

**Man and the Environment  
Biology 204  
College of Charleston, Department of Biology  
Fall 2016  
Lecture: 204**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 207 08:30 am – 09:20 am HWWE

**Instructor: Dr. Claudia H. Stewart Alt**  
**Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology**  
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**Office hours:** by appointment only

**Learning objectives:** The learning objectives of this course are to become familiar with ways humans have been interacting with their environment, to understand the evolutionary path that led to *Homo sapiens*, and to learn about our cultural development. Finally we will also be discussing where we might be headed. In addition, learning objectives include

- 1) Developing critical thinking skills
- 2) Writing skills
- 3) Presentation skills

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.

**Center for Student Learning** offers tutoring, study skills appointments, and workshops. Services are available to all students 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.

**Course Policies**

**Lecture 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. If you will have a planned absence on the day of an exam – you must notify us 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.

**Assignments and late policy:** Regardless of what area you will be working in, timekeeping is an essential skill. Therefore, assignments will be turned in on time to be considered! Zero points will be awarded for an assignment if it is not turned in on time. Assignment will be turned in online via OAKS dropbox.

**Texting:** Over the years instructors have found that texting in class is annoying to your classmates and to the instructor. Please respect you fellow classmates as well as you instructor and don't do it. Emergency? Please step out of the classroom.

**Computers:** All assignments will be required to be completed on a word processor, Microsoft or LateX (or other necessary software (e.g. Excel saved in version MS 2010, Powerpoint MS 2010, statistical software) and to be submitted on Oaks. A Computer lab is available in Harbor Walk (HWWE 206) and is generally open during the day. The Biology computer lab may be reserved for classes or labs so check the door for postings. There are additional computer labs in the Addlestone library and other locations around campus.

**Class Courtesies:** Be on time, put cell phones and other devices that beep in silent mode (do not talk on the phone or text message, IM, use Facebook or conduct web searches not associated with assignments during discussion or lecture), do not eat, drink or smoke in the HWWE Laboratory, do study, do ask questions, *make class success a priority by not scheduling other appointments during class time*, be courteous to your colleagues.

**Academic honesty:** As is the tradition at the College of Charleston, the academic honesty policy and the honor code are followed in this course (see student handbook for details) which includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, class disruption, courtesy to peers and faculty, including email correspondence. If you have questions on how to properly cite, paraphrase or document literature sources, it is your responsibility to consult the instructor for assistance. We are here to help you learn – particularly prior to the assignment due date, including figuring out how to cite appropriately. That said: **PLAGIARISM, INCLUDING FROM WIKIPEDIA, WILL RESULT IN A ZERO ON THE ASSIGNMENT, AND POSSIBLE FAILURE IN THE COURSE AS WELL AS HONOR BOARD REFERRAL.**

#### Course requirements & Course Points

In Class Exams:	25%
Final:	20%
OAKS (participation and assignments)	20%
Presentations	30%
Participation	5%

#### **Grading Policy:**

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

Other aspects of grading follow the CofC standards. Last day of drop/add August 29<sup>th</sup>, to drop with Grade of "W" October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 2016) 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 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 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.*

**Option 2)** *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.*