

Introduction to Environmental Science

EVR2001 Class#15626 (3 credit hours)

Summer B Semester 2022

Instructors

Dr. Ryan Good (he/him)

Office Location: 2049 McCarty Hall D

Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays 9-11am

or by appointment

Email: ryangood@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant

Hernan Alvarez (he/him)

Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 10-11am

Email: halvarez1@ufl.edu

We are here for you! Please don't hesitate to ask us for assistance!

This section of EVR2001 is 100% asynchronous, meaning all course materials are pre-recorded. There are no live class meetings, and therefore no attendance requirement. We do have a course schedule with specific deadlines and due dates, however.

Course Description

Delivered from a systems perspective, an interdisciplinary approach explores contemporary environments that are comprised of both human and non-human elements. Explores physical, chemical, and biological processes to understand pressing environmental challenges and cultural values, attitudes, and norms expressed by individuals and populations around the globe.

Course Overview and Purpose

Environmental Science is an interdisciplinary academic field that integrates physical, biological, and social sciences for the study of environmental systems, processes, constraints, and problems. Throughout history, nature has contributed to shaping human cultures. In turn, a growing human population and continued economic and technological development subjects Earth's environments to many stresses, in some cases threatening their persistence and often resulting in undesirable consequences for humanity. The interdependence of physical, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural aspects in shaping contemporary environments lies at the heart of environmental science.

This general education course will introduce you to environmental science as an academic field to improve your environmental literacy while developing skills in scientific reasoning, interdisciplinary thinking and analysis of complex social-ecological issues. Heavy emphasis is placed on comparing international perspectives on environmental problems and solutions to highlight the important role of culture in environmental matters.

Prerequisites

None

Required Textbook

William P. Cunningham and Mary Ann Cunningham. Environmental Science, 15th Edition (All Access eBook). 2020.

EVR2001 is an Affordable UF course. Our course textbook is available as an eBook through UF All Access at a heavily discounted price. See <https://businessservices.ufl.edu/services/uf-bookstore/uf-all-access/> for information and support. Please note: It may take several days after the start of the semester for you to receive access to the textbook. That is okay; just complete any assigned readings as soon as you get it.

Required Technology

You need to have access to a personal computer or laptop with a working webcam and microphone in order to access all features of the course Canvas site and to participate in online office hours. Broadband internet access is required. Proctoring services are provided by Honorlock. You are expected to review the Honorlock system requirements and use their compatibility tool before the end of the drop/add period by visiting <https://honorlock.com/support/> and scrolling down to the *Simple Single-Click Test* section of that page. The student guide to testing with Honorlock can be accessed via

<https://static.honorlock.com/assets/2017/students/HonorlockGuidelines.pdf>.

If you do not wish to install Honorlock on your computer you may reserve proctoring booths at Library West instead. See

<https://librarywest.uflib.ufl.edu/spaces/study-spaces-in-library-west/proctored-online-testing-booths/> for details.

General Education Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is a physical (P)/biological (B) sciences as well as International (N) subject area course in the UF and Florida State Core General Education Programs.

The general education objectives will be accomplished in the context of this course through the following course objectives:

- 1) Students will be able to describe the process of scientific inquiry and apply scientific principles in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary contexts.
- 2) Students will be able to explain that ecosystems are comprised of physical and biological elements whose interactions engender ecosystem functions that provide humanity with a diverse array of ecological services.
- 3) Students will be able to discuss the complex and diverse relationships between humans and environments from local to global scales, including how cultural values shape patterns of resource use and valuation of ecological services.
- 4) Students will be able to differentiate between non-renewable, exhaustible, and inexhaustible material and energy resources, the physical and biological processes through which they are created, and associated environmental constraints.
- 5) Students will be able to apply interdisciplinary approaches to evaluating and proposing solutions for U.S. and international environmental problems, taking into account scientific and socioeconomic information, including cultural and political constraints.
- 6) Students will gain the ability to appraise environmental impacts of behaviors, choices, and activities in their personal lives.

