



Biology 2650: Environmental Biology (Spring 2012)

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2pm-3:30pm, Thursday 9:30am-11:00am, and by appointment
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Class Time/Place: MWF; 1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. in C214
CRN & Section: 20133, Sec. 001
Required Text: *Essential Environment 4e*. Brennan and Withgott (3rd edition is OK)
Iclickers are required

Course Introductory Material

Welcome to Environmental Biology! This course will introduce you to basic ecological concepts as they apply to present-day resource management and human environmental problems, including wildlife, forest, soil, water, air, and mineral resources. A key part of understanding biology / ecology is an understanding of the language used in describing these concepts, principles, and processes. In this respect, biology is almost a foreign language. It is important that you become familiar with the language of biology, thus please pay attention to relevant terms in the text (bold font), these are defined in the glossary at the end of the text.

Course Objectives: This is a General Education class aimed at non-biology juniors and seniors. GE classes have the following goals:

1. Subject Knowledge. To provide an educational experience that will enhance students' understanding of the disciplines' basic principles, methodologies, and perspectives.
2. Communication. To provide an educational experience that will enhance the ability to communicate.
3. Inquiry and Critical Thinking. To provide an educational experience that will enhance critical thinking skills and will contribute to continuous inquiry and life-long learning.
4. Information Retrieval and Evaluation. To provide an educational experience that will enhance the ability to find, understand, examine critically, and use information from various sources.
5. Interdisciplinary Relationships. To provide an educational experience that will enhance students' understanding of a discipline's interrelationships with other disciplines.
6. Global or Multicultural Perspectives. To provide an educational experience that will enhance the ability to look at issues from multiple perspectives and/or that will describe the discipline's impact on or connection to global issues, AND/OR
7. Social Responsibility. To provide an educational experience that will help students understand the complexity of ethical judgment and social responsibility and/or that will describe the discipline's impact on or connection to social and ethical issues.

Teaching philosophy: You are in control of your learning experience. You must take responsibility for your coursework. Come to class EVERY time prepared to listen and think, do the readings, do the homework. I am here to guide you, to encourage you, and to assess your progress.

How to Study for Biology

Attending class is the best way to succeed in Biology 2650. To gain the most from class time, you should read relevant text material beforehand and come prepared with questions. You should also bring your text to class since I likely will use images and figures from the text in lecture. During lectures be attentive and interactive, take good notes, and fully participate in any in-class activities. Exam questions will be derived from material presented in lectures, assigned chapters and the online homework questions.

Outside of class I recommend taking time after each class to review your notes and textbook. Learning takes time, is incremental, and is difficult to do all in one session before an exam. Form a study group that meets regularly so you can talk about new concepts and review terminology with your colleagues. When studying for exams, focus primarily on lecture notes and concepts learned in in-class activities. Pay particular attention to diagrams and lists. Use your text's glossary and index. ***For a detailed presentation of additional study tips, please review "Darley's Study Suggestions for Introductory Biology Courses." This material is posted on our blackboard.com website under "course documents."***

If you need extra help or clarification, please ask questions during lecture, talk to me before or after class, contact me via email, or visit during office hours. I want you to do well in this course!

Tutoring Center

The tutoring center is located in the library building, room 112. These services are provided free of charge to CSU Stanislaus students on a "first come, first served" basis. If you need help, it is advisable to start early in the semester before you fall behind.

Components of the Grade

Overview — There will be three exams, approximately 100-150 points each, worth about 65% of your grade. Your service learning project, worth 50 points, is another ~10% of your grade. The remaining ~25% will consist of homework assignments and in class exercises, such as 5 min essays, small group activities and your iclicker points. The clickers will be used frequently and are a way for me to keep track of your attendance, and give you points for participation, and answering questions in class. Some questions will be essentially quiz points, some will be polling or opinion questions for which there is no incorrect answer.

