

EVS 195 Introduction to Environmental Studies

Fall 2013: TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm in CS 140

Instructor: Dr. Jeffery Hill
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Course Description

The environmental challenges facing us today are great, ranging from climate change and rising sea levels to loss of global biodiversity. Yet, we also have a greater opportunity than ever before to meet these challenges head-on. Media have the potential to educate us about environmental issues regardless of where we are in the world. And they can energize, empower, and organize us toward solutions to these issues. Media can serve to persuade and even drive public opinion and environmental policy. On the other hand media often fail the environment through omission, misinformation, propaganda and even deception. Exposure to media is so pervasive that most of us are relatively unaware of the power that they have in shaping our lives. This is the focus of “EnviroMedia – Environmentalism in the Age of Big Media.” Using a hands-on approach, we will look at the science behind environmental issues through class discussions, field trips, and service-learning experiences. This will provide us with the foundation for critically examining how the media present environmental issues, whether in news, documentaries, feature films, or the simplest of blogs. The class will also *create* media about environmental issues addressed in the class through developing our own web pages, video, photographs, and blogs.

This year, the learning community will focus on the coast. We’ll use all of the knowledge we’ve gained throughout the course to not only understand the coastal environment, but to understand its ecosystems, our relationship to it, and issues surrounding it. And most importantly, we’ll make a positive contribution to the health of coastal ecosystems through our service projects.

Objectives

1. To have students understand the basic terminology and concepts underlying current environmental issues.
2. To have students understand major current local, national and global environmental issues.
3. To have students understand historical events and trends that have resulted in today’s environmental issues.
4. To have students understand the different cultural views of environmental issues from a global perspective.
5. To have students understand their role in resolving current environmental problems.
6. To have students understand the consequences of not resolving current environmental problems.
7. To have students understand future trends related to the environment.

Required Textbook

Wright, R. T, & Boorse, D. F. (2014). *Environmental science: Toward a sustainable future (12th ed.)*. Pearson: Boston.
(make sure you get a copy with the Mastering Environmental Science Access Code- this is new for Fall 2013)

Other readings, as assigned, will be placed on Blackboard at: <http://learn.uncw.edu/>

Course Web Sites

Blackboard: We will use Blackboard for the course syllabus, grades and supplementary readings. You can access the Blackboard site for this course at: <http://learn.uncw.edu/>

Mastering Environmental Science: We will use Mastering Environmental Science for pre-class assignments and activities. You can access the Mastering Environmental Science site for this course at: <http://www.masteringenvironmentalscience.com/>. The name of the course is EVS 195 Fall 2013 LC (MESHILLEVS195FALL2013).

Mastering Environmental Science Homework (10 points)

Each class day, there will be a brief assignment on Mastering Environmental Science for you to complete before class. The assignment will consist of questions and activities based upon the reading for that upcoming class. The assignments for each week will be opened up on Monday morning and closed on Thursday at 2:00 pm. You must complete the activities during this timeframe to received credit.

Media Prospectus (10 points)

Throughout the semester, you will engage in a collaborative project that will tie together all three of our Environmedia courses. Each group will select an environmental issue for in-depth investigation. This semester, given that the theme of our courses is the

coast, the topics must all be relevant to the coast. The ultimate, end product will be a PechaKucha presentation (20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each- six minutes and 40 seconds in total).

Each group will be responsible for a completing a component of this project in each of the three Environmedia courses. In EVS 195, each group will develop a prospectus outlining the topic of their presentation, supported by an unbiased literature review analyzing the scientific underpinning of the topic. This prospectus will guide you in your work in COM 160 in developing the presentation, and in UNI 101 in presenting it. Specific details of this assignment will be discussed in class (Due October 3).

Exams (total: 80 points)

There will be two non-cumulative exams each worth 25 points each. The final exam, worth 30 points, will not be cumulative but will contain 5 points worth of questions asking you to tie concepts from the class together in order to assess your higher-level understanding of the material.

You will have the option of taking a replacement cumulative exam to substitute for one of the first two exam grades. This exam will be held immediately following the final exam. Taking this exam is completely optional, but you must tell me ahead of time whether you will be taking it.

Exams will be based upon class discussion, lecture material and readings from the textbook and other assigned sources. Although the replacement cumulative exam at the end of the course is optional, you must take all other exams. If you miss an exam, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam and it will be counted toward your final grade in the course. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing an exam, you can take a make-up essay exam. Legitimate excuses include death in the family or severe (documented) illness. Excuses which are not legitimate include forgetfulness or oversleeping. To legitimize your excuse, you must provide your instructor with documentation (e.g. doctor's note). Please make every effort to contact me beforehand so that I know you will be absent.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER.

