

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
ABIO 270 (4 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Dyer

Phone: 641-3443

Office hours: MTWTh 1:00 - 2:00

Office Sciences 101E

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Lecture: MTWTh 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in Sciences Building Room 107

Textbook: Cunningham, Cunningham & Saigo, *Environmental Science*, 9th ed.

Course description: This goal of this course is to introduce students to modern environmental issues and direct them toward a better understanding of the science behind the issues, how the environment affect human culture, how humans affect the environment, and how to discriminate between what they hear in the popular media and what is real.

Objectives are to introduce students to:

- the history of environmental thought.
- current issues in environmental science.
- explore the connections between human actions and environmental consequences.
- the influence of the environment on human activity

Competency: By the end of this course, the student will have demonstrated the ability to:

- demonstrate the scientific approach for discovering more about our world.
- discuss current topics in environmental science with an understanding of the evidence behind the science
- discriminate between science and non-science in the popular media.

Presentation: This course will consist of lectures by the instructor, classroom discussion, and group and individual laboratory exercises.

Evaluation: Achievement of course objectives will be evaluated by written assignments and presentations, lab exercises and group activities. **The course grade** will be an average of all graded material.

* Please drop by my office if you have questions or are having difficulty in class or any other reason. You may make an appointment or drop in if I am not busy with another student. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, we can make arrangements to meet at another time during the week.

* If you have a physical, psychological, and/or learning disability which might affect you performance in this class, please contact the **Office of Disability Services**, 126A B&E, (803) 641-3609, as soon as possible. The Disabilities Services Office will determine appropriate accommodations based on medical documentation.

Topics to be covered in this course:

Human ecology

Science as a way of learning about the world

Evolution and adaptation

Positive and negative interactions and natural selection

Population growth: what causes it, what slows it down

Carrying capacity- when is it too much?

Global climate change: what are the facts?

Water pollution and its causes and consequences

Consumption and waste and sustainability

Use and over use of resources

Invasive species and their impacts

Keystone species and biodiversity

Disease and health