

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – AG/ENVS 1102014

Basic Course Information			
Semester	Fall 2014	Instructor	Oli Bachie, PhD
Course Title & #	AG/ENVS 110	Instructor's Email	Oli.bachie@imperial.edu
CRN #	10897/10898	webpage	N/A
Room	2732	Office (PT Faculty:809)	N/A
Class Dates	8/18/14 – 12/10/14	Office hours	by appointment only
Class Days	Monday	Office phone #	N/A
Class Times	6:30 pm – 9:40 pm	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	Please send email to: oli.bachie@imperial.edu
Units	3.0		

Note: The best way to reach me is through the e-mail. However, if you have questions you can talk to me right after the lecture classes. You may also leave messages for me in my mailbox or on a voice mailbox (ext., xxxx).

FALL CALENDAR

Fall Semester begins	August 18
Holiday/labor day (no class)	September 1
Census	September 2
Holiday/Thanksgiving	November 24-29
Last date of class/final exam	December 8

Withdrawal policy

Last day to withdraw from a semester c without receiving "W" is September -?

Required Text

Myers, Norman & S. E. Spoolman. 2014. Environmental Issues & Solutions: A Modular Approach. Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-0-538-73560-5

SCANTRONS (required)

These testing forms are available at the bookstore, if not ask the department where you can get them. **Note:** you must have the correct forms. You will need one scantron form (#882-ES) & #2 pencils for each exam & quizzes. As quizzes may be a popup, make sure you always bring your scantron to class.

Course Description

The course is designed to provide students with an overview & understanding of the interrelationships between humans & the natural environment. The class will focus on basic concepts of science & ecosystem theory, human impacts on the air, water, & land, environmental problems faced by the humans that have regional & global consequences, & some of the proposed solutions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, & or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Identify important issues in environmental science at the local, state, national or international levels (such as air & water quality, species diversity, soil & use etc)including the various causes, possible long term repercussions & possible solutions. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3 & ILO4)
2. Identify traditional & alternative energy sources including advantages & disadvantages of each. (ILO2 & ILO4)
3. Discuss the growing human population & the related demand for resources (water, power, soil, hunger, etc.) & the impact that it places on agriculture. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4 & ILO5)

Instructional / Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. describe the role of science, the use of the scientific method, the importance of stewardship, & the concept of sustainability in the environmental field. The student will also identify local & global environmental challenges.
2. recognize & describe the science, structure, function, dynamics, adaptations of & major threats to local & global ecosystems.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – AG/ENVS 1102014

3. describe the environmental impacts of human population growth & material consumption nationally & internationally. The student will also identify some of the solutions that can address the population & consumption challenges.
4. describe the importance of protecting wildlife & habitats & conserving biodiversity. The student will identify endangered species found at the Salton Sea & local deserts & describe efforts to protect them. The student will also describe the characteristics of distinct local habitats (the Salton Sea & the deserts) & the efforts to effectively manage & conserve them.
5. describe the hydrological cycle & identify ways that humans negatively impact the cycle. The student will describe the quality of fresh water globally & identify major sources of water pollution. The student will apply these principles to local water bodies such as the New & Alamo Rivers & the Salton Sea. The student will also describe the political aspects of water allocations of the Colorado River & its impact on the Imperial Valley.
6. describe the state & federal laws & regulatory agencies that govern environmental concerns of air, water, land, human health, & chemical hazards. The student will also describe the use of cost-benefit analysis in the development of environmental policies.
7. identify common human health effects of environmental exposures. The student will recognize the steps involved in risk analysis, how risk perception affects individual & group decision making, & strategies for managing risks.
8. describe agricultural practices in the Imperial Valley with regard to the following concepts: soil characteristics; use of irrigation; the benefits & drawbacks of fertilizer use & pest control; the environmental impacts in air, soil, & water; & the economic impact regionally & nationally.
9. identify the major sources of air pollution locally & nationally. The student will recognize the benefits & environmental impacts of fossil fuels & describe alternatives to its use such as the development of solar, wind, & geothermal energy & the development of public transportation systems & alternative fuels for vehicles.
10. describe how materials are managed to minimize or eliminate environmental impacts. The student will identify the federal regulations governing the clean-up & handling of chemical & hazardous materials. The student will also describe the process of managing solid waste from source reduction to recycling.
11. identify solutions to local & global environmental problems. The student will also describe how politics, citizen involvement, & personal commitment can shape these solutions.

General Etiquette

As a college student you are an adult & I will treat you with due respect & maturity. I expect you to do the same with me. It is your responsibility to conduct yourself as a mature, professional individual fully responsible for your actions. However, there are a few things we need to emphasize so that we together can create an atmosphere where learning & teaching are possible, an atmosphere that is based on mutual respect. This means behavior on the instructor's & on your part that is appropriate for a lecture & all other class activities. For example, persistent talking during the lecture cannot be tolerated; it is disrespectful & disturbing to me & to your fellow students surrounding you. If such disturbance persists, I may reseat you if necessary. Students repeatedly talking in class while the instructor or a guest is lecturing will be asked to leave. No food or drinks are allowed in classroom. In general, students must comply with all rules & regulations included in the Standard of Student Conduct in the Imperial Valley College General Catalog. If group project(s) are assigned, each student is expected to do their fair share of the work. Let's work together & make it a successful semester for everyone.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected in every class meeting. It is very important for you to attend all classes in order to be successful in this course. Lateness per se results in no immediate penalty to you, but I can drop you from the class after *four unexcused absences*. Since you knowingly signed up for this time slot, you planned on being at each class session. However, I do understand that things happen & if you must miss a class I would ask that you let me know ahead of time. In an event of an absence, I strongly encourage you to contact a classmate to obtain materials/information that you may have missed

Arriving late or leaving early, or frequently walking in & out of the class while it is in session is disrespectful, disruptive, & unprofessional. If you find that you need to excuse yourself early on rare occasion you should make every effort to sit close to the door. This will allow you to leave the room without disrupting the learning environment for your fellow students. Similarly, if you have to be late for a reason, it is your responsibility to come in & sit down in a manner that will not be disruptive. Repeat tardiness will be noted & will adversely affect your grade.

