

Biology 103-01 Course Syllabus

Course Title: Environmental Science

Course Text: *Environment* (5th edition) by Raven and Berg

Course Instructor: Dr. Gregory M. Grabowski, Office 315, Ford Life science Building, McNichols Campus, Phone #: 313-993-1183, E-mail: grabowgm@udmercy.edu

Course Time and Location: TR 11:20 – 12:35 am, McNichols Campus, LS 115

Office Hours: From 1:00 – 3:00 TR or by appointment in my office (315, Ford Life Science Building).

Course Description: Environmental Science (Bio 103) explores the ecological principles that integrate life on earth, and the implications of human activity on these principles. Principles investigated include: homeostasis within ecosystems, population dynamics, resource utilization, economic and political policies, and environmental management.

Attendance: Attendance for lecture is mandatory. Failure to attend class will significantly affect your grade. Material missed due to lack of attendance is the student's responsibility to acquire. Attendance for exams is required.

Exams: There will be four exams. Each lecture exam will be worth a total of 50 points. The last exam will include new subject matter covered since the third exam. Unexcused missed exams will be given a grade based on the following formula.

Missed exam grade = sum of remaining exam points/ total exam points (200).

Unexcused absence at the final exam will result in a grade no better than a 75% [C+, assuming 3 perfect scores on the 3 lecture exams (150 points) divided by the total exam points for the course (200)].

Excused absences must be made 24 hours prior to or after the exam-in-question's scheduled date.

Paper: A 3-5 page paper (hard copy) will be due December 2 dealing with an environmentally relevant topic approved by the instructor. The topic will be submitted by the student via Exam 1. The paper will be worth 50 points toward the total of 250 points for the course. Ten points will be deducted from the corrected paper for each day past December 2. That day ends when the Life Science Building closes, no electronic submissions will be accepted. The lowest possible score for the paper is zero points, a negative score will not be added to the total number of earned points from a student if turned in five days or more late.

Exam Schedule:

Exam 1	September 23	Exam 2	October 16
Exam 3	November 4	Exam 4	December 9 at 11:00–12:50 in LS 115

Grading: Final grades will be determined by dividing the points accumulated by each individual student, by the total number of points of the given exams and paper. Therefore, a student's midterm and final grade will be determined by adding scores from exams and/or paper, and dividing them by 100 and 250, respectively.

It is the student's responsibility to know their grade status after each exam. It is highly recommended that troubled students seek early help. If you performed poorly on the first exam, you should make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible. All appointments missed by students without prior notification will be documented.

Grading Scale: The following grade scale will be used to assign a letter grade to a student's numerical grade. There is no curve, nor is any extra credit granted other than bonus readings for each exam.

A = 95-100, A- = 90-94, B+ = 85-89, B = 80-84, B- = 75-79, C+ = 70-74, C = 65-69
C- = 60-64, D = 55-59, F = <54

Students with Disabilities: If you need course accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: Everything submitted for grading is expected to be a student's own work. Anything suspected otherwise will be dealt with according to the College policy.

Lecture Sequence

September

- 2 Our changing world
- 4 Addressing environmental problems. Part 1
Addressing environmental problems. Part 2
- 9 Energy and the ecosystem.
- 11 Ecosystems and living organisms
- 16 Ecosystems and the physical environment.
- 18 Major ecosystems of the world.
- 23 **First exam, covering material from 9/2 to 9/18**
- 25 Understanding population growth.
- 30 Understanding population growth./Facing problems of overpopulation.

October

- 2 Fossil fuels.

- 7 Fossil fuels./Nuclear energy.
- 9 No Class
- 14 Renewable energy and conservation.
- 16 **Second exam, covering material from 9/25 to 10/11**
- 21 Water: A fragile resource.
- 23 Soils and their preservation.
Minerals: A nonrenewable resource.
- 28 Preserving Earth's biological diversity.
- 30 Land resources and conservation.

November

- 4 **Third exam, covering material from 10/12 to 11/2**
- 6 Food resources: A challenge for agriculture.
- 11 Air pollution.
- 13 Global atmospheric changes.
- 18 Water and soil pollution.
- 20 The pesticide dilemma.
- 25 The pesticide dilemma.
- 27 **Thanksgiving recess**

December

- 2 Solid and hazardous Wastes.
- 4 Tomorrow's world
- 9 **Exam 4, 11:00-12:50 pm covering material since 11/6**