Exams — these will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, matching (matching can include labeling diagrams) and possibly a few short answer questions. Exams 1-2 will be distributed at 1:00 pm and you will have the entire regular class time. The final exam will be on Wednesday, May 23rd from 11:15 a.m.- 1:15 p.m. in C214. If you are late to an exam or quiz, then you will have less time to complete the exam so plan your schedule accordingly. Traffic and/or car problems are not acceptable excuses for being late. Always bring a #2 pencil and **Scantron form 882-E** to the exams. During exams, ***cell phones must be turned off and hats must be removed.*** If your cell phone rings during an exam or you arrive more than 15 minutes late without a proper written and verifiable excuse, five (5) points will be deducted from your score. Students who arrive after the first exam of the day has been turned in will not be allowed to take the exam. No food, drinks, or headphones are allowed during the exam period. You must not leave the room during an exam/quiz without the instructor's permission.

Note: Although the Scantron machine is generally accurate, it sometimes makes mistakes, particularly when you change an answer and do not completely erase the other choice. In order to verify these mistakes you also **must** write the correct answer in the space provided on the question sheet. Challenges to the machine's accuracy will **not** be accepted if you did not do so. You have until the **next** class period, after the Scantron is returned, to challenge its accuracy.

iclickers

You are required to purchase an iClicker remote for in-class participation. iClicker is a response system that allows you to respond to questions posed during class, and you will be graded on those questions. In order to

receive this credit, **you need to register your iClicker remote online by February 3, 2012** at: <http://www.iclicker.com/registration>. You must have come to class at least once and responded to at least one question in order to complete this registration properly. Complete the fields with your first name, last name, student ID, and remote ID. **Enter your Blackboard username (e.g. this is the same as your email login, for example, in my case it would be "lhamilton") as the Student ID.** The remote ID is the series of numbers and letters found on the bottom of the back of your iClicker remote. The remote ID number can be hard to read after normal wear and tear, so it is recommended that you write it down AND place a piece of scotch tape over the ID to preserve it. The iClickers will be used during most class meetings, and **you are responsible for bringing your remote daily.** *****Beginning on Monday (2/6) you will not be eligible for potential points via the iclicker system if you have not registered your iclicker or on any occasions when you forget to bring your iclicker to class.*****

Generally, there will be 2 - 3 graded iClicker questions per class. **iClicker grading:** 1 pt. for participating in the entire day's session, 1 pt. for the correct answer, 0 for incorrect answer. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 4 lowest iclicker session scores.**

Numerous studies have demonstrated that iClickers improve student learning. iClickers have been adopted within several departments on campus. So unless you are graduating you will probably use it again for several classes. But after the term ends you may sell your iClicker back to the bookstore or to another student. Using another student's iClicker or two remotes in class is considered cheating.

Mastering Biology Online Homework:

You will be assigned online homework regularly, generally every week. This is to help you understand the material, discover if there is a topic that you don't fully understand, and to improve your grade by giving an opportunity to accrue points outside of the exams. I will email you the course ID and the initial instructions for completing homework assignments. Your end of the semester homework score will normalize each individual graded homework assignment so that the overall homework component will constitute approximately 10 - 15% of your final grade. **No makeup assignments will be given, but students can drop their 2 lowest homework scores.**

Service Learning Project:

The goal is to have you apply what you learn in class to the larger community, in order to see the relationships between the course material and the world as a whole. The total amount of effort required will be similar to the hours needed to write a short research paper. It is my hope that you will find service learning more enjoyable and more relevant than writing a paper.

Grade Calculations

Grades will be based on the percentage of points earned from exams, homework, iclicker questions, and assignments. Grades will be assigned as follows:

	B+	87-89%	C	70-79%	
A	93-100%	B	83-86%	D	60-69%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	F	0-59%

If you take the credit/no credit option: CR 70-100%; NC 0-69%

Missed Exams or Assignments

The final exam must be taken during the scheduled time. Exams 1-2 should also be taken as scheduled, however, if a student has a valid, documented reason s/he cannot take an exam at the appointed time, the student may be able to take an exam early, however this exam will be different from the regular exam and may include essay and short answer questions. Requests for early exams must be submitted **in writing** to the instructor **at least one week prior to the scheduled exam**. No makeup exams will be given after an exam has been returned to the class; any unexcused missed exams without a proper written and verifiable excuse will be recorded as a zero. If you miss an exam for a legitimate emergency it is your responsibility to notify the instructor immediately. **If provided, makeup exams will be different from regular exams, may include essay and short answer questions, and only will be allowed for a valid documented emergency absence.** These must be completed as soon as possible and **no later** than within **one week** of the originally scheduled day of the exam. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make arrangements to take the test within the allowed time.

