

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – **Environmental Science 110 / Ag 110**

Basic Course Information

Semester	Fall 2014	Instructor's Name	Renée Owens
Course Title and #	ENVS 110 / AG 110	Instructor's Email	renee.owens@imperial.edu
CRN #	10352 / 10351	Webpage (optional)	http://faculty.imperial.edu/renee.owens
Room	2734	Office	809 or To Be Arranged
Class Dates	Aug 19 – Dec 11, 2014	Office Hours	To be arranged between student and instructor
Class Days	Tues and Thursday	Office Phone #	See below
Class Times	1:30 – 2:55 PM	Who students should contact if emergency or other absence	Department Secretary Silvia Murray 760-355-6201 or Ofelia Duarte 760-355-6155
Units	3 units		

Course Description

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

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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

Course Objectives

Students should develop enhanced knowledge, understanding, awareness, and appreciation for ecosystems and biodiversity. Ideally students will develop a personal environmental ethic and envision their role and responsibility in ensuring a sustainable future for their communities, including all living things represented within that community.

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, and the concept of sustainability in the environmental field. The student will also identify local and global environmental challenges.

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2. Recognize and describe the science, structure, function, dynamics, adaptations of and major threats to local and global ecosystems.
3. Describe the environmental impacts of human population growth and material consumption nationally and internationally. The student will also identify some of the solutions that can address the population and consumption challenges.
4. Describe the importance of protecting wildlife and habitats and conserving biodiversity. The student will identify endangered species found in the Imperial Valley agricultural fields, drains and canals, at the Salton Sea and local deserts and describe efforts to protect them. The student will also describe the characteristics of distinct local habitats (the Salton Sea and the deserts) and the efforts to effectively manage and conserve them.
5. Describe the hydrological cycle and identify ways that humans negatively impact the cycle. The student will describe the quality of fresh water globally and identify major sources of water pollution. The student will apply these principles to local water bodies such as the New and Alamo Rivers and the Salton Sea. The student will also describe the political aspects of water allocations of the Colorado River and its impact on the Imperial Valley.
6. Describe the state and federal laws and regulatory agencies that govern environmental concerns of air, water, land, human health, and 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 and group decision making, and strategies for managing risks.
8. Describe agricultural practices with regard to the following concepts: soil characteristics; use of irrigation; the impacts of fertilizer use and pest control; the environmental impacts in air, soil, and water; and the economic impact regionally and nationally.
9. Identify the major sources of air pollution locally and nationally. The student will recognize the benefits and negative environmental impacts of fossil fuels and describe alternatives to its use such as the development of solar, wind, and geothermal energy, **reduced consumption**, the development of public transportation systems and alternative fuels for vehicles.
10. Describe how materials are managed to minimize environmental impacts. The student will identify the federal regulations governing the clean-up and handling of chemical and hazardous materials. The student will also describe the process of managing solid waste from source reduction to recycling.
11. Identify solutions to local and global environmental problems. The student will also describe how politics, citizen involvement, and personal commitment can shape these solutions.
12. Understand what consumptive and non-consumptive 'ecosystem services' are, and how such services contribute to the quality of our lives and communities.

13. Identify ways to reduce their ecological and carbon footprint.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Required Text: Myers, N. and Spoolman, S. 2014. [Environmental Issues and Solutions](#)

Belmont Cengage Learning. ISBN 9781435462311. Also on hold in the library.

Additional Class Text on hold in the Library: Students are encouraged, though not required, to also use *The Pearson Custom Library for Environmental Science*, Imperial Valley College, Environmental Science. © Pearson Learning Solutions, 2011. This textbook is a custom compilation from two texts and offers greater depth and insight to some topics covered in class.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

Comprehensive learning: In most assignments, lectures, and activities, multiple topic objectives may be included, rather than covering each objective in a distinct lesson. This is due to the fact that environmental science is based on studying interconnected systems and on learning to think in a holistic way, i.e., “global awareness”.

English and grammar proficiency: For writing assignments I expect you to demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English Language. Grammatical errors and writing that do not express ideas clearly will affect your grade. Students who are unable to write correctly and have trouble expressing ideas clearly at an introductory college level are urged to contact the appropriate campus resources for assistance (see ‘Additional Help’ section below).

Homework Assignments: Readings from the text and supplements are mandatory and will help you understand the lectures and activities better and help prepare you for the exams. You will also be expected to prepare outside of class for a class project, writing, and/or research assignments. Assignments will be given as the semester proceeds, along with due dates.

