GENERAL SYLLABUS

ESM 101 - online

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  - student conduct code
  - plagiarism and cheating
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Contact information

Lecture:

Laboratory Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Purpose of the course

This course is designed for non-science majors and beginning science students as an overview to the problems addressed by Environmental Science. This particular version of the course will look at these problems from multiple perspectives and, by example, train you to start looking at any environmental problem using a set of extensible intellectual tools (which I call "approaches").

The broad goal of the course is to help you to become a better citizen in our society as we face many, interrelated environmental and social issues. These problems are "complex" in the sense that they are every changing because of interactions. This course will help you develop an overall strategy to deal with problems that isn't paralyzed in the face of this complexity or uncertainty.
There are three types of specific goals for this course:

1. Multiple perspectives and modes of engagement - introduction to and some practice with the approaches such that they become "habits of mind" and identifying general modes of engaging with problems that are effective.

2. Environmental concepts - a combination of lecture topics and references to Wikipedia and Encyclopedia of Earth pages

3. Direct experience - laboratory field and problem solving

The specific learning objectives for each week are will be listed.

**General course expectations**

Lecture section - stay current on all the reading and assignments.

Laboratory - follow the weekly assignments and use these to engage in the field activities.

Assignments - All assignments have a due time and date. Because we are trying to grade and get the assignments back to you in a timely way --- no late work will be accepted.

Student Conduct Code - Portland State has a well-defined conduct code. [This link takes you to the official description](http://www.pdx.edu/policy/behavioral-conduct-code). In the lab section we will discuss how you can both share work and ideas and still meet the requirement that all assignments represent your personal work.

The problem with cheating can also be heightened on-line. At PSU we are working on ways to minimize the damage to the course integrity from cheating.

**Resources for the course**

D2L - you must login and be able to use all of the web-based features.

The text for this course is online [http://www.johnrueter.com](http://www.johnrueter.com). There is a complete version of the text (v7) and also smaller chunks that might be easier to download or manipulate on a tablet. This version is in the process of being edited and is free.

[Wikipedia](http://www.wikipedia.org)

[National Council for Science of the Environment - Encyclopedia Earth](http://www.encyclopediaofearth.org)

**Assignments and Grading Policies**

For all the weekly assignments, I will throw out the lowest score. In addition during the Thanksgiving week, the only assignments due will be the short quiz on the reading and the lab will have an open period for GTA comments back to
LECTURE point - counts for 3/4 of your grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>points</th>
<th>assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 point</td>
<td>Orientation checklist quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 * 10 points</td>
<td>Concept quiz - I throw out your lowest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 * 10 points</td>
<td>Lecture - crux assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 * 3 points</td>
<td>weekly</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>final quiz</td>
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<td><strong>209 points</strong> total for lecture</td>
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LAB Points - The lab will account for 1/4 of your overall grade.

**However, you MUST pass the lab to pass the course.**

Assignments and quizzes

Concept quizzes - multiple choice quizzes.

Crux points - short written assignment (1/2 page each answer) that ties the approaches described in the text to the environmental details as seen in Wikipedia, Encyclopaedia Earth and the simulations.

Self-assessment - short check on what topics you are confident with.

Score to grade

Grades will be assigned by a mix of fixed cutoffs (90-80-70Fo%: A-B-C-) and point distribution (curve). The point distribution method can only help you. For example you might get an A- if you got 88%, but if you get 90% you are guaranteed to get an A-.

Remember the lab counts about a quarter of your total score.

Holidays for Fall 2015

There will be a general assignment for the week of Thanksgiving but there will
be no assignments that would be due during the Thanksgiving Break period.

**Sickness policy**

If you are too sick to perform the assignments on the web, please notify me and some arrangement will be made.

**Use of class information for assessment purposes**

Any student activity in the course (written or verbal assignments) can be used for the purposes of assessment of student learning in the class. All results will be used in a confidential manner (not anonymous). For the purposes of assessment we need to be able to track your performance on particular questions in relationship to your overall course performance and, possibly, prerequisite courses or following courses. This information will be treated in a secure and ethical manner just as we currently treat all grade information.

*last updated on September 27, 2015 by John Rueter*