ENVR 110 Introduction to Environmental Studies
Fall 2010

Location: Comenius Hall, Accounting Classroom (Room 213)

Time: 2:35 – 3:45 PM

Instructor: Dr. Sonia Aziz

Office: Comenius 210

Office Hours: 3:45 – 4:45 p.m. M,W; 10:00-11:45 a.m. T, or by appointment

Phone: 610-625-7702

Email: aziz@moravian.edu

Adapted from course Syllabi for the Fall 2006 and 2007 ENVR 110 taught by Professors Diane Husic and Kerri Mullen.

Course Content: Our main objectives for the semester are to ensure that you as a student:

> Develop understanding the fundamental scientific concepts that underlie key environmental topics and environmental challenges. Evaluate the complexity and value of ecosystems, biodiversity and the relationship between humans and their environment. Understand the wide range of values, risk assessment, and social, economic, historical, and political factors that influence the development of public policy – especially as it pertains to environmental regulations, conservation, and stewardship. Understand the global nature of many environmental issues and appreciate the wide range of world views on the value and priority of the environment. Employ critical thinking to assess scientific and other forms of data, along with other information found in the literature for validity and relevance to environmental issues being considered.

Course Materials/Required Book:

> Withgott and Brennan, Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, 3rd ed. Pearson Education Inc. (San Francisco, CA)

Evaluation:

> There will be two semester exams and a final. The final is selectively cumulative. You must notify me BEFOREHAND if you need to reschedule an exam. If you do not take an exam on the date it is given without first making alternative arrangements, you will receive a score of zero for that exam. The class grade will be computed from grades on quizzes, participation in class discussions, and short assignments. Moravian college policies regarding academic honesty will be enforced. Please read the **Academic Honesty Policy** that is included in the student handbook.

Assignments, Classroom Participation and Expectations:

Students are required to read scheduled chapters before coming to class. Additional readings may be distributed in class, posted on blackboard or placed on reserve in the library. You are expected to check blackboard for announcements and assignments on a regular basis. Homework must be turned in on time for full credit. Regular attendance is expected. Because contribution to the classroom community is counted as part of the class grade, regular attendance is necessary to receive full credit in this category. The use of cell phones in the classroom is not permitted. The use of laptops in the classroom (subject to need for individual accommodations - see below) is also not permitted.

Weights:	**Test 1**	**20 %**
	Test 2	**20 %**
	Final	**30%**
	Class Grade*	**30 %**

***** Based on attendance, participation (offering thoughtful answers on a regular basis), assignments, quizzes. Class participation and quizzes count as 15% of the class grade; assignments count for 15% of the class grade.

Test Grading Policy:

Test questions are short answer (analytical, definitional), multiple choice and essay questions. Sometimes a student will disagree with a grade assigned to particular question. This is a legitimate concern and will be addressed in the following procedure. To have an answer reevaluated, the student must submit a *written* request for a reevaluation. This request should identify the question in dispute, provide a written explanation why the student feels the question was incorrectly evaluated, and propose a suggested remedy. It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course.

Grading Scale:

A (92-100)	**C (72-77.9)**
A- (90-91.9)	**C- (70-71.9)**
B+ (88-89.9)	**D+ (68-69.9)**
B (82-87.9)	**D (62-67.9)**
B- (80-81.9)	**D- (60-61.9)**
C+ (78 – 79.9)	**F (0-59.9)**

Accommodation:

Should you have any individual concerns regarding disability please discuss this with me during the first week of class in person or via email. In addition, individuals from the counseling center will work with you to verify your need for accommodation and will help determine the environment in which you will have the opportunity to succeed in this course. To this end, students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

COURSE OUTLINE

Here is a tentative schedule and list of topics to be covered in class this semester. Schedule may be revised as we go forward. Also, depending on the background, interests and progress of the class we may cover more or less material or cover it in a different order, and as topical issues or varied interests dictate, video and film clips may be introduced in class. In general the first third to half of the semester will be devoted to conceptual foundations, and we will spend the time remaining to talk about environmental issues and solutions. Lecture chronology will follow chapter chronology in books for ease of exposition.

I. Conceptual Foundations

Week of August 30 (spills into week of September 8)

August 30 - Introductions, Syllabus Review and Overview (Reading, Chapter 1, Handout)
September 1 – Case study – BP Oil Spill. Reflections from a former reservoir engineer. (Reading, Handouts)
September 8 – Environmental Ethics and Economics: Values and Choices (Reading Chapter 2, Handouts)

Week of September 13

September 13 – Environmental Economics & Environmental Policy (Reading Chapter 2, Chapter 3)
September 15 – Environmental Policy Applications (Chapter 3)

Week of September 20

September 20 – Environmental Policy Applications (Chapter 2, Chapter 3)
Debate; Topics in Environmental Economics
September 22 – Chemistry, Energy and Life (Reading, Chapter 4)

Week of September 27

September 27 – Film viewing. Evolution, Ecology and Ecosystems (Reading Chapter 5, Chapter 6, Notes from Chapter 7)

September 29 – Test 1

Week of October 4

October 4 – Population – Film viewing "World in the Balance" (Reading Chapter 5, Chapter 8)
October 6 – Population Ecology and Human Population (Reading Chapter 5, Chapter 8)

Week starting October 13

October 13 – Biotechnology and the Future of Food (Reading Chapter 10)
Debate; Topics in GM Foods
Paper topics due

Week of October 18

October 18 – Biodiversity (Reading Chapter 11)
October 20 – Risk (Reading, notes from Chapter 14)

Week of October 25

October 25 – Water quality (Readings Chapter 15, 16)
October 27 – Water quality (Readings Chapter 15, 16, Handout)

Week of November 1

November 1 – Review
November 3 – Exam 2

Week of November 8

November 8 – Air quality (Readings Chapter 17, Chapter 18)
November 10 – Air quality and Atmospheric Pollution (Readings Chapter 17, Chapter 18)

Week of November 15
November 15 – Global warming, solutions (Readings Chapter 19, Chapter 20)
November 17 – Solutions to global warming, Energy needs, and energy alternatives (Readings Chapter 19, Chapter 20)

Week of November 22

November 22 – Special Topics/Film

Week of November 29

November 29 – Review

Week of December 6

Final paper presentations