

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – AG 110/Environmental Science 110

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring 2015	Instructor Name	Dr. Pat Pauley
Course Title & #	AG 110	Email	patrick.pauley@imperial.edu
CRN #	20061, 20063, 20069	Webpage (optional)	
Room	2732 & 2734	Office	2773
Class Dates	February 17, 2015 – June 13, 2015	Office Hours	Monday – Thursday 0730 AM to 0830AM
Class Days	Tuesday and Thursday	Office Phone #	760-355-6363
Class Times	0835 AM – 1000 AM 1015 AM – 1140 AM 0130 PM – 0255PM	Office contact if student will be out or emergency	Department Secretary Silvia Murray 760-355-6201 or Ofelia Duarte 760-355-6155
Units	3		

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 by the Imperial Valley that have regional and global consequences, and some of the proposed solutions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, with a grade of “C” or better, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and/or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- Identify an important issue in environmental science, conduct research via literature review, interviews with experts, and/or hands-on projects, and document the information sources by citing references parenthetically within a research paper and listing them at the end, using a standard documentation style, such as MLA. (ILO4)
- Use ecosystems thinking to design and create a visual representation of a sustainable human settlement, which functions on ecosystem principles and fulfills the ethic of caring for the earth and caring for the people. (ILO5)
- Identify an important issue in environmental science, conduct research on it via literature review, interviews with experts, and/or hands-on projects, and clearly communicate the content learned by giving a presentation to the class. (ILO1)

Course Objectives

Student will:

- Describe the role of science, the use of the scientific method, the importance of stewardship, and the concept of sustainability in the environmental field;
- Identify local and global environmental challenges;
- Recognize and describe the science, structure, function, dynamics, adaptations of and major threats to local and global ecosystems;
- Describe the environmental impacts of human population growth and material consumption nationally and internationally;
- Identify some of the solutions that can address the population and consumption challenges;
- Describe the importance of protecting wildlife and habitats and conserving biodiversity;
- Describe the hydrological cycle and identify ways that humans negatively impact the cycle.
- Describe the quality of fresh water globally and identify major sources of water pollution;
- Apply these principles to local water bodies such as the New and Alamo Rivers and the Salton Sea;
- Describe the political aspects of water allocations of the Colorado River and its impact on the Imperial Valley;
- Describe the state and federal laws and regulatory agencies that govern environmental concerns of air, water, land, human health, and chemical hazards;
- Identify common human health effects of environmental exposures;
- Recognize the steps involved in risk analysis, how risk perception affects individual and group decision making, and strategies for managing risks;
- Describe agricultural practices in the Imperial Valley with regard to the following concepts: soil characteristics, use of irrigation, the benefits and drawbacks of fertilizer use and pest control, the environmental impacts in air, soil, and water, and the economic impact regionally and nationally;

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- Identify the major sources of air pollution locally and nationally;
- Recognize the benefits and environmental impacts of fossil fuels and describe alternatives to its use;
- Describe how materials are managed to minimize or eliminate environmental impacts;
- Describe the process of managing solid waste from source reduction to recycling;
- Identify solutions to local and global environmental problems

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Environmental Science – Custom Edition for Imperial Valley College.
ISBN 978-0-536-89672-8

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students must comply with all rules and regulations of Standards of Student Conduct outlined in the Imperial Valley College General Catalog. **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 are urged to contact the appropriate campus resources for assistance.

Position Papers

During this semester you will be required to write **one** (100 point) paper about an environmental issue of your choosing. Papers must be of length to cover the topic, typed in **12 point Arial font**, double-spaced, with all margins 1" wide. There will be a deduction of points for grammar, margins, format and spelling. Due date to be announced.

Group Presentation

You will be required to work in a group on one class presentation. I will provide class time to do group work. However, if your group needs more time then you will need to make arrangements with your group to work outside of class.

Exams

Two exams will be given. Exams may include true/false, short answer, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Exams will be worth 100 points each. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!**

Lecture Topic

The text will be followed starting with the back half of the book, then moving to the front section. Please be aware that there are "duplicates" of some chapter numbers so be sure you are studying the same material that is to be discussed.

Agro-terrorism unit.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Class Requirements - Class grading will be based on points in the following distribution:

- 1 Position Paper 100 points
- Group Work 200 points
- Exams 200 points

Grading - Final grades will not be further adjusted as any "rounding" will be done on individual exams, quizzes or assignments.

- A = 100 – 90%
- B = 89 – 80%
- C = 79 – 70%
- D = 69 – 60%
- F = < 59%

Attendance

The instructor as of the first official meeting of that class the first mandatory activity of an online class will drop a student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete. 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.

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- 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. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and 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 find that you need to excuse yourself early on rare occasion you should make every effort to get to class early so that you can 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 should not be able to avoid being late, it is your responsibility to come in and sit down in a manner that will not be disruptive. Either of these events are NOT to be regular occurrences for any given student. Additionally, it will be the student's responsibility to obtain notes for any missed class time, as I do not lend them.

Classroom Etiquette

- **Electronic Devices:** I require that all cell phones, pagers and other noise making devices be **turned off or to vibrate** during class. If you must use these devices during class, I ask that you quietly and discretely leave the room. Failure to comply with such rules will earn you the opportunity to give a 5-minute oral presentation on an environmental topic of the instructor's choice during the next class period or to receive an automatic deduction of 20 points from your overall course grade.
- **Food and Drinks:** 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.

Academic Honesty

- **Plagiarism** is taking and presenting, 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 'cite a source' correctly, 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 that 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) using 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 Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Study Skills Center (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program.
- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

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. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313, if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

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 helping 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/>