Introduction to Environmental Science
ENV 101 (4.0 credit hours)
Course Syllabus Spring Term 2012

Dr. Brent Ybarrondo
Professor of Biology
e-mail: baybarro@adams.edu
website: http://www.adams.edu/academics/biology/ybarrondo/ybarrondo.php
phone: (719) 587-7481
Virtual office hours will be held each day, M-F

Introduction and Course Description

- The ASC catalog description for Introduction to Environmental Science as follows: “An introductory level study of ecosystems, evolution, population growth dynamics and problems, atmospheric and geologic processes, nonrenewable resource use, soil and land use, nutrient cycling, energy use, pollution, and conservation strategies.”

- Introduction to Environment Science is a broad survey of environmental issues for the non-major and is being offered on-line, in order to accommodate student schedules, via a web-based program known as BlackBoard. BlackBoard is accessible at http://webct.adams.edu. Please note that this delivery environment requires both diligence and effective time management by students in order to remain on schedule as one proceeds through the course.

- Students should plan to allocate, at a minimum, the time required for the course when offered in an on-campus setting. The ASC Student Handbook recommends 2 hours study time per hour of class time. Thus, for a 4.0 credit hour laboratory course, this includes 3 hours of lecture, 2 hours of laboratory, and a minimum of 10 hours of study, for a total of 15 hours, per week.

- The course is comprised of six units, comprising a total of 15 lessons configured to correspond to a standard semester. Thus, the course is not self-paced; one lesson must be completed each week. Each lesson includes the following learning activities:
  1. assigned readings from the textbook, Living in the Environment
  2. a PowerPoint lecture (available to registered students on-line via BlackBoard). Each lecture in intended to be completed in approximately 150 minutes - the equivalent of three 50 minute lecture sessions in an on-campus setting.
  3. a discussion blog for posting questions and discussing concepts under consideration

- In addition, the course includes 11 laboratory exercises.

- The Course Outline gives all assigned work for each lesson.

- Lesson Outlines are provided for each lesson in order to assist students in identifying what information and concepts should be mastered.

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At the conclusion of each lesson will be a corresponding quiz (or unit examination), administered on-line via BlackBoard. Quizzes are intended to provide immediate feedback on how well the student has mastered the material as the course progresses. Unit examinations will include material from all lessons in the unit. Thus, quizzes are short (ca. 10 questions) and are to be completed in 15 minutes, while unit examinations are more extensive and are to be completed in 60 minutes.

Note that results of quizzes and examinations are immediately accessible to students upon completion, and students are encouraged to review these results carefully before proceeding in the course in order to identify any areas needing review.

In order to increase effective learning of course material, students are strongly encouraged to utilize the Chapter Review, Critical Thinking, and Data Analysis modules provided at the end of each chapter, as well as the various study aids available on line to purchasers of the textbook at the student companion site: www.cengagebrain.com/shop/ISBN/0538735341.

Course Goals

The goals for Introduction to Environmental Science include:

1. to eliminate "science phobia" and demystify science in general, and environmental issues in particular, and
2. to develop a sound environmental perspective and shape environmental ethics based on quality of life and sustainability of natural ecosystems.

Student Learner Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate:

1. identify the critical elements related to environmental issues and demonstrate an understanding of the necessity for responsible environmental policies based upon accurate data and sound scientific methodology.
2. effectively acquire, interpret, and utilize scientifically-derived data and information pertinent to environmental problems.
3. identify the critical elements related to environmental issues.
4. demonstrate an understanding of the philosophy, methods, and goals of environmental science.

Textbook and Laboratory Kit

To order textbooks or obtain information about book titles you may go to www.exstudies.adams.edu and click on the “ASC Bookstore” icon.

Use Section Number: 1387 to order books from Bookstore site.

The textbook below is required for this course:


The ASC Bookstore may be reached on line at https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-17028-1. The ASC Bookstore may also be reached at (719) 587-7912 or ascbkstore@adams.edu.
A customized “at home” laboratory kit is also required for the course. Note that this kit must be purchased directly from the eScience Labs, Inc., and may be ordered online at: http://www.esciencelabs.com/catalog/custom_kits. Enter the code ascenv in the “Find My Custom Kit” box. eScience Labs, Inc. may also be contacted at info@esciencelabs.com or (888) 375-5487.

Please allow up to 3-5 business days for eScience Labs to process your order, and an additional 3-5 business days for delivery. Standard delivery is via FedEx Ground, though other arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis. Daily shipment cutoff time is 12 noon MST. Orders placed after 12 noon will begin processing on the next business day. Note that weekends and holidays are not counted in the processing timeline.

