

Man and the Environment (Biol 204-01 Spring 2018)

Lectures:	M,W,F 10:30-11:20, Harbor Walk West 211
Instructor:	Professor Courtney Gerstenmaier Felton
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Office Hours:	M,W,F from 9:30-10:30 in HWWE 309

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, fill-in-the-blank, 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 class as well.

Class Discussions: During this course we will be having class discussions on environmental news and issues. We will be using articles, case studies, 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 3-5 page summary/review of a current environmental issue (can be specific to the Americas, or a global issue). This paper requires at least 5 recent references (you need to cite the references at the end of the paper, as well as, inside the paper) on a topic of your interest. Highlight and discuss the topic, the issues connected with it, and bring up arguments for a possible solution. Paper will be due on Friday, March 16th. Topic is due to the professor by Friday, March 2nd.

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 early in the semester. 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 last about 20 minutes.

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 and Quizzes:	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 Tuesday, January 16th. The last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is Tuesday, March 13th.

Extra Credit: I will offer potential extra credit with a **maximum 5%** value added to your lowest exam score. 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 23rd 2018) to be considered. Before you start I strongly advice 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 1% can do up to 5*

Option 2) A 1-page review of a lecture, talk, paper, or other activity attended outside of class. I will provide details for some opportunities in class, but feel free to ask me if something qualifies. Potential options include: [Biology Department Seminars](#), [Holland Lifelong Learning Seminars](#), Darwin Week, and [the Fort Johnson Marine Science Seminars](#).

*worth 1% can do up to 5

Option 3) 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. You can miss three lectures before it will begin to negatively impact your grade. 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 with you before class in HWWE 309 or by appointment in my office at 65 Coming Street.

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	Reading/Activity
Jan 8 – Mon	Introduction	
Jan 10 – Wed	Conservation Today	<i>Human Impact</i>
Jan 12 – Fri	Human Population Today	<i>The Real Threat</i> Discussion
Jan 15 – Mon	No School Martin Luther King Day	
Jan 16 – Tue	Last Day of Drop/Add	
Jan 17 – Wed	From Early Primates to Hominids	<i>Climate Change and Primates</i>
Jan 19 – Fri	First Hominids	<i>Last Ancestor</i> and Discussion
Jan 22 – Mon	The Emergence of the <i>Homo</i> genus	<i>Climate Effects on Human Evo</i>
Jan 24 – Wed	<i>Homo</i> genus Evolution	In-Class Activity
Jan 26 – Fri	Hominid Migration	In-Class Activity and Discussion
Jan 29 – Mon	The Origin of Us 1: Bones	Quiz

Jan 31 – Wed	The Origin of Us 2: Guts	Quiz
Feb 2 – Fri	The Origin of Us 3: Brains	Quiz
Feb 5 – Mon	<i>Homo sapiens & Homo neanderthalensis</i>	<i>Humans Age</i>
Feb 7 – Wed	The Piltdown Case	In-Class Activity
Feb 9 – Fri	Exam	
Feb 12 – Mon	Beginning of the LGM (geological perspective)	
Feb 14 – Wed	Life after the LGM	
Feb 16 – Fri	The Neolithic Revolution	<i>Agriculture in our Genes</i> and Discussion
Feb 19 – Mon	First Cities and Money	<i>Case Against Civilization</i> <i>Ancient Cities</i>
Feb 21 – Wed	The Medieval Period	
Feb 23 – Fri	Industrialization	Reading and Discussion
Feb 26 – Mon	The Rise of the Environmental Movement	
Feb 28 – Wed	The Environmental Movement	In-Class Activity
Mar 2 – Fri	Exam ***Paper Topic Due in OAKS***	
Mar 5 – Mon	The Green Revolution	<i>Next Green Revolution</i>
Mar 7 – Wed	Impacts of the Green Revolution	In-Class Activity
Mar 9 – Fri	Globalization, Food, and the Environment	<i>Origins of Food</i> and Discussion
Mar 12 – Mon	IPCC Climate	<i>What is the IPCC</i>
Mar 13 – Tue	Last Day to Withdraw with a “W”	
Mar 14 – Wed	IPCC Biological Impacts	<i>Ocean Acidification</i>
Mar 16 – Fri	IPCC Mitigation ***Paper Due***	<i>Geoengineering</i> and Discussion
Mar 19 – Mon	Spring Break	
Mar 21 – Wed	Spring Break	
Mar 23 – Fri	Spring Break	
Mar 26 – Mon	Current Approach to Environmentalism – Communication	Video-Why I don’t believe in Climate Change
Mar 28 – Wed	Current Approach to Environmentalism – Sustainable Solutions	
Mar 30 – Fri	Exam	
Apr 2 – Mon	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 4 – Wed	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 6 – Fri	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 9 – Mon	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 11 – Wed	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 13 – Fri	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 16 – Mon	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 18 – Wed	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 20 – Fri	Student Presentations: TBD	
Apr 23 - Mon	Final Exam Review	

FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 30th 8 – 11 am