SYLLABUS
Spring 2015

University of Arizona
Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science (SWES)

Course Number, Title & Units:
Number: ENVS 210
Title: Fundamentals of Environmental Science and Sustainability
Units: 3

Location and Times:
Days: MWF
Time: 11 to 11:50 a.m.
Location: Chavez 110

Description of Course:
This course is about how modern science and technology have increased our understanding of the Earth’s environment and improved our ability to solve the important environmental challenges facing humanity, including climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, energy generation and water shortages.

Instructor:
Name: Dr. Joan E. Curry
Office location: 310 Saguaro Hall
Office Hours: Mon 1-2, Tues 3:30-4:30pm and by appointment
Mailbox location: 429 Shantz (SWES Department Office)
Phone: (520) 626-5081 (office)
E-mail: curry@ag.arizona.edu

Teaching Assistant and Preceptors:
Graduate Teaching Assistant
Trevor McKellar: tmckella@email.arizona.edu
Preceptors: TBA

Course Website on D2L:
http://www.d2l.arizona.edu

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:
This course will help you become more aware of the Earth’s environment through study of the physical, biological, and human processes underlying major environmental issues. The two major themes for this course are environmental systems and sustainability. The following outcomes are what we expect you to learn by taking this course. You should by the completion of the course be able to:
1. Define biologic functioning and role of non-living parts within natural and human-modified environments.
2. Describe the underlying science behind major environmental issues.
3. Describe the roles of ethics, economics, politics, and law in shaping environmental management and policy.
4. Describe innovative ways to make our university campus environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.
5. Analyze the pros and cons of proposed solutions to major environmental issues.

Schedule:
The proposed schedule is found on the D2L class website under the “Content” button. Note: the schedule and topics may be modified slightly during the semester (see Subject to Change Statement in this syllabus.)

Course Methods:
The course will focus on activities in which each student is asked to take primary responsibility for his/her own learning. The instructor’s role is to help facilitate learning through formulation of expected learning outcomes, lectures, demonstrations, and assignments that develop critical thinking skills and analysis of environmental topics. Assessment of learning outcomes will occur mainly in the forms of writing/computation/graphing assignments, online assignments from textbook publishing company, on-line and in class quizzes, and in-class exams.

Classroom Management and Format:
Lectures and discussions will often be supplemented by viewing excerpts from websites. Video Field Trips, such as tours of coal-fired power plants and wastewater treatment plants, provided by the textbook publisher will be used. Current articles from the New York Times, Arizona Daily Star, and other media outlets will also be incorporated into lectures and discussions, especially at the beginning of the class period. Students are encouraged to bring articles to class for discussion.

Required Textbook:
Withgott, J. and Laposata. 2014. Environment - The Science Behind the Stories. 5th Ed. Pearson/Benjamin Cummings. The text is available in print form at the Student Union Memorial Center Bookstore. The book may also be purchased directly from the publisher in electronic form (Pearson eText). This new edition (both print & eText) comes with access to the online “Mastering Environmental Science” (MES) feature that has helpful learning tools, such as Interpreting Graphs & Data & Reading Quizzes. Students should register on the MES website using information given in the News items section of D2L.

Required or Special Materials:
This course syllabus and assignments are available on the D2L site. Additional reference materials will be made available on D2L.

Required/Recommended Knowledge:
Non-science majors should have completed two Natural Sciences Tier I General Education courses. A basic understanding of introductory biological and chemical principles is recommended. It is recommended but not required that students have completed ENVS 195A “Careers in Environmental Science”. This course builds upon main topics addressed in the ENVS 170A “Introduction to Environmental Science” course.

Grading Policy:
Standard University of Arizona grading criteria is used:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 80% to &lt; 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>≥ 70% to &lt; 80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>≥ 60% to &lt; 70%</td>
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Incomplete grades will be given only in special circumstances in compliance with University policy. Evaluation criteria will be provided for major assignments. Grades for assignments and tests will be posted on D2L as soon as possible.

