

EVS 195 Introduction to Environmental Studies

Fall 2011: TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm in CS 138

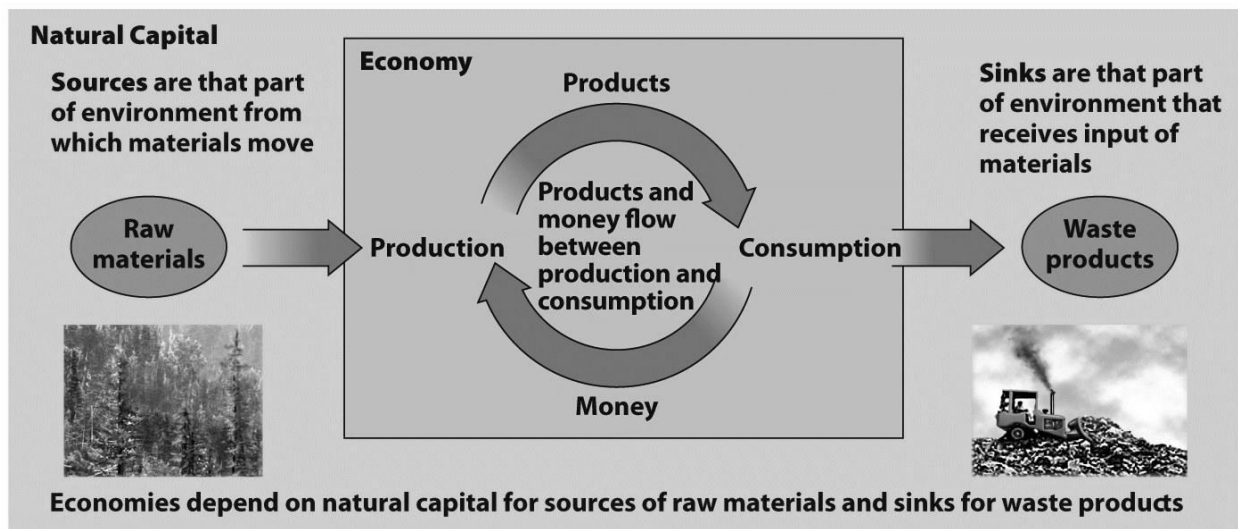
Instructor: Dr. Jeffery Hill
Office: FR 2067
Phone: 962-3264

Office Hours: By appointment (and any time my office door is open)
E-mail: hillj@uncw.edu
Web page: <http://people.uncw.edu/hillj/>

Course Description

Faced with a changing climate, decreasing biodiversity, rapidly increasing world population and a host of other concerns, we are experiencing greater environmental challenges than any previous generation. Given the immense volume of conflicting information surrounding these issues, it is often difficult to determine which arguments are scientifically-based, accurate and objective. Nonetheless, it is important to be able to compare scientific evidence to the rhetoric of the media if we are to effectively address these environmental challenges. This requires a basic understanding of the underlying science of the environment. The most important step, however, is using this knowledge to be a part of the solution to these environmental challenges. These skills are best developed in a collaborative fashion, using diverse texts, direct experience, guest speakers and other activities. The Green Wave Learning Community is a conjunction of EVS 195, ENG 100, and UNI 105 that provides the perfect platform for becoming a knowledgeable and active environmental steward.

This year, the course will be focused around the consumption cycle: from extracting the resources, producing the goods, transporting the goods, using the goods, and dealing with the waste created throughout the entire cycle. As a case study, we'll view our agricultural system through this lens.



Raven, Berg, and Hassenzahl (2008)

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

Raven, P. H., Berg, L. R., & Hassenzahl, D. M. (2008). *Environment* (6th edition). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing Company.

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

The textbook web site can help you in this class: <http://bcs.wiley.com/he-bcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470119268&bcsId=4191>

Course Web Site

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/>

Exams (total: 90 points)

There will be four non-cumulative exams each worth 30 points. The lowest grade of the first three exams will be dropped. Exams will be based upon class discussion, lecture material and readings from the textbook and other assigned sources. You must take all 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.