Module-specific learning objectives are included in each lecture presentation, available through Canvas.

Course Structure

EVR2001 consists of 11 modules, each dedicated to an environmental topic. In general, you will move through each of these modules in the following sequence:

1. Complete assigned readings for important background information and context.

2. Apply what you have learned in the readings by completing a module prep assignment.
3. Watch the pre-recorded lecture materials to expand on the read material.
4. Reflect on the module's content through engaging in end-of-week discussions with fellow students in small groups.

Grading Policies

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>. A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Grading scale

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A:	93.0-100.0%	C:	73.0-76.9%
A-:	90.0-92.9%	C-:	70.0-72.9%
B+:	87.0-89.9%	D+:	67.0-69.9%
B:	83.0-86.9%	D:	63.0-66.9%
B-:	80.0-82.9%	D-:	60.0-62.9%
C+:	77.0-79.9%	E:	0.0-59.9%

The final grade for this course will be weighted as follows:

Grade Component	Percentage
Class Orientation	2.5%
Module Prep Assignments (5 × 5% each)	25.0%
<i>Note: There are nine available Module Preps during the class, but you are only required to submit five. You may choose which five of the nine to complete.</i>	
Weekly Discussions (6 × 2.5% each)	15.0%
Exams (3 × 15% each)	45.0%
International Environmental Issue Essay	12.5%
Total	100%

Class Orientation: There will be a quiz during the first week of the semester to ensure that you understand important rules specified in this syllabus and are able to identify proper methods of citation. This quiz will be on Canvas and may be retaken an unlimited number of times up to the deadline until you are satisfied with your score.

Module Prep Assignments: In preparation for most modules, you will complete readings and respond to questions that reinforce the read material. These assignments include free response questions, completing worksheets, and visiting local parks and conservation areas. Emphasis will be placed on applying scientific reasoning skills, such as formulating hypotheses and interpreting data. There are ten module preparations to be completed during the semester, but you are only required to submit five. **It is your choice which five to submit, but it is also your responsibility to ensure that you submit five of them.** These assignments are graded through rubrics that are posted with the assignment instructions on Canvas. Citations and references are required in APA format unless otherwise stated in an assignment's instructions. Direct quoting of sources is not allowed. A Turnitin.com score of less than 10% is expected for free response questions, not including your bibliography.

Weekly Discussions: Each week of class contains a discussion board-based assignment related to the course material. Grading criteria will be provided on Canvas along with instructions for each discussion or activity. Citations and references are required in APA format unless otherwise stated in an assignment's instructions.

International Environmental Issue Essay: You will watch a documentary film about an environmental issue outside the United States, and reflect on the causes, impacts, and possible solutions of the issue in the form of an 800-1000-word essay. This assignment is graded through a rubric that is posted with the assignment instructions on Canvas. Citations and references are required in APA format. Direct quoting of sources is not allowed. A Turnitin.com score of less than 10% is expected, not including your bibliography.

Exams: There are three 50-minute multiple choice exams during the semester that will assess your comprehension of course content, as well as a cumulative final exam. Grading is based on the number of correct answers. Exams are proctored by Honorlock.

Specific grading criteria for each assignment will be provided on Canvas. You are responsible for maintaining duplicate copies of all work submitted in this course until the end of the semester. In case of a grading dispute, you must notify the instructor via email within one week of the date the grade is posted. It is your responsibility to ensure that all assignments are successfully uploaded to Canvas. Missing, corrupt, or incompatible files may result in grade penalties up to a score of zero for the assignment.

