ENSC 1343 A  Science of the Human Environment  Fall 2016
Monday, 11:10 – 12:00 Noon  Strake 201
Dr. Maury Harris  Office: Rob 106  Phone: 713-525-3805
Office Hours: 4:00 – 5:00 PM MW, 11:00 – 12:00 Tuesday
Friday Afternoon: By Appointment Only
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Course Description:
This class will discuss and apply basic concepts environmental science, with specific reference to the operation of science and environmental studies, the resources of the biosphere, ecology and ecosystems, the human population, ethics, hunger and air quality.

Learning Goals:
1. The integration of science and social science in environmental; studies;
2. Ecosystems: structure, function, development and degradation;
3. Human population dynamics as it applies to food resource distribution, hunger and poverty;
4. Economics and politics as they apply to resource distribution and human population;
5. Biological resource use.
6. Air resources and air pollution;
7. Human population and hunger;
8. The religious and ethical considerations concerning pollution;
9. The connections between laws, politics and environmental dispute resolution.

Class  Subject(s)
8.22 – 8.26  Environmental Problems, Their Causes and Sustainability
8.29 – 9.2  Science, Matter, Energy and Systems
9.5 – 9.9  Labor Day, Ecosystems: What are They and How Do They Work
9.12 – 9.16  Biodiversity and Evolution
9.19 – 9.23  Test #1, The Human Population and its Impact
9.26 – 9.30  Climate and Biodiversity & Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity: Saving Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services
10.3 – 10.7  Climate and Biodiversity &
10.10 – 10.14  Fall Break, Aquatic Biodiversity & Sustaining Aquatic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
10.17 – 10.21  Nonrenewable Energy
10.31 – 11.4  Test #2, Environmental Hazards and Human Health
11.7 – 11.11  Air Pollution
11.14 – 11.18  Climate Disruption
11.21 – 11.25  Climate Disruption, Thanksgivings Break
11.28 – 12.2  Economics, Environment and Sustainability
12.5  Environmental Worldviews, Ethics, and Sustainability
12.14  Comprehensive Final Examination (12.12.15)
11:00 – 1:30 PM

Required Readings/Materials:

Calendar – Assignments and Due Dates:
1. Test #1  September 19
2. Test #2  October 31
3. Class Final  December 12
4. Volunteer/Paper Option  December 5

Computation of Grades:
Test #1 30%
Test #2 30%
Lab Final 30%
Vol/Paper 10%

Grading Scale:
93 – 100 A  80 – 82 B-  67 – 69 D+
90 – 93 A-  77 – 79 C+  60 – 66 D
87 – 89 B+  73 – 76 C  59 and Below F
83 – 86 B  70 – 72 C-
Expectations of Students:

Turning in Assignments and the Final Examination: Students must submit all major assignments in order to take the final examination. Failure to complete the course (by not turning in assignments(s)) will result in failure of the course.

Tests: The tests will be of the multiple choice, true/false, matching and short-answer/essay questions. Each test will have a written portion covering the notes and the final will include a significant written portion. Tests will NOT be returned. Students wishing to view their tests may schedule an appointment. No pictures may be taken of the tests with a cell phone.

The University abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other legal mandates. To receive accommodations students must provide information to validate that a disability exists. Each student’s situation is individually assessed and reviewed.

Students that need special arrangements for testing, note taking, or other related matters must ask to have the instructor notified. In the absence of notice, no special arrangements may be made. You must inform me sufficiently in advance for each test/assignment when you require alternative arrangements or none will be allowed.

Attendance: Attendance is very important in this course. Because of this, students will be allowed five absences throughout the semester. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student entering the classroom after attendance will be responsible for informing the professor at the end of class. Once the professor has left the classroom, anyone not on the roll for the day will be counted absent. After the fifth absence, students will incur a one point penalty on the final grade for each absence.

Absences: You will be allowed to make up ONE examination if missed with a documentable excuse. NO TEST WILL BE GIVEN EARLY OR LATE. The make up test(regardless of excuse) will have ten questions and be of the short answer type. They will be administered two weeks before finals.

Taping of Lectures: Lectures may be taped by permission of the professor.

Volunteer/Paper Option

You are being given the option of either attending a field service opportunity either through the environmental science and studies department, or by writing a paper. You will be asked to make a decision by September 3.

