

BIOLOGY 105 SYLLABUS

Course Title: ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
Semester:

Course Number: BI 105
Course CRN:

Class Meets:

I. Instructor Information

Name:
Office:
Phone:
E-Mail:

Biology Department Office: SN 211
Biology Department Phone: 240-567-1422
Biology Department Fax: 240-567-1410

Office Hours:

Course Homepage: Access course information, announcements, and files the Blackboard link on MyMC.

II. General Course Information

Course Description: This course is designed for non-science majors and emphasizes environmental issues we face and their potential solutions. Topics include ecological principles, human population dynamics, energy sources, land and soil use, air pollution, water pollution, and endangered species.

BIOL 105 satisfies the General Education three-credit natural sciences distribution requirement (NSND). **To satisfy the natural sciences lab distribution requirement (NSLD), BIOL 105 and BIOL 106 must be taken concurrently.**

Assessment levels: ENGL 101/101A, MATH 050, READ 120. May not be taken concurrently with MATH 017 or MATH 020 or MATH 045. Formerly BIOL 105A

III. Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify basic properties of populations, communities, and ecosystems.
- Describe the impact of human activity on ecosystems and ecosystem services.
- Critically evaluate whether or not current methods of energy production, energy use, food production, and land use are sustainable.
- Critically evaluate proposed solutions to local, regional, or global environmental problems.

This list is not meant to be comprehensive. More specific objectives will be provided with lecture material

IV. Textbook Environment: The Science Behind the Stories 6th ed. by Withgott & Laposata eText 2.0 ISBN 9780134873633. If you are interested in purchasing a hard copy of the text, please see me after the first class.

V. Grading

A. Requirements / Hints for Success

Although I am willing to help, **you are responsible for your own learning.** Ultimately, your success will be determined largely by the choices you make regarding your approach to this course.

1. Choose to attend class and complete assignments!

To be successful in this course, you must attend all lectures, take all exams, and complete all assignments (see Section V.B, *Course Grade*). Attendance is important, and absences in lecture will affect your grade (see Section VI.A, *Attendance*). You are responsible for all material covered during class.

2. Choose to study!

In order to be successful in this course, you must read, prepare, and study both **before and after** coming to lecture. Do not wait until the night before an exam to “cram” in all of your studying! Give yourself time to think about and understand key concepts.

3. Choose to seek help!

If you are struggling with this class or having problems understanding some material, seek help ASAP! I am more than happy to assist you—visit my office hours or schedule an appointment. Other sources of help include the biology tutors available in the Math/Science Center or even your own classmates.

Study groups are an EXCELLENT way to learn!

B. Course Grade (The following grading policy is tentative and subject to change.)

1. **Final Course Grade:** Your **grade** will be calculated as the percentage of the **600 points** that you earn.

~ **GRADE CALCULATION** ~

Activity	Approximate Points
Lecture Exams	400
Other Lecture Activities (e.g. discussions, homeworks, etc.)	~200
Total Points	~600

2. **Lecture Exams:** Lecture exams will cover material from class assignments, assigned readings, and class meetings. Exams will consist mainly of multiple-choice, short answer, and/or discussion questions. The 4th lecture exam or “final” is **not comprehensive** but will be **administered during final exam week** according to the college’s final exam schedule (see Section VII, *Lecture Schedule*).

Graded lecture exams will be returned for your review during class; however, you may NOT keep graded exams. All graded exams must be returned to the instructor before you leave the classroom.

3. ***CELL PHONES & EXAMS:** Under no circumstances should you answer or use a cell phone during a quiz or exam. Cells phones should be put away and **should not be visible**. Failure to follow this policy will result in either you receiving "0" points on the quiz or exam. **This policy also applies to other electronic devices such as dictionaries, translators, iPods, etc. For some exams, a simple calculator may be permitted.* If your cell phone rings/chimes during an in class exam or quiz, I will collect your exam/quiz on the spot and it will be graded “as is” with no opportunity for you to complete the unanswered questions remaining on the exam/quiz.

C. Standards: Your final course grade will be assigned a letter grade according to the following scale:

90% or more = A	80% - 89% = B	70% - 79% = C	60% - 69% = D	< 60% = F
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Your final course grade will be rounded to the nearest whole percentage to determine your letter grade.

