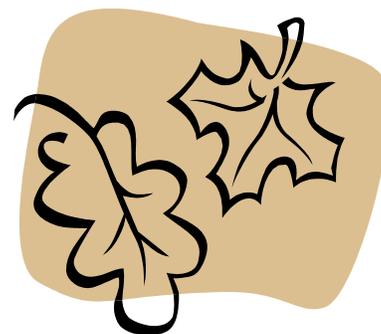


**Environmental Biology
Bio 120 - Honors
Syllabus – Fall 2016**



Instructor:

Kelly Cartwright

Office: H109

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E-mail: KCartwright@clcollinois.edu

Office Hours:

Monday 2:15-3:15

Tuesday 11-1 and 4:45-6

Wednesday 2:15-3:15

Thursday 11-2 and 5:15 - 6

Friday 3-4

Course Description: A study of the relationships between humans and the environment. Topics include ecology, population biology, modification of our environment, resource use, land use planning, pollution, and energy. The goal is to better understand the biological and social problems that human use and misuse of the environment cause.

Materials:

Lecture –

Houtman, A., Karr, S., & Interland, J. (2016). Environmental Science for a Changing World. New York, NY: W. H. Freeman. (custom version of 2nd Ed)

NWEI. (2010). Choices for Sustainable Living: Discussion Course Manual.

Lab –

Cartwright, K., Corn, M., Jones, S., Remedi, B., Spreyer, M., Wade, M. C., Coykendall, M., & Trombino, C. (2012). Environmental Biology (8th ed.). Eden Prairie, MN: Cache' House.

Grading System:

Tests (4 @ 30 each)	120 pts.
Discussion Points (6 @ 10 pts each, lowest dropped)	50 pts.
Discussion Facilitator	20 pts.
Community Project	60 pts.
Biome Presentation	20 pts.
Cumulative Lec Quiz	30 pts.
Sense of Place Assignment	50 pts.
Environmental Quality Report	40 pts.
Bring It Home Project	50 pts.
Attendance and Participation Points	~60 pts.
Total	500 pts.

90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D, 50% and below = F

The percentage of total points you earn determines your final grade, and the grading scale is not negotiable. There will be opportunities for extra credit during the semester so take advantage of these points. Do not expect to have your grades 'rounded' up at the end of the semester.

- **There will be no make-ups for either lecture or lab unless scheduled in advance, when applicable you have until the next time the class meets to make up material. All make-up material will be completed in the testing center located in the Learning Resources Center (Library).**

Expectations

What you can expect from me, I will:

- ❖ be prepared for class
- ❖ be on time to class
- ❖ give advance notice of any changes in class
- ❖ be respectful of your opinions
- ❖ be available outside of class for assistance

In turn, I expect you to:

- ❖ attend every class period
- ❖ be prepared for class
- ❖ be on time
- ❖ be respectful and exhibit adult behavior
 - no talking, whispering, writing notes, etc.
 - turn off cell phones
 - No Texting!
 - stay entire class period
 - use computer for class work

Keys to Success

- Attend every class
- Be on time
- Have a buddy/study group – exchange numbers and e-mails today
- Stay organized
- Keep current on notes
- Contact me (in advance) if you are going to miss class, labs, tests, presentations, etc.

Most importantly I expect you to come to me if you have ANY questions about the class, either in terms of subject matter or format!!!

Policies and Logistics

Students with Disabilities:

CLC provides information, guidance, and support to students with disabilities through a variety of services. If you are a student with a documented disability please feel free to talk with me, or visit the Learning Assistance Center, which is located in the Learning Resources Center, 543-2473.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism and cheating in the broadest definition include taking work for credit that is not your own. Don't do either of these activities. Regardless of the assignment or the degree of infraction no credit will be given for the work, and action will be taken with Student Development. All essays are evaluated using Safe Assign. For further info see the Academic Integrity Standards.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for extra credit in the form of outside programs or assignments. Extra credit is capped at 3% of the total class points.

Extra Help:

If you feel you need extra help on any topic please come see me or take advantage of the tutoring services (free) at the far end of the library.

Blackboard – You should become comfortable with the Bb site for this course. Bb will be used to record grades, disseminate handouts, post Powerpoints, and be used for essay submissions. The Powerpoints I develop for class will be posted at minimum the week prior to covering the material, please print out a copy to use during class. Essays will be submitted via a safe assign link on Bb. I will post announcements if emergency situations come up. You should be checking Bb and your student email regularly.

