

# Welcome to Environmental Studies!

## Course Policies: Environmental Studies (Biology 1105, 4 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. John Lugthart, Professor of Biology

Office: 113 Sequoia Hall

Phone: 706-272-2485 E-mail: jlugthart@daltonstate.edu



Textbook: *Environment: The Science Behind The Stories*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, by J. Withgott & M. Laposata, 2014, Pearson Publishers

Course Description: The goal of this course, and that of the field of environmental science, is to examine how humans can best live within Earth's environment. We will study a number of complex and interconnected problems involving human numbers, Earth's natural resources, and environmental pollution. The subject matter is interdisciplinary because it uses information from many fields such as biology, chemistry, geology, economics, sociology, and politics.

Course Objectives: At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. demonstrate understanding of the concept of sustainability.
2. demonstrate understanding of the basic concepts of ecology, including the structure and function of ecosystems, population dynamics, energy flow, and nutrient cycling.
3. apply basic ecological concepts to existing environmental problems and their solutions.
4. use field and laboratory methods that apply to environmental problems, including observation, recording, analysis and reporting of data.
5. demonstrate understanding of the human population explosion, its causes, environmental and social consequences and programs that have been instituted to address them.
6. demonstrate knowledge of environmental issues including:
  - water and air pollution
  - overuse of resources
  - loss of biodiversity
  - global climate change and ozone depletion
  - agriculture and the environment
7. examine your own valuation of the importance of environmental protection and be able to apply your knowledge to health and political issues.

## Attendance Policy:

- Class: I will try to start and end class on time, so please try to arrive on time. You are ***strongly advised***, but not required, to attend all class meetings. Most of the material on the exams comes from class lectures, so it is to your benefit to attend all classes. If class is missed, you are responsible for getting material, announcements, and assignments given in class.
- Lab: Attendance in labs is mandatory and you will need to sign in each lab period. Please notify me by email if you will not be able to attend a lab. Each unexcused absence from lab will result in the loss of 5 points from a student's point total and the loss of eligibility to earn extra credit.
- Exams: Make-up exams will only be given for absences due to the following reasons: 1) campus sanctioned activities, 2) military service, 3) court appointments, 4) illness. Typically, the make-up will be taken in advance of the scheduled date. Documentation and notice of your absence must be provided as early as possible. All exam papers must be returned to the instructor after they are reviewed in class.

## Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism are violations of the Dalton State Code of Student Conduct, which can be found in its most updated form at <http://daltoncampuslife.com/student-conduct/>. During lecture exams, keep your Scantron answer sheet covered as much as possible and keep your eyes focused on your own exam. Any use of the ideas or words of others should be noted or this will constitute plagiarism. For more details on what Dalton State considers to be Academic Dishonesty, please review the Code of Student Conduct. Cheating on an exam, lab, or other assignment will result in a zero for that particular assignment and an Incident Report will be submitted to the DSC Incident Review Committee.

<u>Assessment:</u>	4 Lecture Exams (100 points each)	400
	Ecological Footprint Exercise	10
	Case study questions	5
	Science methods quiz	10
	Lichen Lab	10
	Classroom solid waste assessment	10
	Yougaristan plan & presentation	10
	College Creek assignment	50
	Clicker Quizzes	50
	TOTAL =	555



- **Exams:** Multiple-choice, matching, true/false and, perhaps, short answer questions.
- **Lecture “Clicker” Quizzes:** At least 11 or 12 lecture quizzes (each worth 5 points) will be given during lectures throughout the semester. I will count only your 10 highest scores. The quizzes may be announced or unannounced. No make-ups will be allowed.
- Additional assignments may be given or different assignments may substitute for those listed above.
- **Late Assignments:** You will lose 5% of the total for each day an assignment is late.

<u>Final Grade Assignment:</u>	90 - 100% (499-555 pts)	A	60 - 69% (333-387 pts)	D
	80 - 89% (444-498 pts)	B	< 60% (< 333 pts)	F
	70 - 79% (388-443 pts)	C		

## Various Policies

- In class response system – iClickers. We will discuss and register the clickers in class.
- Please turn off cell phones in lecture and lab – so no texting! For your own benefit and your classmates, I would like everyone to be as focused on the class and lab as possible.  
[Note: Beware of Professor Linebacker! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtOoaVmNZWk>]
- Because it is disruptive, please don't leave class or lab early, unless you have notified me of your need to do so. And please do your best to arrive to class on time & I'll do my best to begin and end the class on time.
- Questions and discussion in class and lab are encouraged – this is *your* class and I want you to participate! On the other hand, private conversations are distracting to me and your classmates, so please avoid those.
- Classroom Behavior: Dalton State is committed to respect via the Roadrunner Respect pledge. To learn more, please visit <http://daltoncampuslife.com/roadrunner-respect/>.

"I pledge to show my fellow Roadrunner students, faculty, staff, and administration respect by treating others the way they want to be treated and by thinking about others first before making decisions that might affect them."

