

Environmental Science Bio 137.01 Summer Session I 2008 MTuWThF 8-10 p.m.

Professor: **Dr.** Everett B. Wilson

Office: Lee Drain Building Rm. 107

Phone: 294-1555

Office Hours: 10-12 a.m. - or by appointment

### Course Description

Biology 137 deals with environmental problems, and their underlying causes, and their possible solutions. The problems will be discussed in the context of basic ecological principles. An interdisciplinary framework, however, will integrate both the biological and social aspects of the problems, causes, and potential solutions. Less-developed and more-developed (some would say "over-developed) countries will be compared, focusing on the combined impacts of population growth and per capita resource consumption. Topics of special emphasis will include human population dynamics, the biodiversity crisis, pollution, food production, energy, land use practices, and sustainable development.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOK: Miller, G Tyler Jr. 2007. *Living in the Environment*. 15th edition. Thomson/Brooks Cole.

### OPTIONAL (but extremely useful!) MATERIALS:

### WEBSITE:

[www.thomsonedu.com](http://www.thomsonedu.com) (Access code included with the purchase of a new 15th edition of your text book)

### METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lectures will consist of material from the text *Living in the Environment* as well as from related materials, including but not limited to environmental issues that are "in the news." Figures and tables for the textbook and other sources will be presented during the lecture; some concepts will be emphasized through the use of short videos, animations, and small group discussions.

### CLASS ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student. To do well, you must be an equal and active participant in your education - therefore it is your responsibility to attend class. Most quiz and test material will be based on class lectures and assigned readings. It should be no surprise, therefore, that to do well on quizzes and on exams you must attend lectures and read

(and assimilate!) the assignments! Per University policy, attendance is taken daily. Excessive absences (~3) from class will influence your final grade for the course.

If you are unable to come to class due to illness or unexpected circumstances, it is your responsibility to obtain the class notes. You may contact me in my office if you have specific questions about a given lecture; however, I cannot repeat lectures for students who have missed them.

#### CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally and unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the University. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before the start of class. No talking is allowed during the class except during appropriate contexts (e.g., when asking a question of the instructor or during instructor-approved mini-group discussions.) Students engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the class and may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

#### VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Visitors to class must have prior approval by the instructor to be present in the classroom. Visitors must adhere to the same rules of conduct as outlined above for the students.

#### DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for student with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, you are encouraged to register with SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

You may find that your performance in this class will benefit from the discussions with your classmates and working in small, motivated study groups. I encourage you to work with others to help clarify concepts and understand the class material. However, on exams and during quizzes, you must rely on your *own* reasoning, your *own* memory, and your *own* answers. Cheating is a violation of the Honor Code and will not be tolerated. Regulations and responsibilities put forth in the *Student Code* and in the *Faculty Handbook* will be followed in the event of academic dishonesty.

#### STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending class or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student desiring to absent

himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe a religious holy day(s) must present to their instructor(s) a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be

.

made in the *first fifteen days of the semester* in which the absences will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

### **LECTURE EXAMS:**

Lecture exams will be an hour and will consist of 50 multiple choice questions each.

### **FINAL EXAM**

The final exam will be optional to students that have not missed any scheduled lecture exams. However, the final can be taken to replace a low lecture exam. The final exam will be given during the scheduled time.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be based on total points earned by the student throughout the course. Grades will be determined on a percentage basis as follows:

A = above 90% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69%  
F = below 60%

Above 400 points 350-399 points 300-349 points 250-299 points Below 250 points

Points will be distributed as follows:

4 lecture tests (100 points each) = 400 points

The instructor reserves the right to create a curve (or not) for each test. That is, points may be added to all students equally if the instructor deems it necessary. Points will never be taken away due to superb class performance.

There will be no individual extra credit.

### TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date			Chapter
June 3	Tues	Administrative Details and Introduction	1
June 4	Wed	People and the Environment	1
June 5	Thurs	Science, matter, and energy;	2
		How Ecosystems Work	3
June 6	Fri	Evolution and Biodiversity	4
June 9	Mon	Exam #1	
June 10	Tues	Climate and Biodiversity	5-6
June 11	Wed	Community and Population Ecology	7-8
June 12	Thurs	Human Population Growth	9
June 13	Fri	Ecosystem Approach to Sustaining Biodiversity	10
June 16	Mon	Exam #2 – Species Approach to Sustaining Biodiversity	11-12
June 17	Tues	Food, soils, and pests	13
June 18	Wed	Water and Water Pollution	14
June 19	Thurs	Geology and Non-Renewable Mineral Resources	15
June 20	Fri	Energy	16-17
June 23	Mon	Exam #3	
June 24	Tues	Environmental Hazards and Human Health	18
June 25	Weds	Air and Water Pollution	19-21
June 26	Thurs	Sustaining Human Societies	23-26
June 27	Fri	Review	
June 30	Mon	Exam #4	
July 1	Tues	Final Exam	