**Staying Current on Points:**
After a grade has been recorded D2L grade book students have 5 calendar days to question or appeal the points they received for the assignment. After that date, there will be no change in the points. Points for the MES homework are recorded automatically on the MES website. The points for the MES homework will be added to the D2L grades section at the end of the semester.

**Attendance Policy:**
All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean designee) will be honored. Absences not pre-approved cannot be made up.

**Assignment/Testing Schedule/Due Dates: (See schedule on D2L content)**
Mid-term exams (2 @ 100 pts each; 200 pts) on Feb 18th and Apr 1st. Final exam (Exam 3) (100 points) 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on May 11th. Honors student group research (Powerpoint) presentation to the class will be May 4 or 6th.

**Summary of points and possible extra credit**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Possible Extra Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3 @ 100 pts each)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes, in-class and out-of-class assignments - average scaled to 100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastering Environmental Science Homework score - average scaled to 100 points</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra credit opportunities (max 30 points)</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
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**Totals\(^1\) (500 points)**  
100% 30 points added to total score

\(^1\)Additional 100 points Honors Student Group Project for students receiving Honors College credit. Course grade for Honors students will, thus, be based upon 600 total points.

**Assessment Format:**
Test format may include multiple choice, completion, matching, short answer and essay questions. The final (3rd) exam will not be comprehensive. Exams will be in class and closed book/notes.

**Late Policy:**
All assignments must be turned in on time. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of loss of 10% of the points per calendar day.

Examinations – cannot be made up unless prior arrangements are made with instructor.

Mastering Environmental Science (MES) homework – due on the MES website at time to be announced in class. For an excused absence, such as due to illness (verified with doctor’s note), student must notify instructor via email within one day of the absence. Writing activities – cannot be made up.

**Bibliography:**
Various peer reviewed research articles may be placed on D2L. Web sites and news articles may be placed on D2L.

**Classroom Behavior:**
Policy regarding use of cell phones and personal computers: All electronics including cell phones and laptop computers should be turned off during class except when special use is permitted by instructor.

The Arizona Board of Regents’ Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one’s self. See: http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml.

Notification of Objectionable Materials: Materials used in this course are not deemed objectionable.

Special Needs and Accommodations Statement: Students who need special accommodation or services should contact the Disability Resources Center, 1224 East Lowell Street, Tucson, AZ 85721, (520) 621-3268, FAX (520) 621-9423, email: uadrc@email.arizona.edu, http://drc.arizona.edu/. You must register and request that the Center or DRC send instructor official notification of your accommodations needs as soon as possible. Please plan to meet with instructor by appointment to discuss accommodations and how your course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. The need for accommodations must be documented by the appropriate office.

Student Code of Academic Integrity: Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students may be required to submit written work to http://www.turnitin.com (via D2L dropbox) to verify originality of their work. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity. See: http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/

If you decide to take and continue in this course, you are agreeing to submit your papers online on D2L dropbox, when so instructed, through a plagiarism-prevention program called Turnitin.com. You should note that Turnitin – always without your name and any personal information – will retain your paper as part of their data-base so that students who plagiarize from it can be detected. Because of this program, the vast majority of you who do their own work and cite their sources of information properly will not have to compete with students who commit undetected plagiarism. Anyone who has questions or problems with Turnitin may talk privately about these with the instructor.

Confidentiality of Student Records: All student records are treated with confidentiality as described in http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm

Subject to Change Statement: Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Course Withdrawal: Students withdrawing from this course must notify the instructor prior to nonattendance in classes and execute drop or withdrawal procedures in accordance with the UA General Catalog. See: http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/ Students failing to attend class in two or more successive classes are subject to automatic withdrawal if arrangements have not been made between student and instructor.

Honors Credit: Students receiving honors credit will be required to participate in a research project and present findings to the class. Students should contact instructor early in semester to arrange to contract for Honors College credit.