Media Event

This semester, we're going to do something that will bring environmental media to the UNCW campus. Something that will educate and energize the campus. Something that we can all do to make a positive environmental impact. Details forthcoming.

Field Trips

One of the best parts of teaching this course as part of a learning community is that we will have the opportunity to go on several exciting course-related field trips. Attendance at all course field trips is mandatory. If you miss a field trip, you will be penalized one letter grade from your final course grade, unless you can provide a legitimate, documented excuse. Such legitimate excuses include death in the family or severe illness. Excuses which are not legitimate include forgetfulness, having to work, or oversleeping. To legitimize your excuse, you must provide your instructor with documentation (e.g. doctor's note). Please make every effort to contact me beforehand so that I know you will be absent.

If you have a legitimate, documented excuse for missing a field trip, you will have the option of finding a service activity at a coastally-related organization that lasts at least 4 hours, then writing a 2 page reflection paper. The grade for this paper will equal 10 points of your final grade for the course, which will compensate for the letter grade penalty for missing the field trip. Make-up service activities must be approved by your learning community instructors in advance.

When possible, we'll use university vehicles. When university vehicles are not available, we will carpool.

Course Policies

Class attendance: Attendance is essential for mastering the course material. Thus, there are no excused or unexcused absences; just absences. Only four absences will be allowed during the semester. Each additional absence will result in a deduction of three points from your final grade. Either entering the class late or leaving early will count as an absence.

Class participation: Class discussion adds to the interest level and learning environment of the course. All students are expected to actively participate throughout the semester.

Use of laptops and tablets: You are more than welcome to use laptops or tablets. However, they are to be used for only course-related activities during class time. Therefore, if you do use a laptop: 1) WiFi is turned off at the beginning of class; 2) You will email me your class notes immediately at the end of class (after you turn WiFi back on). If I don't receive your notes within 15 minutes of the end of class, that will count as an absence.

Class etiquette: Please turn off all cell phones before entering class. Computer use is permitted as long as it relates to the course. Please do not eat during class. Drinking beverages is permitted. Proper attire is required.

NOTE: I reserve the right to decrease a student's final grade for disrupting class. Disruptions include, but are not limited to consistently arriving late, failure to turn off cell phones, beepers and pagers before entering class, side conversations, using MP3 players, cell phone use, text messaging, and computer use not related to this course.

University Statement of Academic Expectations

In choosing UNCW, you have become part of our community of scholars. We recognize that the UNCW learning experience is challenging and requires hard work. It also requires a commitment to make time available to do that hard work. The university expects you to make academics your highest priority by dedicating your time and energy to training your mind and acquiring knowledge. Academic success in critical thinking and problem solving prepares you for the changes and challenges you will encounter in the future. Our faculty and academic support resources are readily available as partners in this effort, but the primary responsibility for learning is yours.

Statement of Academic Integrity

All members of UNCW's community are expected to follow the academic Honor Code. Please read the UNCW Honor Code carefully (as covered in the UNCW Student Handbook). Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this class. Please be especially familiar with UNCW's position on plagiarism as outlined in the UNCW Student Handbook. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which you take someone else's ideas and represent them as your own. Here are some examples of plagiarism:

- a. You write about someone else's work in your paper and do not give them credit for it by referencing them.
- b. You give a presentation and use someone else's ideas and do not state that the ideas are the other persons.
- c. You get facts from your textbook or some other reference material and do not reference that material.

Religious Observance Policy

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances per academic year. You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance and using one of the two permissible absences for the academic year. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class, who will then confirm your intentions to miss class with the course instructors. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless you submit the request in writing the first week to either me or the Registrar.

The UNCW Statement on Diversity in the University Community

As an institution of higher learning, the University of North Carolina Wilmington represents a rich diversity of human beings among its faculty, staff, and students and is committed to maintaining a campus environment that values that diversity. Accordingly, the university supports policies, curricula, and co-curricular activities that encourage understanding of and appreciation for all members of its community and will not tolerate any harassment or disrespect for persons because of race, gender, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, or relationship to other university constituents. Students with Disabilities information and resources is available at <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/disability/>

Zero Tolerance Policy

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273, Campus Police at 962-3184, or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit: <http://www.uncw.edu/safe-relate/campusResources.htm>. Violence prevention information and resources are available at <http://www.uncw.edu/safe relate/>.

