Consulting Assignment	20
Community Ecology	20
Resume	20
Energy Sectors Assignment	20
Lobster Migration Assignment (optional)	10
Discussion Board Synthesis Posts Total Points	50
Introduce yourself	10
LCA Product	10
Chesapeake Bay TMDL	10
Stream Order	10
Marine and Estuarine Biomes	10
Regenerative Ag	10
Lecture Total	520
Lab Total	206
Course Total	726

Lab Assignment	Points
Heat Island Impacts	12

Chesapeake Bay POC/Inverts Discussion Board	5
Chesapeake Bay POCs	12
Landfill management and monitoring	12
Campus Energy Tour	12
Soils Structure	12
Watershed Mapping	5
Stream Bioassessment Habi-tube Site Assessment	5
Stream Bioassessment Introduction Draft	5
Agent Based Modeling for Ecology	12
Improved Hypothesis & Research	12
Stream Bioassessment Results/Discussion Draft	5
Stream Bioassessment report	5
Bee Anatomy and Colony Structure	80
Insect Biodiversity	12
Lab Total	206

Expect to work a minimum of three hours per week outside of class per credit hour on assignments for this course. That means, 7- 12 hours per week.

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments except Discussion Board posts are due by the end of the week in which they are assigned. For the purposes of this course, a week is defined as **beginning at 12:01 am each Monday EST**, and **ending at 11:59 pm on the following Sunday EST**.

To help you manage your schedule and time to complete the assignments in this course, please follow the recommended timeline below. If you have a question or concern or encounter a problem about an assignment, please contact me immediately so we can discuss and work out a resolution.

Date (Mon; Wed)	Week	Weekly Module	Assignments
1/23; 1/25	1	Course Overview	Introduce Yourself Discussion Board
		Heat Islands	Urban Heat Island Assignment
1/30; 2/1	2	IMRAD Dissection	IMRAD #1
		Urban Wildlife	IMRAD #2
2/6; 2/8	3	What is an LCA prep - select product	LCA Product Discussion Board
		Solid Waste Basics	
2/13; 2/15	4	LCA Product Ecological Impact	LCA Ecological Impact Assignment
		Regenerative Agriculture	Regenerative AG Discussion Board
2/20; 2/22	5	Energy Sources & Sectors 1	
		Energy Sources & Sectors 2	Energy Sectors Assignment
2/27; 3/1	6	LCA prep - slides presented to Instructor	Share LCA slides
		LCA prep - slides slides presented to Instructor	LCA Draft due.
3/6; 3/8	7	Chesapeake Bay TMDL	Ches Bay TMDL Discussion Board
		Midterm Exam	
3/13; 3/15 spring break	8	<i>spring break</i>	
3/20; 3/22	9	FW Biomes: Hydrology, Global Water Cycle	Stream Order Discussion Board
		FW Biomes: Lakes, Ponds, and Bioassessments	
3/27; 3/29	10	FW Biomes: Wetlands, Marine, and Estuarine Biomes	Marine and Estuarine Biomes Discussion Board
		Aquatic Ecology Research with Reference Librarian	Final LCA Due April 2nd.
4/3; 4/5	11	Watch LCAs. Student teach class.	1. View all LCA presentations and give feedback; 2. Respond to peer questions by 4/7. Must respond by 4/12. 11:55pm
		Watch LCAs. Student teach class.	
4/10; 4/12	12	Environmental Policy Overview	All LCA comments on projects due 4/12
		Environmental Consulting Case Study	Environmental Consulting Assignment
4/17; 4/19	13	Landscape Community Ecology Part 1	
		Landscape Community Ecology Part 2	(bonus lobster assignment)
4/24; 4/26	14	Ecology of Climate Change Part 1	
		Ecology of Climate Change Part 2	
5/1; 5/3	15	Resume Building	Submit Resume
		Plant Defenses - Pollinators	
5/8; 5/10		<i>Reading Days, No Class</i>	Study for final
5/15	16	Final Exam 10:30am - 1:15pm	