Cell Phones & Pagers: *Ringling cell phones really disturb the flow of a lecture & the train of thoughts of everyone in the room.* Therefore, all cell phones, pagers & other noise making devices must be **turned off or put to vibrate** during class. If you must use these devices during class, I ask that you quietly && discretely leave the room.

Disability Information: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S Room 2117, Health Sciences Building, (760) 355-6312

Withdrawing: I will not drop you from the course after the first class meeting. Please be aware of all the deadlines to prevent a “W” from appearing on your transcript. It is your responsibility to fill out the appropriate paperwork. Any student remaining enrolled in this course after the deadline to drop will receive a letter grade.

CHEATING/Academic dishonesty

All exams and quizzes are individual assignments. It is hoped that cheating will not be a problem in this course. Nevertheless, to avoid any possibility if you not recognizing what the consequences may be, my policy is that **if you are caught cheating on an exam, any test or assignment, you will receive a zero** on that particular exam, test or assignment. In addition, **the event will be reported to the campus authorities & may lead to additional actions** by the college. Do not sacrifice your academic career because of your unpreparedness &/or irresponsibility.

EXAMS & GRADING:

Exams will be of the multiple-choice, true/false & / or an essay variety in some cases or a combination of all. Questions for the exams & quizzes will be taken from my lecture & your text book. You will **not** be tested on subjects from the book unless it has been discussed in a lecture. Four lecture exams are scheduled & will have equal weights. The exams are not cumulative. These examinations are primarily concept-oriented & may not cover each & every detail found in the chapters. Exams are obviously mandatory. Therefore, in order to get a high grade, attendance of classes is essential. Please **be on time** for exams; it is discourteous to others to come late because it is distracting to have someone else walk in tardy.

Here are the tentative exam schedules for the semester;

Exam 1: September 22

Exam 3: November 10

Exam 2: October 13

Exam 4: December 8

Make-up exams (upon verified excused absence). As can be seen above & the subsequent schedule page, I have given you the dates of the exams well ahead of time (see also attached schedule) to allow you to make appropriate arrangements. Therefore, you must make all possible effort to take the exams on the specified date (s). However, if illness or other serious problems beyond your control prevents you from taking the exam, I expect you to provide some kind of verification of the reason from the student health services or your health provider. You must **bring a valid excuse** to be accorded the privilege of taking a make-up. You must also contact me **no later than two days** after the regular exam that you missed. If there is a make-up exam it will be scheduled at the instructor's convenience during the last week of the fall semester. The make-up exam is of different format from the regular exams & may consist of **essay & short answer questions**. Make-ups will be given **for the first 3 exams only**. If you fail to notify me of the reason for your absence, or neglect to take the make up on the scheduled date, you will receive a zero grade for the exam you missed. Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance. In all cases, there is no make-up on quizzes or assignments you miss. Late submission of assignments will not be accepted or discounted.

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – AG/ENVS 1102014

I do not give letter grades on individual exams, quizzes, assignments or any other required activities. Your letter grade is calculated at the end of the semester based on points received (tentative) & awarded as follows;

Category	%age
• Individual Class Participation	5
• Assignments & projects	15
• Quizzes (3 to 5)	20
• Exams (4)	60
Total	100

The **letter grades** are **A** (90 - 100%), **B** (80 – 89 %), **C** (65 – 79 %), **D** (50 – 64 %) & **F** (below 50%)

TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE

Schedule of topics & text chapters to be covered are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor

week	Date	Lecture	Readings
1	8/18	Welcome & Introduction	
		Environmental Science & sustainability	Module 1
2	8/25	Environmental Science & sustainability	Module 1
		Population Growth	Module 2
3	9/1	Holiday/no class	
4	9/8	Urbanization	Module 3
5	9/15	Food resources	Module 4
6	9/22	Exam 1	
		Energy efficiency & renewable energy	Module 5
7	9/29	Energy efficiency & renewable energy	Module 5
		Nonrenewable energy	Module 6
8	10/6	Nonrenewable energy	Module 6
		Mineral resources	Module 7
9	10/13	Exam 2	
		Species extinction	Module 8
10	10/20	Land degradation	Module 9
11	10/27	Water resources	Module 10
12	11/3	Water pollution	Module 11
13	11/10	Exam 3	
		Air pollution	Module 12
14	11/17	Climate change	Module 13
		Wastes	Module 14
15	11/24	Holiday/thanksgiving - no class	
16	12/1	Environmental health hazards	Module 15
17	12/8	Exam 4	

Note: Students are responsible for any announced changes during class.

This syllabus & course schedule is legally binding contracts. By remaining enrolled in this class, you are agreeing to all of the class regulations