The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes if it becomes apparent that students are not keeping up with the material and/or there are an unacceptable number of absences. If you happen to be absent that day or you fail to follow instructions, you will receive a grade of 0 for that quiz.

Credit/No Credit and Adding/Dropping

The last day to apply for the CR/NC option is Friday, May 4th. To do so you must contact me in person and have your form filled out and ready for me to sign. It is your responsibility to turn this form in to Enrollment Services. I will follow the grading option indicated on the final grade sheet supplied by Enrollment Services. **Consult with your advisor before making your decision.** Once you have selected the CR/NC option you cannot opt for a grade. **No grades will be changed once they have been submitted to the registrar.** The last day to drop the class is Wednesday, February 22.

Learning Environment and Citizenship

Student Conduct — In such a large class it is essential that students maintain an environment conducive to learning and avoid distracting others. Please set your cell phones to vibrate and refrain from texting. Please don't engage in side conversations. If you use a laptop computer in class it must be used only for purposes relevant to the course and you must sit in the first row. A first time violation will result in a 10 point deduction from your grade. A second violation will result in 30 points deducted from your grade and you will no longer be allowed to use a laptop in the class. During in-class group assignments each member of a group should fully participate and contribute. In-class group assignments are important opportunities for learning.

Audio/Video Recording: Recording of lectures is not permitted without written consent from your instructor.

Academic Dishonesty — There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating / academic dishonesty. Any academic dishonesty will result in an F in the class and the matter will be turned over to the appropriate student disciplinary committee. Submitting an in-class assignment or a quiz for a student who is not present is cheating. Copying text (plagiarizing) off of websites to complete in-class assignments is also considered cheating. Submitting a quiz for another student and/or using another student's iClicker or two remotes, are also considered cheating. Taking out a cell phone during an exam is considered cheating, your exam will be confiscated, and you will receive a grade of F.

Progress Reports – Those who require progress reports (e.g. for athletics, campus activities, etc) must notify the instructor **in writing** at least **one meeting in advance**, so I can bring the necessary information to class.

Tentative Schedule
(Subject to change as necessary)

Week	Date	Topic / Chapter
1	30-Jan	Natural Resources, Science, Sustainability Read Chap 1
2	6-Feb	Human Population Chapter 6, parts of Chap 3 (Evolution, Biodiv., & Pop Ecology)
3	13-Feb	Environmental Systems Chap 2 and Community Ecology Chap 4
4	20-Feb	Economics Chap 5, and Biodiversity Chap 8
5	27-Feb	Exam 1 on Mon or Wed, and Soils, Agriculture, Food Chap 7
6	5-Mar	Water and Aquatic Ecosystems Chap 12
7	12-Mar	Environmental Health and Toxicology Chapter 10, No Class on Fri (3/30)
8	19-Mar	Geology and Mining Chap 11, Waste Management Chap 17
9	26-Mar	Energy Chap 15, 16
10	2-Apr	Exam 2 on Mon or Wed, Atmosphere and Air pollution Chap 13
11	9-Apr	Spring Break- no class
12	16-Apr	Climate Change Chap 14
13	23-Apr	Managing our Waste Chap 17
14	30-Apr	Creating Sustainable Cities Chap 18
15	7-May	Presentations - service learning; Fri - Warrior day no class
16	14-May	Catch up; Final Exam: Fri May 23 11:15-1:15

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Holidays: Cesar Chavez Day, Friday, March 30

Spring Break, April 9 – 13 (M-F)

Warrior Day, Friday, May 11