Assignment Information

Assignment Submission:

Assignments are accepted as hard copy, double sided, and electronically. Most items to be submitted electronically will have a Bb submission link. If submitting via email please have in the subject line 'Your Name – Class Name – Assignment Name'. Assignments with an exact deadline (take home essays) are due when class takes place. Assignments submitted late will be discounted 50%.

Lecture Tests – There will be a total of 4 tests given throughout the semester, each worth 30 points. Material will come from lectures, activities, and reading material (text and non-text). Tests will be take home essays consisting of variable-length questions requiring you to apply what you have learned. You will have a minimum of 1 week/weekend to complete the test. These are independent assignments and consultation of classmates will be considered cheating.

Cumulative Lec Test – A cross-section cumulative test takes place at the end of the semester. It covers the main points from each of the sections. A study guide will be handed out prior to the test.

NWEI Discussions – Throughout the semester we will have discussions from articles in the NWEI publication. These are intended to increase your knowledge of real world examples regarding environmental issues. It is critical to the success of the discussion that everyone read the articles before coming to class. Feedback and discussion will be

from an individual perspective as well as small or large group discussion. Each discussion day is worth 10 points.

- **Discussion Facilitator** – following the first session, the discussions will be facilitated by pairs of students. Students will prepare for the discussion in advance, meet with me to discuss plans, and guide the discussion on the class day. Students will submit a 2-pg write up of their reflection on the topic and process of facilitation – 20 pts. Facilitator sign-up will take place the second week of class.

Lab Assignments – To assess lab material 2 encompassing assignments will be used.

- **Sense of Place Assignment:** This assignment will be used to evaluate your knowledge of the field sites visited during class and the 2 diversity labs. The format of this assignment is up to you; you need to submit an overview of your idea by the third week of class. This assignment could be in the form of a nature journal, a photo/essay presentation, a creative art piece, etc. It needs to convey material from the labs, but you have flexibility in how you present the information. You should skim the review questions at the back of each lab to see if you are covering relevant content. You should work on this week by week. Preferred submission date is prior to Thanksgiving Break.
- **Environmental Quality Report:** This assignment will be used to evaluate your knowledge of the last 4 labs (solid waste, water chem, water pollution, and air pollution). Use the information you gather during these labs to write a report on the environmental quality of our area. You should use these labs as a jumping off place, you may want to gather additional information for your report.

Service Learning Project – I believe that one characteristic of an honors course is that it contributes in a non-traditional way to learning. The project selected for this year is to develop materials for 2 field sites that are inaccessible to students with mobility restrictions. Students who have a physical restriction will use the resources you develop in addition to alternate methods that already exist. Your class will determine how you wish to develop the project, teams, division of labor, and deliverables. The format is up to your class; however, it needs to be something that can be accessed from a specific site, or through OSD. It could be a webpage, or a series of videos, etc. We will discuss potential field sites the class can use. Your grade will be based on the overall quality of the final product (40 pts) and a self-evaluation of your performance (20 pts). Your self-evaluation is a paper, approximately 2 pages in length, addressing your contributions to the project, your understanding of the content, and your overall collaboration with others. Although this is a group project not all members have to be involved with each step.

Biome Presentation – Pairs of students will develop a presentation on a selected biome. Information to be included: overall climate and biodiversity, location on the globe, unique processes, and key threats to the biome. Using PowerPoint or Prezi is highly recommended but is not required. (20pts)

Bring It Home Project – At the end of each chapter is a 'Bring It Home' feature. You will select 10 exercises from these from the chapters we cover and do the exercise and write a brief blurb about the experience, what you did it, why you did it. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the individual connection to the content and demonstrate personal change. 50 points (5 points per exercise). I suggest starting on this project early as you may need time to complete the different exercises. Please turn in full project the week after Thanksgiving Break.

Attendance and Participation Points – During lecture various activities will be used to distribute points for attendance and participation. The activities (worksheets, discussion, small projects, etc.) will be unannounced so it is important to come to class regularly. You will also receive 2 points per day for **on-time** attendance. Attendance at labs will be taken. You are not allowed to miss more than 2 labs without it impacting your grade for the lab projects.