BIOL 1132 - Environmental Science - Spring 2024 Syllabus
North Texas Now! Implementation, University of North Texas at Frisco

Sections 581,585 - Lecture
Instructor: Dr. Thomas DeWitt
Office: Inspire Park room 287
Email: thomas.dewitt@unt.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Lecture time and location: Tuesdays, 9-11:50 am (section 581) or 1-3:50 pm (section 585), in Inspire Park room 135

Sections 591,595 - Lab
Instructor: Miranda Fields
Office: Inspire Park room 287
Email: Miranda.Fields@unt.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Lab time and location: Thursdays, 9-10:50 (section 591) or 1-2:50 pm (section 595), in Inspire Park room 218

Course Description
BIOL 1132 presents an interdisciplinary approach to understanding basic concepts in environmental science including scientific thought, process interconnectivity, biodiversity, resource management, pollution, global climate change, resource consumption, and population growth. The goal of this course is to give students the background needed to critically think about current environmental issues. The overarching theme of the course will be to develop and expand the understanding of these concepts and relate them back to personal, community, environmental, and planetary health. The course will address information and concepts from the textbook and implement them to address key issues ranging from cryptic pollution to algal blooms and more, to develop ideas of an interactive relationship between environment, humans, and other organisms. In addition to understanding information related to environment and related sciences, students will be able to apply and synthesize concepts learned throughout the semester.

Co-requisites: BIOL 1132 Laboratory
Prerequisites: None

Required text and material:
You MUST get the ‘Connect’ version which will give you access to the book and all assignments.
(Notes: Reading the textbook is required and essential to succeeding in this course. You may additionally get a hardcopy version of the text.)

Technical Requirements:
- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Plug-ins
- Canvas access (https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
- Access code for the textbook

Learning Objectives/Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate ability to assimilate and critically think about biological and scientific processes/theories.
2. Develop skills in scientific reasoning and experimental design.
3. Explain the interrelatedness of organisms, environmental processes, human culture, and societal needs.
4. Identify conflicting social, economic, and biological needs of humanity and other living organisms.
5. Identify personal and corporate actions that mitigate negative impacts of human activities on the biosphere.
6. See how culture is part of environmental science; understand diverse perspectives as well as one’s own.

Course Outline
Schedules are subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to these schedules will be communicated by the instructor via email/Canvas announcement. Electronic text reading includes imbedded queries to promote learning. Textbook Assignments are set each week with readings. Concepts, case studies, and additional material deemed fit by your instructor will be used for in-class discussion each week. Lecture notes will be made available immediately prior to class in the 'Files' region of Canvas.

- Readings are due by class time (1 pm) on the day that discussion of the Chapter topic initiates.
- Textbook Assignments are due by midnight on the day of discussion of the week’s Chapter topic.

Late reading and quizzes will receive a 10% penalty (accepted for two days after the due date, at midnight). Please do the work before the due date so you are prepared for class.

The reading and assignments must be completed in McGraw Hill Connect online platform (integrated within Canvas). Therefore, you are required to register and gain access to the McGraw Hill Connect platform at your earliest. Registration and content are completed via Canvas.

Grading
Important: The course is connected to a laboratory that will be taught by a different instructor. The lab grade will be 30% of the course grade. However, you must receive a passing grade (60% or higher) in the laboratory on its own to receive a passing grade in the class. Students must pass both the lecture and the lab independently to pass the course. To be clear: If you do not pass the laboratory portion, you will fail the entire course. If you fail the lecture, you will fail the course as well.

The Midterm and Final exams contribute 20% each to the final grade and the book assignments (reading and assignments) account for 30%. A participation grade of up to 3% will be awarded (or not) on a bonus-only basis (i.e., added to your grade from the other items).

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-Jan</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-Jan</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Environmental systems</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
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<td>30-Jan</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Ecology and Evolution</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>6-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Human populations</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>13-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
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<td>20-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>27-Feb</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Food and agriculture</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td>5-Mar</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Mid-term exam (Ch. 1-7)</td>
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<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK (11-17th)</td>
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<td>19-Mar</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Env. health</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Seminal videos</td>
<td>Hayes, Flint</td>
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<td>2-Apr</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>9-Apr</td>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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Class etiquette
- Be early to class. Mute cell phones and computers.
- Be respectful to your professor and classmates. Be engaged and attentive.
- Be respectful and use proper English in electronic communications. Use appropriate salutations and titles. Close appropriately with a closing word or phrase such as Regards, Thanks, Sincerely, Best, or at a minimum, with your name. Both of your instructors are PhD’s so their title is Doctor.
- Please head electronic communications with “BIOL 1132 – " in the subject line, followed by the subject.

University Policies and Procedures
Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance)
See Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodation at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy
Student’s evaluations of teaching effectiveness are required for all classes at UNT. A survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider student course evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Assignment Policy
Assignments are intended to reinforce material covered in lecture. Discussion efforts on completing the assignments are encouraged so long as all members contribute equally. As with all other graded assessments, cheating will not be tolerated. While discussions are encouraged, each student must submit their own work, which cannot be identical to the work submitted by the other members of the collaboration. Assignments should be turned in on time. Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless proper documentation is provided.

Exam Policy
Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (see Student Handbook). Students are allowed to take make-up for only one missed exam, with proper documentation. The instructor must be contacted within 24 hours of the exam to schedule a make-up. A makeup exam must be taken within one week of the original exam. If students know in advance that they will miss
an exam, they must take the exam prior to the exam date. There is no make-up for subsequent missed exams. Any student caught cheating will automatically receive a 0 on the exam and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University’s code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarizing) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at Visit UNT’s Code of Student Conduct (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Emergency Notification & Procedures
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course Canvas page for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy
Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect
Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates
Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website (http://spot.unt.edu/) or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G). The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student’s physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student’s course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student’s full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance
To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student’s responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification
UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses. See UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002).