

*Eastern Kentucky University*  
**Department of Biology**  
**BIO 500/700/ENV 500, Environmental Issues CRNXXXX**  
**3 Credit hours**  
*Spring XXXX*

**Professor:**

*Phone:*

*Email:*

*Office:*

**Catalog Course Description:**

**BIO 500/700: Environmental Issues. (3) A.** Cross-listed as ENV 500/700. Students will learn to identify, investigate and evaluate environmental issues as well as plan appropriate action based on their analysis. Credit will only be awarded for either BIO 500/700 or ENV 500/700.

**Texts and Course Materials:**

Karr, S., Interlandi, J., & Houtman, A. (2015). *Environmental Science for a Changing World (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)* New York: Macmillan Education & Scientific American

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to:

1. Research and analyze environmental issues ranging from local to global.
2. Discuss the following issues from a global environmental perspective:
  - a. Biodiversity
  - b. Climate change
  - c. Energy
  - d. Human population growth
  - e. Waste management
  - f. Water issues
  - g. Sustainable society
3. Analyze the influence of shared and conflicting societal values on environmental issues.
4. Explain the importance of exercising the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
5. Evaluate the consequences of specific environmental changes, conditions and issues for human and ecological systems.
6. Identify environmental action strategies that are likely to be effective in specific situations and for specific purposes.
7. Communicate, evaluate and justify their own views on environmental issues and alternative ways to address them.
8. Plan for action based on their research and analysis of an environmental issue.
9. Evaluate the effects of their own actions and actions taken by others with respect to environmental issues.

BIO 700 only

10. Create teaching materials for a formal or non-formal learning experience which includes an analysis of a local environmental issue. (Graduate SLO 4)

## Evaluation Methods:

All course requirements will be graded using a scoring guide. Scoring guides will be provided to the students prior to the due date.

Homework—Reading analysis & concept maps	220 points
Action Plan	150 points
Debate Performance and Paper	100 points
Discussion Board participation	<u>50 points</u>
TOTAL	520 points

### Final Project

#### BIO 700/ENV 700 ONLY

Environmental Issue Teaching Unit Plan  
including an analysis of a local issue

OR

Issue Analysis Paper

TOTAL

100 points

620 points

The course grade will be based on an accumulation of points on course requirements. Grade equivalents for the accumulated points will be computed on the following scale:

#### BIO 500

A = 90-100 %

B = 80-89%

C = 70- 79%

D = 60-69%

F = <60%

#### BIO 700

A = 92-100%

B = 83-91%

C = 74- 82%

D = 65-73%

F = <65%

## Student Progress:

The instructor will provide students with written information on their progress in the course at least once prior to the midpoint of the course through feedback on learning tasks.

## Attendance Policy:

Attendance is expected for the on campus meetings. Weekly participation is expected online. Absences equating 20% of the class meetings will result in automatic failure. Chronic tardiness will be considered the same as being absent. The student is responsible for presenting adequate reason for absence to the instructor in order to be given opportunity to make up missed work. Adequate reasons include personal illness, death or serious illness in the immediate family or participation in an approved University activity.

## Notification of the Last Day to Drop the Course:

The last day to drop the course or to withdraw from the University can be found on Colonel's Compass.

<http://colonelscompass.eku.edu>

## Disabilities Statement:

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you are registered

with the ECU Center for Student Accessibility (CSA), please obtain your accommodation letters from the CSA, present them to the course instructor, and discuss the accommodations needed. If you believe you need an accommodation and are not registered with the CSA, please contact the office in 361 Whitlock Building by email at [disserv@ecu.edu](mailto:disserv@ecu.edu) or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

A student with a "disability" may be an individual with a physical or psychological impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, to include, but not limited to: seeing, hearing, communicating, interacting with others, learning, thinking, concentrating, sitting, standing, lifting, performing manual tasks, working. Additionally, pregnancy accompanied by a medical condition(s), which causes a similar substantial limitation, may also be considered under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA).

#### Discrimination Statement

Discrimination, harassment, or violence will not be tolerated at ECU. ECU is committed to a respectful and inclusive environment and thus prohibits discrimination, harassment, or violence of any kind. It also requires faculty members to report any information that may indicate that discrimination, harassment, or violence has affected any member of the University community. If you share information that indicates that you have witnessed or experienced such behavior, that information will have to be provided to University officials; consider this in choosing what information you post. If you would like to obtain confidential help from someone who does not have to report the information, please go to ECU's webpage for Title IX information for resources.

#### Academic Integrity Policy:

Students are advised that ECU's Academic Integrity policy will be strictly enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at <http://studentrights.ecu.edu/academic-integrity-policy>. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

#### Official Email:

An official ECU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this ECU e-mail address.

#### Course Requirements:

1. Reading analysis: Students will complete textbook readings and respond to them through summaries, concept maps, etc.
2. Action Plan Assignment: The purpose of this assignment is to give practice in take meaningful and responsible actions to help resolve the issues. A scoring guide will be provided.
3. Current Events: Students will report on a current event related to an environmental issue.
4. Exams: A traditional midterm exam will be given.
5. Discussion Board participation: For the online portion of the class, students must contribute to the discussion board by posting their responses to the questions and responding to other students' responses.
6. BIO 700 only: Final Project: Graduate students will develop an environmental issues unit plan designed for K-12 classroom or non-formal teaching setting. A scoring guide will be provided.