Research Prospectus (10 points)

Throughout the semester, you will engage in a collaborative research project that will tie together all three of our Green Wave courses. Each group will be assigned a broad topic for in-depth investigation, and then each individual in the group will examine one specific aspect of the topic. This semester, given that the theme of our courses is the consumption cycle, the topics will be:

- Recycling
- Water Quality and Usage
- Energy
- Human Population
- Air Quality

In each of the three Green Wave courses, you will be responsible for a component of this research project. In EVS 195, each student will develop their individual research prospectus. Specific details and due date of this assignment will be discussed in class.

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

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 be given the option of writing a 10 page issue analysis paper. The grade for this paper will equal 10 points of your final grade for the course, to compensate for the lost letter grade for missing the field trip.

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 five 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:

3 exams (of 4) at 30 points each 90 pts.
Research 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 2011: TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm in CS 138

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, exams, and notes</i>
Section 1: Ecological systems	
Week 1 – August 25	
Introduction to the course: What is Environmental Studies?	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 1	
Understanding environmental issues	
• “ <i>The science of why we don’t believe science</i> ”	
• “ <i>Chile approves huge dam project on wild rivers</i> ”	
Week 2 – August 29	
Our ecological footprint	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 2	
How did we get here? Environmental laws, economics, and ethics	
• “ <i>Life has never been so good for our species</i> ”	
• “ <i>The happy planet index</i> ”- <i>Executive Summary</i>	
Week 3 – September 5	
Ecosystems and energy	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 3	
Week 4 – September 12	
Ecosystems and living organisms	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 4	
Week 5 – September 19	
Ecosystems and the physical world	
• <i>Environment</i> , Ch. 5 (pp. 88-97), 6 (pp. 117-118, 128-147)	
Section 2: Agriculture as a case study of ecological systems	
Week 6 – September 26	
Agriculture as an ecological system	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 18 (pp. 417-420)	
• “ <i>A warming planet struggles to feed itself</i> ”	
Soil	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 15	
Week 7 – October 3	
Water	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 14	
• “ <i>The new oil</i> ”	
Food	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 19	
• “ <i>One-third of world’s food lost or wasted</i> ”	
• “ <i>Study: Healthy eating means spending more at store</i> ”	
Week 8 – October 10	
Human health and environmental toxicology	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 7	
• “ <i>Rise in childhood cancers parallels toxic chemical proliferation</i> ”	
The pesticide dilemma	
• <i>Environment</i> : Ch. 23	
Week 9 – October 17	
Water pollution	
• <i>Environment</i> , Ch. 22	
Solid and hazardous wastes	
• <i>Environment</i> , Ch. 24	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine your ecological footprint using <u>both</u>: http://files.earthday.net/footprint/index.html http://www.myfootprint.org/
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 30: Ropes course day! • August 31: Last day to drop without a grade or add • September 1: Bring ecological footprint data to class
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 20: Exam 1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 29: Food, Land, and People Workshop
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 11: No class- Fall vacation • October 13: Last day to withdraw with a W
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 20: Exam 2

Section 3: Global environmental challenges and societal response	
Week 10 – October 24 Population change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>, Ch. 8, 9 • “<i>The financial time bomb of longer lives</i>” 	
Week 11 – October 31 Preserving Earth’s biological diversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 17 • “<i>Trophic downgrading of planet Earth</i>” Planetary processes and natural disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 5 (pp. 88-97), Ch. 6 (128-147) • “<i>Are you ready for more?</i>” 	
Week 12 – November 7 Fossil fuels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 11 • “<i>How quickly we forget</i>” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 10: Exam 3
Week 13 – November 14 Nuclear energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 12 Renewable and alternative energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 13 • “<i>Rush to tap wind is just beginning off the N.C. coast</i>” 	
Week 14 – November 21 Climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 24: No class- Thanksgiving vacation
Week 15 – November 28 Climate change, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 21 	
Section 7: The future?	
Week 16 – December 5 A sustainable future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment</i>: Ch. 25 • “<i>Green and clueless</i>” • “<i>The seven sins of greenwashing</i>” • <i>How to Make a Difference</i> (student web site) 	
Final Exam: Thursday, December 16 from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	