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- Drop/Withdrawal Policy: Students wishing to withdraw from the course may do so without penalty until the mid-point of the semester, and a grade of W will be assigned. After that point, withdrawal without penalty is permitted only in cases of extreme hardship as determined by the Vice President for Academic Affairs; otherwise a grade of WF will be issued. (Please note: At Dalton State College, the Hardship Withdrawal process requires students to withdraw from all classes at the college.) The proper form for dropping a course is the Schedule Adjustment Form, which can be obtained at the Enrollment Services Office in Westcott Hall. The Schedule Adjustment Form must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Office. Students who disappear, completing neither the official withdrawal procedure nor the course work, will receive the grade of F. This instructor will not withdraw students from the class. Withdrawal from any Dalton State College classes is a student responsibility. The last day to drop classes without penalty is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Disabilities: **Students with disabilities or special needs are encouraged to contact the Disability Access office.** In order to make an appointment or to obtain information on the process for qualifying for accommodations, the **student** should visit the Disability Access Library Guide at <http://libguides.daltonstate.edu/c.php?g=24716&p=149667> or contact the Disability Access office. **Contact information: Andrea Roberson, Associate Director of Disability Access and Student Support Services; Pope Student Center, upper level; 706/272-2524; [aroberson@daltonstate.edu](mailto:aroberson@daltonstate.edu)**
- Emergency Instructional Plan: If the college is closed for inclement weather or other conditions, please consult your lecture and lab schedules and complete assigned readings. Then, check your email for additional assignments, activities, and due dates. Compensatory make-up days may be required if the total number of days lost exceeds the equivalent of one week of class time.
- Workforce Innovations Opportunities Act: Questions regarding students receiving financial assistance through the Workforce Innovations Opportunities Act should be directed to 706-295-6840..
- Since this is an environmental course, let's try to be "green" by recycling all paper, plastic, and aluminum – at least while on campus (and hopefully away from campus as well!).

## Sex Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault

Sexual harassment is unwelcome, gender-based verbal or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the effect of interfering with, denying or limiting someone's ability to participate in or benefit from the college's educational program and/or activities, and is based on power differential (quid pro quo), the creation of a hostile environment, or retaliation.

Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment prohibited by Title IX. Sexual misconduct refers to "physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's use of drugs or alcohol. An individual also may be unable to give consent due to an intellectual or other disability." Sexual misconduct includes dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, and sexual coercion.

## Reporting Options

### **Call 911 if you are in an emergency situation**

### **Dalton State Public Safety (this report is not confidential)**

Tech Building- Upper Level - 706-272-4461

Online Sexual Assault Report -

<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com>ShowForm.aspx?RequestedDynamicFormTemplate=3fe5724c-a8bd-4a31-9c25-1a3d35110a51>

### **If you would like to report to Dalton State Administration: (this report is not confidential)**

Report Title IX complaint online -  [http://daltonstate.edu/campus\\_life/student-conduct-about.cms](http://daltonstate.edu/campus_life/student-conduct-about.cms)

Report Student-on-Student Title IX complaint in person:

Brittnie Lee, Office of Student Life

Coordinator for Student Responsibility & Service/ Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Pope 113

[balee@daltonstate.edu](mailto:balee@daltonstate.edu), 706-272-2999

Report Title IX complaint involving Faculty or Staff in person:

Lori McCarty, Human Resources

Director of Human Resource/ Title IX Coordinator

Memorial 122

[fmiller@daltonstate.edu](mailto:fmiller@daltonstate.edu) 706-272-2034

### **If you would like to talk with someone confidentially:**

Dalton State Counseling & Career Services, Academic Resources

Lower Pope

706-272-4429

[counseling@daltonstate.edu](mailto:counseling@daltonstate.edu)

<http://libguides.daltonstate.edu/Counseling>

- Here is what you can expect of me, as your professor. I pledge to:
  - show you respect
  - start and end class on time
  - come to class prepared
  - create challenging and fair assessments of your learning
  - return exams and other assignments to you in a timely fashion
  - answer all questions to the best of my ability
- Here is what I expect of you, as my students. I expect you to:
  - show respect to me and all your classmates
  - come to class and participate – ask and answer questions
  - read your textbook
  - study hard
  - come see me when you are having trouble with the material
  - commit to excellence and be successful in this course

### **Tips for Succeeding in Biology 1105**

- 1) **Keep up!**
- 2) **Give each assignment your best effort.** The points you earn for the various assignments add up and can make a big difference in your final grade.
- 3) **Study Hints**
  - A) Always think big picture.** Don't sit down to memorize facts as if the material is just a random list of items. Fit each detail into a larger frame work. You will remember things much better if they are placed in a "web" of associations rather than isolated tidbits.
  - B) Before Class:** spend some time skimming the chapter to be covered. Don't get bogged down in detail – just get the big picture, cover major points and become familiar with the terminology (the chapter summary at the end of the chapter will be helpful here). Carefully review notes from the previous lecture. What is unclear? What don't you understand? Ask a classmate for help, check the relevant section in the book, or ask me. Take care of problems as they arise or they may pile up and ambush you the night before an exam.
  - C) In Class:** Be awake and aware! Many students become automatic writing machines during class - "I've got to get it down so I can learn it later." Don't fall into this trap – let your mind be as active as your pen. If you are falling asleep - get up and do some jumping jacks next to your seat. If you snooze, you lose.
  - D) Exams:** My questions are designed to test three levels of learning. The most elemental kind of learning is **memorization**. In science, memory is important, not as an end in itself, but primarily in the sense that knowing vocabulary is important for learning a foreign language. A second level of learning is **comprehension**. Do you really understand the material and can you take information in one form and restate it in another form. Test your comprehension by trying to explain concepts to another person. A third level of learning is **application**. Can you solve problems using required skills or knowledge? Keep these levels of learning in mind as you study.
  - E) General advice on multiple choice questions:** 1) Read the problem, read all answers. 2) The correct answer is both true and relevant. 3) Don't make mechanical mistakes. Check to see that if you want answer A, answer A is what you marked. 4) Don't read more into the question than what is there. Some questions are easy, some are harder; you'll have to decide which is which. Feel free to ask questions about questions.