

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Environmental Studies Program
Spring 2019
ENST 100: Introduction to Environmental Studies
TR 8-9:20, WPH 207

DRAFT SYLLABUS

Instructor:

Dr. Scott Applebaum

Email: sappleba@usc.edu

Office hours: TBA, CAS116

Course Text & Reading:

- Friedland & Relyea, Essentials of Environmental Science Second Edition W.H. Freeman & Co., 2011 ISBN-13: 978-1319065669
- Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available on Blackboard

Course Description:

This course will give you an overview of how the natural world works, the ways in which humans are perturbing the natural world, and the ways in which the challenges of environmental degradation are (or are not) being addressed by society and government through science, technology, policy, and behavior.

Course Learning Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of the environment
- Understand issues facing the environment from a scientific and social perspective
- Explore how environmental issues affect humans, from multiple perspectives
- Discuss solutions to environmental degradation through law, policy, science and technology, and human behavior
- Learning objectives in this course are aligned with those of the Environmental Studies Program: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/learning-objectives/>

Course Requirements & Expectations:

- Come to class prepared and engage in discussions and group work
- Be respectful of instructors and other students in class
- Leave cell phones outside the classroom or turned off
- If you have to miss class make sure you arrange to get notes and announcements.

Other Course Information:

This course will use Blackboard for communication, information and submitting assignments. An abbreviated set of lecture slides will be available after the lecture is given. Additional readings will be assigned periodically throughout the semester and will be announced either in class, posted on Blackboard, and/or via an email reminder sent to the entire class.

Graded Assignments & Point Values:

Midterm 1	100 pts
Midterm 2	100 pts
Final exam	100 pts
Written assignment	50 pts
Letter to congress	25 pts
In class debate	40 pts
News article analysis	15 pts

All three exams will cover the lecture and reading material immediately after the preceding exam (or starting on the first day of class for midterm 1). The final exam will carry the same weight as a midterm. During exams, students will NOT be allowed to have notes, books, cell phones, etc. Only pens, pencils and a calculator are required. Failure to comply with exam policies will automatically result in a grade of “zero” for that particular exam.

Late Assignments & Make-Up Policy:

If there is a conflict with an exam, you **must** email the instructor *2 weeks in advance* to see if alternative arrangements can be made (under reasonable circumstances). Otherwise, make-up exams will not be given except in extreme emergencies. Make-up exams will also be more difficult, so it is in your best interest to take the exam on the day it is scheduled. If you have an emergency on exam day, you must get in touch with us before the exam if possible. Assignments will not be accepted late.

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism. Presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words, is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientificmisconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by USC. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity <http://equity.usc.edu> or to the Department of Public Safety <http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides confidential support around the clock, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems:

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Statement on Religious Observation Accommodations:

USC policy grants students excused absences from class for observance of religious activities. Students may be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance. We are responsive to requests for an excused absence when made in advance. Please note that this applies only to religious activities that necessitate a student's absence from class and/or a conflict with a specific aspect of the course.

Course Schedule:

For the best learning experience, you are expected to have read assigned material by the date it is discussed in class. Chapter and article readings will be posted online. The readings and schedule of topics may be adjusted throughout the semester depending on the progress of the class.

Week of:	Week#		Chapters:
Jan 7	1	Introduction & course overview Introduction to the state of earth What is science?	1
Jan 14	2	Matter, energy and change Climates and biomes News article analysis #1 due	2 3
Jan 23	3	Evolution, population and community ecology	4
Jan 28	4	Population growth	5
Feb 4	5	Ecosystem ecology Written report assignment presented Midterm 1	3
Feb 11	6	Biodiversity and conservation biology Natural resources	13 6,7
Feb 18	7	Land use Agriculture and food News article analysis #2 due	7 7
Feb 25	8	Agriculture and food Written report assignment due Non-renewable energy	7 8

Mar 4	9	Energy Letter to congress assignment presented Energy and biofuels	8 8
Mar 11	10	Midterm 2 Water pollution	9
Mar 18	11	Spring Break	
Mar 25	12	Debate topics presented Air pollution Debate topic preferences submitted	10
Apr 1	13	Solid waste and sustainability Debate topics assigned Letter to congress due	11
Apr 8	14	Science of climate change Social science of climate change	14 15
Apr 15	15	Economics, policy, equity and sustainability	15
Apr 22	16	Class review and catch-up Debate presentations	
FINAL EXAM Monday, May 6 11AM-1PM, WPH 207			