

Man and the Environment (Biol 204-01 Spring 2017)

Lectures:	M,W,F 9:30-10:20, Harbor Walk West 307
Instructor:	Professor Courtney Gerstenmaier
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Office:	65 Coming St. Rm 102
Office Hours:	By appointment

Course Overview: The first part of this course will look into the development and emergence of *Homo sapiens* and the emergence of early civilizations. This will be followed by our more recent history, including inventions and methods that shaped our way of life through the industrialization and its impact on the environment. Finally we will look at our world today, the consequences of our inventions and our current approach to environmental issues. We will finish this course by exploring where new inventions may take us.

Course Objectives:

- Students *will become familiar with* ways humans have been interacting with their environment
- Students *will understand* the evolutionary path that led to *Homo sapiens*
- Students *will think* about applications of course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)
- Students *will have an appreciation* of where we might be headed

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will become familiar with the interactions between humans and the environment and how they shape each other
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interaction between man and the environment through critical thinking, writing, and presentations

Resources: None

Prerequisite: None

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Tests: We will have three tests and a final cumulative exam (with some new material) that will be administered during the lecture portion of the course. These tests are designed to assess your knowledge of the subjects covered. They will consist of multiple choice, true-false, matching, and short answer questions.

OAKS Assignments: There will be online assignments, course readings and quizzes offered through the OAKS platform. These assignments will be placed on the course calendar and will be mentioned during classes as well.

Class Discussions: During this course we will be using case studies, polls, and quizzes to begin our exploration into various topics. These tools will provide us with a jumping off point for exploring abstract topics and making them more relatable. Participation grades will be based partly on participating actively during these discussions

Man and the Environment Paper: A 2-page summary/review of a current environmental issue (can be specific to the Americas, or a global issue). Bring at least 5 recent references (you need to have references at the end of the paper) on a topic of your interest (all need to be on the same broad topic). Highlight and discuss the topic and what issues are connected with it and bring up arguments for a possible solution. Paper will be due on Monday, March 20th.

Presentation: At the end of the semester, there will be group presentations on a topic related to man's interactions with the environment. Presentation topics and groups will be assigned during the second week of

classes. The presentation is designed to enlighten your fellow students on what the topic is, why it was developed (what void did it fill/what did it improve, etc.), what the environmental impacts are, and what if anything humans are doing to mitigate those impacts. The presentation should fill an entire lecture period.

Note: Missing an assignment, test, or final without permission from the instructor will result in a zero. Make-up assignments/tests/finals will not be given except under extenuating circumstances. If the student cannot be present, they are expected to contact the instructor BEFORE the assignment/test/final and will be asked to obtain an official excuse from the dean of undergraduate affairs office before rescheduling. Whether the student is allowed to make-up the assignment/test/final is entirely at the discretion of the instructor regardless of a letter from the dean

Grading of Assignments: The following criteria will be used to calculate the grade.

Three In-class Exams:	25%
Final Exam (cumulative):	20%
Oaks Assignments:	20%
Man and the Environment Paper	15%
Presentation:	15%
Participation:	5%

Grading Scale:

	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	
A : 93-100	B : 83-86	C : 73-76	D : 63-66	F: <59
A-: 90-92	B- : 80-82	C- : 70-72	D- : 60-62	

Other aspects of grading follow the CofC standards. The last day of drop/add is Wednesday, January 18th. The last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is Thursday, March 23rd.

Extra Credit: I will offer potential extra credit with a maximum 5% value of the final grade. NOTE: These extra credits are a token to encourage general science involvement. *Your time is better spent studying for an exam!!* Extra credit must be submitted by the last day of lectures (April 26th 2017) to be considered. Before you start I strongly advise you to come and see me to discuss the specifics of the assignment.