D. Make-up Policy **IMPORTANT**

1. **Lecture Exams:** Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor. If you must miss an exam due to **very serious** and **unavoidable** circumstances, you **may** be able to take a make-up exam if your absence is excused. An excused absence **REQUIRES** a) that you supply written documentation from a professional regarding your absence (e.g. doctor’s note, police report, etc.) **AND** b) that you **make arrangements with me before the scheduled exam or within 24 hours afterwards in emergency situations**. To contact me, call my office and leave a message or e-mail me (see Section I, *Instructor Information*). **You must take the make-up exam within 48 hours of the regularly scheduled exam.**
2. **Other Assignments** (e.g. homework, in-class quizzes & activities, etc.): In general, there are no make-ups for these assignments. If you will be absent / tardy on the day an assignment is due, please submit it **before the due date & time**. In-class quizzes / activities cannot be made-up, although special arrangements **may be possible** if your absence is excused. **If you miss a quiz, I will drop that grade.** Otherwise, I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

E. Late Policy

Assignments are due at the **beginning** of class on the due date. Any assignment that is handed in after that time is considered **late**. In general, **late assignments will be penalized 10% of their point value** for each day that they are late, starting with the due date. There are **two** exceptions to this rule. Once an assignment has been graded in class or a graded assignment has been returned to other students, any late submissions will be penalized 50% of their point value. These policies hold for all assignments, unless stated otherwise.

F. Audit Policy

A student who audits the course is expected to attend all lectures. In addition, all exams and quizzes must be taken, and all assignments must be completed.

VI. Classroom Policies

A. Attendance

You are expected to attend all lecture sessions. Additionally, you should be on time for class, be prepared with the proper materials, and remain present for the duration of the class or until your instructor dismisses you. If you are absent, late, or leave early from lecture, you may miss exams or graded in-class quizzes and activities that will affect your grade (see Section V.D, *Make-up Policy*). If you arrive late to class and a quiz or activity is in progress, you may not be allowed to take the quiz or participate in the activity.

If you wish to withdraw from the course, you must do so officially. Please be familiar with the dates and procedures for withdrawal that are found on the college website. Simply deciding not to attend class for the rest of the semester does not constitute an official withdrawal, and you will receive an “F” in the course.

Last Day to Withdraw (results in a “W” grade):

B. Academic Conduct

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Group study is permitted and encouraged, but your work must be your own. Exams and other assignments that have been copied from one another may result in reduced or no credit for those students involved. A student caught cheating on an exam will automatically receive an “F” in the course. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the MC Student Handbook or online at http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Plain.aspx?id=2074#student_code_of_conduct for policies regarding academic honesty and misconduct.

C. Classroom Conduct

Out of respect for the instructor and for other students in the class, each student is obligated to arrive on time and to conduct themselves in a mature and non-disruptive manner during the instructional period. **In order to maintain an academic environment, all cell phones, beepers, or any other potentially distracting electronic devices should be turned off during class time.** In the unlikely event that a student’s behavior is deemed to be distracting to the individual, the class, and/or the instructor (professor’s discretion), the instructor may ask that student(s) to leave the class. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for more information.

D. Support Services

Limited services, such as tutoring, reference texts, software, ...etc. are available at the Math/Science Center (Science North, Room 101/102). You may also use the Math/Science Center as a place to study. Check with the Math/Science Center for tutors and times. I enjoy working with students outside of class, so please seek my help whenever needed! Visit my office hours, or call / e-mail me to schedule an appointment.

Any student who may need an accommodation due to a disability should make an appointment to see me during my office hours. In order to receive accommodations, a letter from Disability Support Services (ST 133) will be needed. Any student who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation must identify to the Disability Support Services Office. Guidelines for emergency evacuations for individuals with disabilities are found at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/evacprocedures.htm.

If you are a veteran or on active or reserve status and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College website at www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college and/or contact Joanna Starling at 240-567-7103 or joanna.starling@montgomerycollege.edu.

E. Cancellation of Classes

The only time the Biology Department cancels classes is when the college closes. The college reports its status to all of the major television and radio stations. Typically, the college only reports that it is closing or is closed, NOT that it is open. Use your own judgment if the weather is inclement and you have not heard a report from the college. Please contact me as soon as you can if you will miss a class. On occasion, Montgomery College will announce a late opening / early closing of a specific campus or the entire college because of weather conditions or other emergencies. Since classes begin at various times throughout the day, a late opening or early closing will occur during a scheduled class period. **If the College opens or closes at a time when more than 50% of a class period will be missed, that class will be cancelled for the day.** For example, if the College opens at 11:00 a.m. and your class begins at 10:55 a.m., your class will meet starting at 11:00 a.m. For the most up-to-date information regarding College openings, closings, or emergencies, all students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to sign up for email and text alerts via the Montgomery County MC ALERT at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>

Important Student Information Link: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

In addition to the requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link above) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to Student Success such as: Student Behavior (Student Code of Conduct); Student e-mail, College Tobacco Free Policy; Course Withdrawal and Refund Information; Resources for Military Service Members, Veterans and Dependents; how to access information on delayed openings and closings; how to register for Montgomery College’s Alert System and how closings and delays can impact your classes.