Disability Accommodation

Students with diagnosed disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (962-7555). Please give me a copy of the letter you receive from Office of Disability Services detailing class accommodations you may need. If you require accommodation for test-taking please make sure I have the referral letter no less than one week before the test.

Course Grades

There are 100 possible points:

- 2 exams at 25 points each 50 pts.
- Final exam 30 pts.
- Mastering Environmental Science 10 pts.
- Media prospectus 10 pts.
- Total..... 100 pts.

Final letter grade by total percentage:

A	93 – 100%	C	73 – 76%
A-	90 – 92%	C-	70 – 72%
B+	87 – 89%	D+	67 – 69%
B	83 – 86%	D	63 – 66%
B-	80 – 82%	D-	60 – 62%
C+	77 – 79%	F	0 – 59%

As instructor, I maintain the right to adjust grades as I best see fit in order to maintain fairness and consistency.

EVS 195 Introduction to Environmental Studies: Tentative Class Schedule

Fall 2013: TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm in CS 140

Note that this schedule is tentative. We will deviate from it in order to accommodate your interests, current events, the natural flow of the course, and other related circumstances.

<i>Topics and readings by week</i>	<i>Assignments and notes</i>
Part 1: Framework for a Sustainable Future	
August 22 Introduction to the course: What is Environmental Science? • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 1 Understanding environmental issues • “The science of why we don’t believe science” • “The CRAAP test”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine your ecological footprint using <u>both</u>: http://www.earthday.org/footprint-calculator http://www.myfootprint.org/
August 27 Ropes course day!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet in the classroom. Wear comfortable clothes and closed toed shoes (like running shoes)
August 29 Our ecological footprint • “Staying within our limits” • “The happy planet index”- <i>Executive Summary</i> • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring laptop and ID to class Print out ecological footprint data and bring to class
September 3 Economics, politics, and public and policy • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 2 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 2	
September 5 Economics, politics, and public and policy (continued) • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 2 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 3	
Part 2: Ecology: The Science of Organisms and their Environment	
September 10 Basic needs of living things • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 3, Ch. 10 (pp. 241-243) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 4	
September 12 Basic needs of living things (continued) • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 3, Ch. 10 (pp. 241-243) (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 5	
September 17 Populations and communities • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 4 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 6	
September 19 Populations and communities (continued) • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 4 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 7	
September 24 Populations and communities (continued) • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 4 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Wilgis, from the NC Coastal Federation will visit to talk about our service project
September 26 Exam 1	
September 28: Service project with the NC Coastal Federation	
October 1 Ecosystems: Energy, patterns, and disturbance • <i>Environmental Science</i> : Ch. 5 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i> : 9	

October 3	<p>Ecosystems: Energy, patterns, and disturbance (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 5 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media prospectus due
October 8	<p>Wild species and biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 6 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 11 	
October 10: No class- Fall vacation		
October 15	<p>Wild species and biodiversity (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 6 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 12 	
October 17	<p>The value, use, and restoration of ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 7 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 13 	
Part 3: The Human Population and Essential Resources		
October 22	<p>UNCW sustainability tour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>UNCW sustainability report</i>” • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 14 	
October 24	<p>The human population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>The financial time bomb of longer lives</i>” • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 8 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 15 	
October 29	<p>Population and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 9 (pp. 216-224, 231-234) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 16 	
October 31	Exam 2	
Part 4: Harnessing Energy for Human Societies		
November 5	<p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>How quickly we forget</i>” • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 17 	
November 7	<p>Energy from fossil fuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 14 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 18 	
November 12	<p>Nuclear power</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 15 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 19 	
November 14	<p>Renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>Rush to tap wind is just beginning off the N.C. coast</i>” • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 16 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 20 	
Part 5: Global Challenges		
November 19	<p>Stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>A safe operating space for humanity</i>” • “<i>Ecological impacts of climate change</i>” • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 19 (pp. 498-504), Ch. 18 • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 21 	

November 21	
Climate change (continued)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Are you ready for more?” • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 18 (continued) • <i>Mastering Environmental Science</i>: 22 	
November 26: No class- Work on final projects	
November 28: No class- Thanksgiving vacation	
<i>Part 4: Stewardship for a Sustainable Future</i>	
December 3	
A sustainable future	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental Science</i>: Ch. 23 	
Final exam and optional comprehensive exam: Thursday, December 12 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	