How to Study for this course/Learning on-line via BlackBoard

- A complete overview of the technical requirements, software for this course and BlackBoard tutorials is available in the Student Support Module, located in the Course Content tab. Information for receiving technical assistance is also included.

- Students will be given a login name and password and will be able to enter into the course and use this as a framework to submit and complete all requirements for the course. The syllabus is located in BlackBoard and all assignments are located in the Learning Modules. After logging into BlackBoard, all assignments and tests will be submitted online. Students are advised to practice navigating BlackBoard as soon as possible and email me any questions should any problems be encountered.

- To get started in this course, click on Learning Modules and choose Module 1.

- **Do not submit assignments (i.e., laboratory exercises or discussions) through the Mail tab.** Laboratory exercises should be submitted using the Assignments tab, and discussion blog submissions via the Discussions tab, as directed.

- **Laboratory exercises are found in the laboratory manual included on the CD in the lab kit and submitted via the “assignment” tab in BlackBoard either as Word (.docx) files or scanned as .pdf files.**

- In order to submit laboratory assignments:
  1. Click on the assignment link in the Learning Modules area or on the assignment in the “Assignment” tab.
  2. Under “Submissions” is the text box into which you will attach your completed assignment by clicking “Add Attachments”.
  3. Under “Comments” you may add a comment about the assignment to the instructor.
  4. Click on “Submit”.

- **Laboratory assignments are due not later than 11:59 pm (MST/MDT) on the date indicated on the course calendar. Be certain to review labs in advance, in order to determine time required and plan accordingly.**

- All quizzes and examinations will be administered directly on BlackBoard on the dates indicated on the course schedule and calendar available in BlackBoard.

- Students enrolled in this course can utilize the ASC Nielsen Library from on and off campus. Follow the links located on the My Courses >> Campus Announcements for login information and complete instructions for accessing information from a distant location.
Adams State College provides several resources to assist you and make your online learning experience a positive one. A listing of resources is available at the One Stop Student Services on the Adams State College Website. Some of the highlights are:

- **Records Office** – campus contacts available to help with the registration process.
- **Computing Services** – technical assistance and tutorials
- **Disability Services Handbook** – Student Services can arrange assistance for students with special needs or disabilities.
- **Academic Calendar** – keep track of important dates
- **South Coloradan** - Adams State College Newspaper

**Communication**

- Students may communicate with the instructor via the email function in BlackBoard or directly via the email address given at the top of this syllabus.

- All communications must be in standard English. Your instructor will not respond to abbreviated communications in “text message” format.

- All electronic mail communication related to this course will utilize the Mail tab. To communicate by e-mail within the course with other participants or all participants, click the Mail tab link on the left and click Create Message to send a message. Students are able to send messages to All Users or Select Users in the course, including the instructor. Be sure to check only the recipients that you want to receive the E-mail.

- Your instructor will hold a “virtual” office hour daily, Monday through Friday. During these times I will respond to email inquiries as well as to postings on the discussion blogs.

  Students will receive timely responses to any email sent during normal business hours (i.e., 8:00 am to 5:00 pm MST or MDT) during the work week (i.e., Monday through Friday). Any e-mail sent at other times will be addressed during the next regular work day. Should I be out of the office, unavailable to students, for any reason I will post an announcement so that students may plan accordingly.

- “Discussion” blogs on BlackBoard are required for each lesson. These discussions are provided expressly to facilitate addressing student’s questions and to stimulate discussion involving the content covered in each lesson. Students may communicate with the instructor and with one another via the discussion blogs feature in BlackBoard, which is an online discussion forum in which students and faculty can communicate asynchronously (i.e., at any time) via message postings. To use this tool:
  1. Click the “Discussions” tab located on the left or in the Learning Modules. A listing of subject categories, called forums, will appear in a table format.
  2. Click on a topic link to open it and view the contents within.
  3. Click “Create a Message” to post your initial comments or click “Reply” to respond to any existing posts.
  4. Click “Submit” to add your posting.

- Check the Discussion regularly. Since postings are asynchronous, others will post responses after your postings.
Technical Requirements and Assistance

- A complete listing of technical requirements, software, and BlackBoard tutorials is available in the Student Support Module, located in the Course Contents tab. Information for receiving technical assistance is also included.

- To receive technical assistance on issues related to BlackBoard contact:
  
  Academic Instructional Technology Help Desk
  ES Building, room 102
  Spring and Fall Semester: Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. MST (May-August 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. MDT)
  (719) 587-7371
  ascwebct@adams.edu

Point Allocation and Grades

- Grades will be determined on the basis of the percentage of total available points earned. Letter grade equivalents are as follows:

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