Course Policies

Diversity and Inclusiveness Statement

Diversity is one of our biggest assets in the classroom and in environmental science. Different perspectives enrich our understanding of the variety of human-nature interactions and are imperative to developing just solutions to complex environmental problems. This classroom is a place where you will be treated with respect, and we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities & races, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, national origins, religions (if any), sexual orientations, ability – and other visible and nonvisible differences. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every other member of the class. This does not mean that you are not allowed to disagree with others, but that such differences should be explored without ad hominem judgment. Should we inadvertently make a statement offensive to you, please let us know so that we may learn and grow from the incident.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes and respects Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. In particular, the University of Florida resides on land of the Timucua people and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process. For more information, visit <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance](#)

[policies](#). There are no regularly scheduled class meetings for this section of EVR2001. There are, however, scheduled exams. Missing these will incur a score of zero unless you can provide evidence that the assessment was missed due to an excusable reason.

Excusable reasons:

- In case of illness, upon receipt of a doctor's note or equivalent, or by following the procedure outlined here: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.
- In case of religious holidays, by informing me via email at least one week ahead of time.
- In case of military duty, jury duty, participation in academic conferences, or participation in official university or UAA events, by providing appropriate evidence at least one week ahead of time.
- In case of family emergencies or other extenuating circumstances, by following the procedure outlined here: <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications>.
- In all other cases, or if you are unsure, please email me as soon as feasible. Absences are generally not excused for non-emergency travel and vehicle problems.

You are still responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via email and approved by the instructor prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, the instructor may waive this requirement.

Make-up Policy

Exams missed for an excusable reason can be made up. For absences excused ahead of time, your instructor will develop a make-up plan and schedule. In case of documented illnesses or emergencies, arrangements for completing make-up exams or assignments should be made upon return to class. If experiencing truly extenuating circumstances resulting in longer absences, please notify me as soon as possible to develop a plan to make up missed work. Missed extra credit opportunities cannot be made up. Instructors reserve the right to offer an alternate format make-up exam.

Late Work

You are responsible for turning assignments in on time unless an extension has been requested via email prior to the deadline. In case of true documented emergencies, we may waive this requirement. Technical difficulties are not an excuse for missing an assessment or assignment; you should have contingency plans in case any such issues arise. We recommend storing your documents on a cloud service that can be accessed from any device ([Dropbox](#) and [OneDrive](#) are free to UF students), and having a plan for internet outages (such as identifying a source for public WiFi near you or tethering through your cell phone). Try not to wait until the last minute to submit assignments!

Late assignments incur a late penalty of 20% per day. Work will not be accepted more than three days late.

We highly recommend starting work on assignments early to preclude unexpected emergencies or late-semester stress from compromising your grade. Deadline extensions may be available on certain assignments if requested ahead of time via email, but must be justified. If extended deadlines are not met, late penalties will be assessed based on the original, not the revised due date!

Finally, please do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss problems with the course material or performance in class. Your performance and success are important to the instructor, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and University of Florida, so please contact me to discuss your concerns as soon as they arise.

Office Hours

Please take advantage of virtual office hours to discuss any questions or concerns. Contact your teaching assistant for basic questions, help with assignments, and clarifications regarding grades and feedback.

Contact me regarding absences, grading disputes, concerns about other students, and any other issues. If you cannot be present for the regularly scheduled office hours, we will attempt to accommodate you at an alternate time.

Course Communications

The preferred way to get in touch with your instructor or TA outside of office hours is via Canvas message or direct email from your official UF email account. Emails from outside providers, like Gmail, are not considered secure and will be ignored to protect student privacy. University policy dictates that grades cannot be discussed via email, so if you have a grade-specific question, you should ask it during office hours. You can expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays. All students are expected to check the course web site on Canvas (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>) daily. In addition, we may send specific communications directly to your UF email, which you should check daily as well. You should enable Canvas notifications for this class, so that you are notified immediately about grading, assignment feedback, due date changes, announcements, etc.

External Communication

You may use GroupMe or similar tools to communicate with other students about the class and environmental science-related topics. **You may not, however, discuss quiz and exam questions/answers with others, including quizzes and exams from the current or prior semesters, or collaborate on any assignments intended to be worked on individually.** Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty.