Quizzes and Exams: Any information presented may be included: lectures, readings, class activities, films, etc. Exams may include essay questions geared to test your critical thinking skills in respect to class topics. Exam dates will be announced in class. ***There are no make-up exams and late assignments will not be accepted.***

Extra Credit: Opportunities to earn extra credit points may be offered, details will be provided as the course progresses with additional information provided online.

Student Email: IVC students are expected to check their email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to stay current with college-related communications. *Students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical.* Students should not rely on any courtesy email forwarding or other means to ensure they are receiving important IVC information! The best strategy is to get accustomed to checking this email account at least once a day while a student at IVC.

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Faculty Website online and Blackboard: I will post articles, homework details, handouts, or additional lecture notes online so that students have access to them aside from hard copies. There may also be occasional announcements or other important information, it is important to check online regularly, before class to check for updates and announcements. See top for faculty address.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Class Grading: Your final grade in the class will be based on points received for the following:

Individual Class Participation: 20 points

Homework Assignments: 10 to 30 points

Class Project or Research paper: 50 to 100 points

Quizzes: 10 to 20 points

Exams (2): 100 points each

A: 90 - 100% B: 80 – 89 % C: 70 – 79 % D: 60 – 69 % F: Below 60%

As assignments are given I will tell you how many points they count for towards your total score. I do not give letter grades on individual assignments, your letter grade is calculated at the end of the semester. It is up to each student to keep track of his/her progress, I do not calculate your grade until the end of the semester.

Class Participation: Each student is expected to read the assigned material before coming to class. This will enable you to participate in the class discussions. Being able to interact in this manner will additionally have positive effects on your quiz and exam performance.

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See *General Catalog* for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.
- If you miss any class activities or lectures it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed, and how you can get caught up. You are responsible for getting the missed material *from another student, not from the instructor*.
- Adding/ Dropping: If you add the class, you must do so before the IVC deadline. If you are given an add code it is your responsibility to add the class using the authorization code as soon as possible. It is your

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responsibility to complete a drop request if you are withdrawing from the class. If you fail to complete a withdraw / drop request, but have stopped coming to class, you will receive an “F” for the class.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, no exceptions unless directed by the instructor.
- **Food and Drink** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- **Disruptive Students:** Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.
- Students must comply with all rules and regulations included in the Standard of Student Conduct in the Imperial Valley College General Catalog.
- I teach with the assumption that as a college student you are an adult, therefore I will treat you with the respect and maturity I maintain for all adults, and I expect you to do the same with me. While in the classroom it is your responsibility to conduct yourself as a mature, professional individual fully responsible for your actions.
- Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment, and your instructor has the right to teach without unnecessary distraction. Repeatedly talking to other students during lectures, using cell phones, arriving late or leaving early, or repeatedly walking in and out of the class while it is in session is disrespectful, disruptive, interferes with the learning experience of your peers and will not be tolerated. Infractions of this will result in reduction in your grade or dismissal from class as appropriate.
- Repeat tardiness will be noted and will adversely affect your grade.
- If you are using your cell phone during class, or using a laptop for anything not directly related to class, you will be asked to leave. If you need to use a phone for an emergency, leave class to do so. This rule will be strictly enforced, *and if asked to leave for infraction of these rules you will be marked absent from class.*

Academic Honesty

- **Plagiarism** is to take and present as one’s own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly ‘cite a source’, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the *General School Catalog* for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help – Discretionary Section and Language

- **Blackboard** support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- **Learning Labs:** There are several ‘labs’ on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the locations of the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.

Computer Lab: A general computer lab is available for students with basic services and applications, including Internet access.

Writing Lab: The writing lab may be used by any IVC student who needs help with an essay or writing assignment.

Language Lab: The Language lab is available to all students enrolled in Foreign Language, English, or ESL classes. The lab offers an individual multimedia learning experience as a supplement to formal class instruction.

Study Skills Center: (760) 355-6384. If your method of studying is not enabling you to get the grade you desire, talk to your instructor, and check out this Center.

Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources. If you are unsure how to use the materials the library has to offer, ask a librarian for a tutorial of what resources available and how to use them.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. If you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations, the DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

Class Schedule – *Note: Dates and assignments are subject to change.*

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Type</i>
08/19/14	Introductions, Syllabus	Lecture, handout (not graded)
08/21/14	Tapped: DVD	Lecture, DVD
08/26/14	Mod. 1: Environmental Science and Sustainability	Quiz, lecture

...complete course schedule will be updated and provided by August 29, check back at the **IVC Syllabi Site** <https://syllabi.imperial.edu> or with your instructor for changes.

