

# Syllabus for SMGT 115 Environmental Science and Sustainability

## Course Description

This course presents an overview of the interrelationships between humans and the environment. The material presented in the first one-third of the course focuses on foundational ecological concepts. The second one-third of the material involves human's dependence on natural ecosystems. And the final one-third of the course focuses on human impacts on the environment, and practices to avoid or mitigate the negative impacts, including the concept of sustainability. The initial material, foundational ecological concepts, will be used throughout the course to identify, understand, and provide a basis for the proposed approaches to contemporary environmental issues. Overall, this course will develop a sense of environmental literacy, while providing students with a better understanding of how humans can more positively affect the environment in which they live.

## Course Learning Outcomes

- Understand the ecological principles that are the foundation of natural systems.
- Appreciate the values of natural ecosystems, including our dependence on them.
- Learn the historical antecedents and current philosophies that direct our interactions with natural systems.
- Be aware of current environmental issues and opportunities, locally and worldwide.
- Be able to incorporate principles of sustainability into our management of human and natural environments on local, regional, and global scales.

## Course Materials

Information on course materials can be found in the [textbook section](#) of the SMGT website.

## Course Requirements

This course is reading intensive and requires a commitment of time for lectures, reading, and projects. During the semester this course has multiple assignments due during the same week, so it is imperative to keep current with work, regularly check the course **News** online, and use the **Course Calendar** as a scheduling tool. From past student experience, it is recommended that the lectures be viewed first, followed by reading the appropriate text chapters.

The course content consists of 23 lessons divided into four units. Each lesson has a lecture. Textbook readings have been assigned to complement the lecture

presentations. In conjunction with the lecture and textbook materials, you will complete five assignments to explore the course topics further. Some of these require Internet and/or library research.

### **Discussions**

To promote an active discussion forum for the issues presented in this course, each of you will be assigned a lesson in which you are the discussion leader. From a set of questions, you are to select a single question and post a response in the appropriate forum. Other course participants will then respond to this posting with their own thoughts and ideas. In turn, you will be required to moderate the resulting discussion by responding to other postings to maintain an active discussion and exchange of ideas.

### **Exams**

You will complete two exams during the course, and a final exam at its conclusion. Each exam is worth 50 points and consists of 50 questions, randomized from a test bank. The majority of the questions will involve lecture materials, though a substantial portion (10-20%) will come exclusively from the textbook. These exams are open book/open notes, though time is very limited, so be certain to be well prepared before initiating your exam. These are timed events; you will have 50 minutes to complete each exam. The exams are non-comprehensive, covering only the material since the previous exam, with the exception of the concept of "flow of energy and cycling of nutrients," which will appear on multiple exams. You will have a period of several days in which to complete the exams.

### **Quizzes**

You will complete three quizzes during the course, at the ends of Units 1, 2, and 3. Each is worth 25 points and consists of 25 questions, randomized from a test bank. The majority of the questions will involve lecture materials, though a substantial portion (10-20%) will come exclusively from the textbook. These quizzes are open book/open notes. Time is very limited, so be certain to be well prepared before initiating your quiz. These are timed events; you will have 25 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes are non-comprehensive, covering only the material since the previous quiz, with the exception of the concept of "flow of energy and cycling of nutrients," which will appear on multiple quizzes. You will have a two-day period in which to complete the quiz.

### **Grading Policy**

Grades will be determined on the basis of the total number of points earned for assigned individual projects, discussion questions, quizzes, and exams.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
Exams (3 @ 50 points each)	150 points
Quizzes (3 @ 25 points each)	75 points
Individual Learning Activities (5 @ 10-25 points each)	110 points
Discussion Questions (20 points for original posting; 45 points total for responses to postings @ 15 points per unit)	65 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>400 points</b>

Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. of the day posted in the course calendar (U.S. Central time). These due dates are final, with grades reduced 5% for each day the material is late.

- A = 94 - 100% of total points possible (376 - 400 points)
- A- = 90% - 93% of total points possible (360 - 375 points)
- B+= 87 - 89% of total points possible (348 - 359 points)
- B = 84 - 86% of total points possible (336 - 347 points)
- B- = 80 - 83% of total point possible (320 - 335 points)
- C+= 77 - 79% of total points possible (308 - 319 points)
- C = 74 - 76% of total points possible (296 - 307 points)
- C- = 70 - 73% of total points possible (280 - 295 points)
- D+= 67 - 69% of total points possible (268 - 279 points)
- D = 64 - 66% of total points possible (256 - 267 points)
- D- = 60 - 63% of total points possible (240 - 255 points)
- F = 59% (and below) of total points possible (less than 240 points)