Canvas Display Name Change

Canvas uses the "Display Name" as set in myUFL. The Display Name is what you want people to see in the UF Directory, such as "Ally" instead of "Allison." To update your display name, go to one.ufl.edu, click on the dropdown at the top right, and select "Directory Profile." Click "Edit" on the right of the name panel, uncheck "Use my legal name" under "Display Name," update how you wish your name to be displayed, and click "Submit" at the bottom. This change may take up to 24 hours to appear in Canvas. This does not change your legal name for official UF records.

CALS and University of Florida Policies

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge: *"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."* You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."* It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). Furthermore, as part of your obligation to uphold the Honor Code, you should report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

As your instructors, we want to emphasize that **PLAGIARISM, WHETHER INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL, IS A SERIOUS AND POTENTIALLY CAREER-ENDING FORM OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. Copying and pasting is never okay in academia.** Direct quotes are not commonly used in science writing; paraphrases accompanied by a proper citation should be used instead. Use of direct quotes of outside sources in this class will result in a loss of credit. Use of photographs or images without proper citation, both in-text and in a references list, is also considered plagiarism.

Grades and Grade Points

For information on current UF policies for assigning grade points, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Evaluation Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at: <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at: <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Services for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes registering disabilities, recommending academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services and mediating faculty-student disability related issues. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. The DRC may be contacted by visiting 001 Reid Hall, calling 352-392-8565, or visiting their web site at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/.

Student Complaints

Residential Course: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>
Online Course: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Campus Helping Resources

Your wellbeing is important to me and the University of Florida community. Students experiencing crises or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the

university's counseling resources. The Counseling & Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career or academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance.

- *University Counseling Center & Wellness Center*, 3190 Radio Road, 352-392-1575. Counseling Services, Groups and Workshops, Outreach and Consultation, Self-Help Library & Wellness Coaching. <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>
- *U Matter We Care*. 352-292-2273. UF's umbrella program for UF's caring culture. Provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. <http://umatter.ufl.edu>
- *Career Connections Center*, First Floor JWRU, 352-392-1601, <https://career.ufl.edu/>.
- Student Success Initiative, <http://studentsuccess.ufl.edu>
- *Dean of Students Office*, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261. Among other services, the DSO assists students who are experiencing situations that compromises their ability to attend classes. This includes family emergencies and medical issues (including mental health crises). <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>
- *Teaching Center*, Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>
- *Writing Studio*, 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/>.
- *Fork and Field Pantry*. Food and toiletries for students experiencing food insecurity. <https://pantry.fieldandfork.ufl.edu/>.
- *UF Help Desk*. 352-392-4357. Technical support for computer issues and UF web services. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
- *University Police Department*, 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>
- *Library Support*, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with using the libraries or finding resources.

Course Outline (subject to change – please check the Canvas calendar for the latest information)
Critical Dates

Syllabus quiz	June 29
Exam 1	July 8
Exam 2	July 20
International environmental issue essay	July 29
Exam 3	August 3

Module Preps and discussion assignments will be due at the start and finish of each module and week respectively, and these dates may change slightly from the schedule on this syllabus. Any schedule changes will be posted on Canvas; please refer to Canvas for specific due dates of these assignments.

Lecture Schedule

Module		Start Date
0	Course Orientation	June 27
1	Understanding the Global Environment	June 27
2	Geology and Biogeochemistry	June 30
3	Ecosystems	July 5
4	Biodiversity	July 7
5	Population Dynamics & Human Geography	July 12
6	Energy	July 14
7	Water	July 19
8	Air	July 21
9	Agriculture	July 26
10	Climate Change	July 28
11	Environmental Economics	August 2

Course Alterations

Due to unforeseen circumstances or to enhance class learning opportunities, it may be necessary to alter the information given in this syllabus during the semester. Such changes are not unusual and should be expected. All changes to the syllabus will be posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with any syllabus changes.