Option 1) *A 1-page review of a recent news headline you think was misrepresented. This requires a comparison of the news report with the original science paper and a discussion why you think the science paper was misrepresented.*

**worth only 1% must do 5 to get all points*

Option 2) *A project (video, poem, drawing, sculpture) that shows the interactions between man and the environment the good, the bad, or the ugly*

**worth 5%*

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance in lecture will set you on the road to success in this course and will be taken. Lecture is an excellent time to ask questions and participate in an active discussion of topics and hands on activities. We adhere to the College of Charleston Absence Policy, as described in the student handbook. Miss lecture? Get notes and handouts from another student. If you will have a planned absence on the day of an exam – you must notify me BEFORE the exam is given. Any make up (with a documented reason) must be completed before the exam is returned to the class (1-5 d from scheduled exam time). All excuses must be documented via the Dean of Undergraduate Study. Stay tuned in lecture for announcements about posting of critical information on OAKS including hand outs, study guides, extra credit opportunities, practice problems, and online quizzes.

Classroom Courtesy: A movie theater and a classroom might not have much in common except when it comes to the distraction of electronic devices. Students are asked to keep all cell phones and other devices that beep in silent mode and out of sight unless being used for taking notes. No electronics will be allowed during exams. Exceptions will be made in extreme situations such as spouses anticipating the birth of a child or a serious emergency. Permission to leave an electronic device on should be obtained prior to class.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to behave in an honest and responsible manner. Violations of the honor code are offensive and will generally be dealt with severely. We will adhere to the following policy as quoted from the Honor Council's recommended guidelines:

"Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>

STUDENT SUPPORT

Office Hours: Please come see me if you need any additional help in my class or are just looking for some general advice about your academic path here at the college. I will happily meet you in my office at 65 Coming Street by appointment.

Center for Student Learning: I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning's (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, speaking & writing strategies, and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study strategy appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and the services are available to you at no additional cost. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843) 953-5635.

Student Accommodations: Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged. For more information visit: <http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/index.php>

Lecture Schedule

The material in this syllabus is subject to scheduling changes.

Date	Topic
Jan 11 – Wed	Introduction
Jan 13 – Fri	Conservation Today
Jan 16 – Mon	<i>MLK Day</i>
Jan 18 – Wed	Human Population Today
Jan 20 – Fri	From Early Primates to hominoids
Jan 23 – Mon	First hominoids
Jan 25 – Wed	The emergence of Homo
Jan 27 – Fri	The emergence of Homo
Jan 31 – Mon	The Origin of us 1: Bones
Feb 01 – Wed	The Origin of us 2: Guts
Feb 03 – Fri	The Origin of us 3: Brains
Feb 06 – Mon	<i>Homo sapiens & Homo neanderthalensis</i>
Feb 08 – Wed	The Piltdown Case
Feb 10 – Fri	Exam
Feb 13 – Mon	Beginning of LGM (geological perspective)
Feb 15 – Wed	What happened after the Last Glacial maximum
Feb 17 – Fri	The Neolithic revolution
Feb 20 – Mon	First Cities & Money
Feb 22 – Wed	The Medieval Period
Feb 24 – Fri	Industrialization
Feb 27 – Mon	The Rise of the Green Revolution
Mar 01 – Wed	The Green Revolution
Mar 03 – Fri	Exam
Mar 06 – Mon	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 08 – Wed	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 10 – Fri	<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 13 – Mon	Globalization and our Relationship with Food
Mar 15 – Wed	IPCC Climate
Mar 17 – Fri	IPCC Climate
Mar 20 – Mon	IPCC biological impacts Man and the Environment Paper Due
Mar 22 – Wed	IPCC biological impacts
Mar 24 – Fri	The Green Revolution Today
Mar 27 – Mon	Current approach to environmentalism
Mar 29 – Wed	Current approach to environmentalism
Mar 31 – Fri	Exam
Apr 03 – Mon	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 05 – Wed	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 07 – Fri	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 10 – Mon	Student presentations: TBD

Apr 12 – Wed	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 14 – Fri	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 17 – Mon	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 19 – Wed	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 21 – Fri	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 24 – Mon	Student presentations: TBD
Apr 26 – Wed	Where are we headed

FINAL EXAM: Friday, April 28th 8 – 11 am