

Man and the Environment (Biol 204-01 Spring 2020)

Lectures: T,R 4:30-5:45, Rita Liddy Hollings Science Center Rm 154
Instructor: Professor Courtney Gerstenmaier Felton
E-mail: cegerste@cofc.edu
Phone: (330)-815-0626 texts only
Office: 65 Coming St. Rm 102
Office Hours: Mondays 9-12:00

Course Overview: This course will focus on the interdependence of humans and their environment. Emphasis will be on our place in nature, pollution, man-modified habitats, and environmental protection. We will finish this course by exploring where you and your ideas could bring 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 understand* how human actions have positively and negatively impacted the environment.
- 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

Exams

We will have two exams and a final cumulative exam that will be administered during 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 OAKS course calendar and will be mentioned during class. It is your responsibility to keep an eye on OAKS for these assignments.

Humans and the Environment Proposal and Presentation

This is where you get to create a project that solves an environmental issue you are interested in. This project involves designing and preparing your own proposal for an activity that would engage citizens with their environment. This could be a citizen science project, environmental education project, campus project, clean up technology, etc. The second portion of this will be a five-minute proposal presentation the last week of classes.

The written assignment and presentation will be due on Tuesday, April 14th and presentations will occur from April 14th to the 21st. More information on the proposal and presentation can be found on OAKS

Humans and the Environment Journal

This journal is designed to help you make insights into the course material, as well as, your own interactions with nature. Each week a journal prompt will be posted on Oaks that you have two weeks to respond to. Generally, a 2 to 3 paragraph thoughtful response will gain you more credit, although there is some flexibility in how you respond to the prompt. You must complete 10 of the 15 journal entries to be eligible for full credit. A rubric for the journal prompts can be found on OAKS.

Short Presentation

At the beginning of each class, 1 to 2 students will each present “fun” information relevant to this course (<5 minutes). You could show a short video, talk about a recent finding in the news, read a poem, bring related cookies, produce and display artwork/sculpture, or any other activity that displays how humans interact with the environment. Students will sign up for a presentation date at the beginning of the course (these will be posted on OAKS) and should plan to arrive 5-10 minutes before class on the day of their presentation. Be sure that your “fun” activity differs from previously presented activities. At the end of the semester the class will select their favorite presentations and awards will be presented!

Note: Missing an assignment, test, or final without permission from the instructor will result in a zero. 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.

Two In-class Exams:	25%
Final Exam (cumulative):	20%
Oaks Assignments:	15%
H&E Proposal and Presentation:	15% (10%, 5%)
H&E Journal:	15%
Short Presentation	5%
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, Jan 15th. The last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" is Friday, 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, 2020) 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 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 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. You are allowed three unexcused absences before your grade will be negatively affected. 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 days 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 handouts, study guides, extra credit opportunities, 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 an 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 room 102 by appointment or on Mondays from 9-12:00pm.

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>

Physical & Mental Health Resources

At the college, we take every students' mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/ homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at <http://counseling.cofc.edu> or 843.953.5640) or the Cougar Counseling Team (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863 or visit <http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php>). You can also visit both on campus on the 3rd floor of Robert Scott Small. These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

Life-College Balance and Self-Care

Whether it is family and relationship problems, working nearly full-time, depression, anxiety, problems related to alcohol or other drug use, sexual assault and/or the death of family and friends, I am aware of and sympathetic to the fact that college students experience these and other challenges that make it difficult to focus on academics. If you experience one or more of these things during our class and you are struggling to complete coursework, please communicate with me. There are numerous resources that I can recommend to you and, to an extent, I can work with you on deadlines. You can review those resources at <https://sites.google.com/cofc.edu/self-care-hoffmann/home?authuser=1> and/or you can contact me directly.

Depending on what you are going through and the extent to which it is affecting your life, withdrawing from the class is sometimes the best option—Friday, March 13th is the deadline for withdrawing from full semester classes. Regardless of your circumstances, please reach out to me or somebody else for support.

Food & Housing Resources

Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php>). Also, you can go to <http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php> to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please also consider reaching out to me if you are comfortable in doing so.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

The material in this syllabus is subject to scheduling changes.

Date	Topic	Assignment/Reading Due
Jan 9 – Thur	Introduction	
Jan 14 – Tue	Human Evolution	Human Evolution Reading
Jan 16 – Thur	Origin of Us	In Class Quiz
Jan 21– Tue	Wicked Problems	
Jan 23 – Thur	No Class – At Home Assignment	Volunteer Assignment on OAKS
Jan 28 – Tue	Human Population	Human Pop Quiz
Jan 30 – Thur	Anthropocene and Environmental Health	Anthropocene Readings
Feb 2 – Tue	Agriculture	Agriculture Quiz
Feb 4 – Thur	Agriculture	Green Revolution Quiz
Feb 11 – Tue	Factory Farming	
Feb 13 – Thur	Test 1	
Feb 18 – Tue	Industrialization	
Feb 20 – Thur	The Environmental Movement	In Class Assignment
Feb 25 – Tue	Traditional Energy	
Feb 27 – Thur	Green Energy	Energy Reading and Quiz
Mar 3 – Tue	Water Resources	Final Project Topic Due
Mar 5 – Thur	Biodiversity	Biodiversity Reading and Quiz
Mar 10 – Tue	Climate Crisis	IPCC Reading
Mar 12 – Thur	Climate Crisis Mitigation	Reading and Quiz
Mar 17 – Tue	Spring Break	
Mar 19 – Thur	Spring Break	
Mar 24 – Tue	Environmental Policy	
Mar 26 – Thur	Test 2	
Mar 31 – Tue	Environmental Ethics	Reading and Quiz
Apr 2 – Thur	Sustainable Communication	
Apr 7 – Tue	Sustainable Cities	Reading and Quiz
Apr 9 – Thur	Sustainable Solutions	
Apr 14 – Tue	Student Presentations	Paper and Presentation Due
Apr 16 – Thur	Student Presentations	
Apr 21 – Tue	Student Presentations	
Apr 23 – Thur	Reading Day (SD)	

Mar 13th: Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W”
FINAL EXAM: Sunday, April 26th