



SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Division of Arts and Sciences

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring Term 2023

EVR 2001 – Introduction to Environmental Science

Welcome - Welcome to EVR 2001, Introduction to Environmental Science. My focus is to support your education in science of ecosystems and principles of environmental science that relates to environmental problems we currently witness in our every-day lives. Though this class is introductory, there are many unique environmental features here in Highlands County that will be highlighted. We live in the headwaters of the Everglades, and on the Lake Wales Ridge, home to one of the highest concentrations of endemic species in the country. I look forward to getting to know each of you and wish you great success and interest in this course

Catalog Description: EVR 2001 provides you with a foundation in environmental science, focusing on science and sustainability, and providing an overview of environmental problems and the search for solutions to those problems. Course uses illustrations from recent environmental events in the news as well as content specific to ecosystems in Florida to introduce the importance of environmental science to students.

Course Specific Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the foundations of Environmental Science, focusing on the Earth's physical systems.
2. Relate the importance of the science of Ecology to Environmental Science and sustainability.
3. Discuss the relationship of Environmental Science to sustainable development and environmental policy.
4. Understand the relationship of agriculture to human populations.
5. Relate forest management, biodiversity, environmental health and toxicology, and making cities sustainable.
6. Discuss aquatic ecosystems and the threats they face.
7. Understand atmospheric science, global climate change and how they are impacted by fossil fuels.
8. Discuss alternative sources of energy.
9. Understand sustainable solutions as they relate to waste management and resource extraction.

Prerequisites: None

Required Course Materials:

The course uses an Open Educational Textbook which provides the framework for the class and as such there is no physical textbook required for this course. The materials needed to complete course assignments will be provided to you.

Instructional Methods: Class lecture and content/Dropbox assignments are the primary sources of information. All class materials, including lectures, discussion forums, chapter assignments, lecture quizzes, and unit quizzes will be available on the course homepage through Panther Central (<https://panthercentral.southflorida.edu>). There is a recorded lecture for each chapter of the textbook. A lecture quiz will be available after viewing each lecture. There are several Content/Dropbox assignments for each Unit. There will be a discussion forum for each unit of the course on some aspect of the material for that unit.

Course Resources:

The primary online resource is the Course homepage, accessible through <https://panthercentral.southflorida.edu/>. Links to specific course resources will be updated at least weekly if not more frequently.

Course Requirements: Assessments (Exams/Quizzes/Assignments):

Policy on Timely Submission of Assignments: Notice of each assignment will be posted by the instructor on Brightspace at least one week prior to its due date. *These due dates are found in the COURSE SCHEDULE.* Discussion forum posts are due for each unit. Lecture quizzes and content/Dropbox assignments will need to be posted to the drop box by their due date, which is at the end of each Unit's work, as found in the **COURSE SCHEDULE.**

Grading:

Grading Evaluation/Criteria

Grading percentages for different assignments or exams may vary somewhat for each faculty teaching the course.

Points will be awarded for each correct answer on chapter quizzes, content/dropbox assignments, discussion forums, the semester project, and unit tests. There will be 6 unit tests. The lowest unit test grade will be dropped. The final exam will not be comprehensive and will only cover material from Unit 6. The semester project is graded based on content and adherence to the assignment guidelines. A total of 1,460 points is possible.

Values for each assignment

- Lecture quizzes: 24 lecture quizzes will be available *after* viewing the recorded lecture. **All lecture quizzes for a unit must be completed before the online unit test for a given unit will be available.** Access through the Assessments tab on the course Brightspace home page; follow the quizzes link to access the quiz for a particular lecture – they will be available to complete until the date specified on the **COURSE SCHEDULE.** One lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the remaining 23 quizzes used to calculate your grade. 240 points possible
- Discussion Forum: There is one discussion forum per unit. To receive full credit you must post one original post, and reply to at least one separate post. Posts and replies should be well thought out. 60 points possible.
- Content/dropbox: There are 24 assignments in this category. 470 points possible.

- Semester project: Half of the grade consists of the submitting your chosen article for approval, and half is the student worksheet, each due as specified in the **COURSE SCHEDULE**. 200 points possible.
- Unit tests: There are a total of 6 unit tests. The lowest grade will be dropped so only the top 5 of the 6 unit tests will be used to calculate this grade. 500 points possible.

Your percentage of the maximum possible points each category of work will be tallied and you will be assigned a letter grade as follows:

A = 89.5-100 B = 79.5-89 C = 69.5-79 D = 59.5-69 F = 0-59.4

Extensions for quizzes or tests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Extra credit may be available for some content/dropbox assignments, with that credit being applied to the online assignment portion of the overall grade. Pop quizzes for extra credit may also be available.