The Paper (The Paper Will not Be Returned)

| Length: | - 6 to 8 pages, double spaced, typed |
|         | - 5 sources minimum, only two of which can be textbooks. |
|         | - Must be at least five pages of text. |

| Dates Due*: | List of Topics | September 9 |
| Bibliography: | October 7 |
| Thesis: | October 28 |
| Outline: | November 11 |
| Final**: | December 5 |

* If the paper is not turned in by 5 PM on December 5, the length will be doubled with a new due date of December 6. If any of the first four dates are missed, the points for that portion will be forfeit.

**Grades for Final Portion:

| Content: | 5 pts |
| Completeness: | 2 pts |
| Figures: | 3 pts |
| Bibliography: | 5 pts |
| Spelling and Grammar: | 85 pts |

Please Note: Students using Internet sources for their papers must have prior permission from the professor. NO PAPER will be allowed that is 100% from Internet sources.
The Volunteer Opportunity:

You have the option of completing 8 hours of volunteer work related to the environment. This can include such things as the Buffalo Bayou Partnership Field Days, Japhet Creek Linear Park Volunteer Days, Texas Beach Clean Up, tree plantings and related activities. For each activity, you must request approval BEFORE you do the work, you must obtain a signed letter saying that you did the work and the number of hours completed, and you must write a summary and reflection on the experience(s) and an overall, TWO page reflection on the volunteerism and what you have learned in the class and lab. The grade will be based upon the number of hours our of the 8 hours required (24%), the individual summaries and reflections (46%), and the overall, two-page written reflection on how what you did relates to the class and contributes to cleaning up the environment or increasing environmental awareness (30%).

Dates:
- September 28
- October 8
- October 22
- November 12
- November 19
- December 3

Extra Credit Policy: To make it short, I don’t give it. At the end of the semester, I look to see how you have progressed in your grades over the semester and the average for all students in both labs. You don’t get extra credit in the real world, and I think that it sets up an unrealistic situation to give you more points if you were not prepared for the test. You don’t get to do extra credit work in the real world when you blow the job that you were supposed to do. Sometimes your company folds and other people lose their job because you were not prepared. The time to ask for help is before the test, and you should do the labs each week so that you can ask questions and be prepared for the tests!
Academic Dishonesty:

Every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists, and such offenses will be dealt with expeditiously according to the following criteria.

Definition
Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
1. Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s work or using unauthorized materials before or during the test, including the use of electronic devices;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
3. Participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
4. Any conduct which would be recognized as dishonest in an academic setting.

Procedures for Cases of Academic Dishonesty
Faculty and/or exam administrators who consider that they have a valid case of academic dishonesty against a student must …

a. Inform the student of the charge and penalty in writing, using the Report of Academic Dishonesty Form, available from the Registrar. The faculty member will inform the student after the cheating has been discovered and investigated, no later than the date when course grades are due for the semester or academic session. If necessary, the faculty member will send the student a copy of the report by certified mail. The student has the right to appeal the facts of the charge.

b. Determine the penalty for the dishonesty. The penalty is at the discretion of the faculty member, not the exam administrator, and can include either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course. The faculty member is encouraged to discuss this incident with the student and offer recommendations, as appropriate.

For Tests:

Cheating on tests includes taking/giving answers (both actively and passively) to test questions during the test, giving answers after the test to someone who has yet to take the test, and/or bringing in cheating materials (crib notes, preprogrammed calculators, cheat sheets) to the test. You need to understand that cheating on tests/assignments may result in either a grade of zero for this test/assignment or a grade of “F” for the course. Additionally, you need to understanding that cheating will be reported on the academic misconduct form to the appropriate University authority.

For Assignments:

Academic dishonesty, in reference to assignments, includes copying someone else’s information and presenting it as your own (plagiarism), turning in materials photocopied directly from someone else and turning it in as your own work, allowing another student to turn in a copy of your work with your knowledge, and/or cooperative work on an assignment where you are to work alone. You need to understand that cheating on tests/assignments may result in either a grade of zero for this test/assignment or a grade of “F” for the course. Additionally, you need to understanding that cheating will be reported on the academic misconduct form to the appropriate University authority.

General:

As proctors for any test, we can only judge behavior, not intention. Because we can’t read your minds, we must observe your behavior during the test. If you look at another person’s paper, or talk to them during the test, that will be regarded as an incident of academic dishonesty and you will be called out based on this behavior. You need to understand that cheating on tests/assignments may result in either a grade of zero for this test/assignment or a grade of “F” for the course. Additionally, you need to understanding that cheating will be reported on the academic misconduct form to the appropriate University authority.