

Introduction to Natural Resources

Fall 2010 BIOL 20100

Tuesday 4:45 to 7:15 p.m.

Science Building 254

Instructor: Blake Mathys, Ph.D.

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Course Website: Blackboard

Office Hours: by appointment

Tentative Schedule: Schedule may be modified; if so, students will be notified.

Date	Discussion Topic(s)	Presentation
Sept 7	Class introduction	
14	Chapter 1, other readings	
21	Chapter 2	Group 1 Presents
28	Chapter 3, 4	Group 2 Presents
Oct 5	Chapter 5	Group 3 Presents
12	Chapter 6	Group 4 Presents
19	Chapter 8, 9	Group 5 Presents
26	MIDTERM EXAM	
Nov 2	NO CLASS	
9	Chapter 10	Group 6 Presents
16	Chapter 11	Group 7 Presents
23	Chapter 13	Group 8 Presents
30	Chapter 14, 15	Group 9 Presents
Dec 7	Chapter 16	Group 10 Presents
14	Chapter 17	Group 11 Presents
TBD	FINAL EXAM	

Course Objectives:

Students will

1. Gain a better understanding of the interactions between humans and the biotic and abiotic components of the environment
2. Explicitly examine their biases and opinions about topics related to the natural world
3. Learn about the importance of the natural world to humans
4. Learn about the scientific study of human-relevant natural resources (climatic, biotic, recreational, *etc.*)

Textbook: Environmental Science, 13th edition; Miller and Spoolman; 2010

There will be other reading assignments given out during the semester

Classroom Conduct: Please make every effort to be on time for class. If you must be late, please strive to enter quietly and with as little disruption as possible. I ask that you refrain from distracting other students with electronic devices. If I notice such distractions occurring during the lecture period, I may ask you to cease using the device. If you need to have your cell phone on for some exceptional circumstance (family emergency or something similar), please just inform me and it will not be a problem.

Academic Honesty: I take academic integrity very seriously. I will make every effort to limit opportunities for dishonesty; however I am well aware that it is not possible to exclude all possibility for cheating. If I detect cheating, I will pursue it; please be sure to read Rowan's "Academic Integrity" document available here:

http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/documents/2009_AcadInteg_policy.pdf

Absence: Attendance is required. Much of the learning opportunities for this course revolve around classroom discussions and interactions, therefore you must be present. Meeting once per week means that missing even one class is a significant amount. If you must miss class for a valid reason, please contact me as soon as possible (preferably before the absence). I will pass around an attendance sheet for you to sign each day.

Participation: I am including a participation grade as a significant part of your final grade. This is meant to encourage you to be actively involved in the class discussions. Being on time, asking questions, and generally taking an interest in the subject matter are things that will positively influence your participation grade.

Asking for Help: Please ask for help when you need it. There will be many opportunities for you to get help over the course of the semester, whether during scheduled meeting times or outside of them. The time to ask for help is during the course, when such help can still be effective at increasing your comprehension and influencing your final grade. Do not wait until the end of the course and ask for leniency; I am more than happy to help you do as well as possible, please just ask.

Group Presentations: Beginning on September 21st, one group will present per class period. Groups will consist of three or four students, and will provide a presentation or activity that will last 25 to 30 minutes, and will be followed by discussion with the rest of the class. One week prior to the presentation, please provide me with a one-page overview/description of what you will be doing for your presentation. The presentation will be evaluated by all class members and by me.

Homework: There will be a few homework assignments during the semester.

Grading:	Midterm	25%
	Final	25%
	Group Presentation	25%
	Participation	15%
	Homework	10%