

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Course title: Environmental Biology

Course prefix, number, and section number: 2406-0840

Semester/Year of course: Spring 2023

Semester start and end dates: January 17-May 13

Modality (Face to face/Synchronous or Asynchronous online/Hybrid): Face to Face

Class meeting location, days, and times: PPHS Room 210

Lab meeting location, days, and times: M-F 10:20-11:05

Semester credit hours: 4

Course description: This course is designed to be a study of the diversity of life and interrelationships between organisms and their environment and problems associated with these relationships. Students are informed about humanity's efforts, both past and present, to create a sustainable society. Historical perspectives and how they guide current efforts are foundational to the course. The laboratory section of this course is designed to augment lecture and to help students appreciate the biological environment. Course credit is three hours (two hours per week in lecture and three per week in lab) and fulfills core curriculum requirements.

Course prerequisites:

TBD

Name of instructor: Dr. John R. Middleton

Office location: Pilot Point High School Rm 210

Telephone number: (940) 686-8740

E-mail address: jmiddleton@pilotpointisd.com

Office hours for students: Mon-Fri 7:20-7:45am, Mon-Fri 3:35-4:00pm All other times are by appointment

SYLLABUS CHANGE DISCLAIMER

The faculty member reserves the right to make changes to this published syllabus if it is in the best interest of the educational development of this class. Any such changes will be announced as soon as possible in person and/or writing.

SUMMARY OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Grading Scale and Assignment Weights:

Weekly Chapter Quizzes 20% (Assigned on Friday, Due on Monday)

Unit Exams/Lab Assignments 60% (6 total, Each Unit is about 3 Chapters)

Final Exam 20%

List of graded assignments:

1. Weekly Chapter Quizzes (+/-13)
2. a. Unit exams: 6 exams, including the final, at one hundred points each
b. Laboratory: 8-11 labs either delivered as a hands-on activity, virtual lab, or case study.
c. Lab exams: Two to three lab exams at one hundred points each

Final grade scale:

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D=60-69

F=<60%

Late work policy: All assignments are due on the due date. For every day late, ten percent of the grade will be deducted. **Considerations will be made for technical issues.**

Extra credit: None

Make-up policy: Students will not be allowed to make up an examination or other assignments or labs missed due to absence unless they have reasons acceptable to the instructor.

Reassessments: Students are allowed to reassess Unit Exams within one week of grading feedback under the following conditions:

- a. Student scored 79% or below
- b. Student attend at least 1 tutoring sessions/office hours to review prior exam
- c. Student has completed exam corrections (each incorrect question has been hand written, with correct answer and the page in the book where the correct answer has been found.
- d. Students may only reassess exams **ONCE**
- e. **Students reassessments WILL NOT be identical to the original exam**
- f. **Reassessments are scored on a 0-90% scale.**

SEE CANVAS FOR THE COMPLETE COURSE CALENDAR, OUTLINE, DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF GRADED WORK, AND OTHER RELATED MATERIAL.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy: Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, academic falsification, intellectual property dishonesty, academic dishonesty facilitation and collusion. Faculty members may document and bring charges against a student who is engaged in or is suspected to be engaged in academic dishonesty. See Student Handbook, “Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct ([FLB(LOCAL)])”.

Consequences for academic dishonesty may include:

- 1) Academic probation for the rest of the semester
- 2) In the case of a 2nd offense, there will be immediate suspension for the semester

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students in all classes for which they have registered.

All absences are considered to be unauthorized unless the student is absent due to sickness or emergencies which are approved by the instructor, or due to participation in an approved college-sponsored activity (which requires written approval from the appropriate Dean or Director).

The instructor is responsible for judging the validity of any reasons given for absence. Valid reasons for absence, however, do not relieve the student of the responsibility for making up required work.

Students will not be allowed to make up an examination missed due to absence unless they have reasons acceptable to the instructor. A student who is compelled to be absent when a test is given should petition the instructor, in advance if possible, for permission to postpone the exam.

Students may be dropped from a class by the Registrar upon recommendation of the instructor who feels the student has been unjustifiably absent or tardy a sufficient number of times to preclude meeting the course's objectives.

Persistent, unjustified absences from classes or laboratories may be considered sufficient cause for College officials to drop a student from the rolls of the College.

Students may be dropped from a developmental course required for the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) purposes for non-attendance. Official NCTC TSI rules state that students not passing all sections of the THEA, Compass, or the TSI Assessment test must be enrolled in at least one area of remediation each semester they are enrolled or until all sections are passed or all remedial requirements have been met.

Simply logging in to an online course does not constitute attendance. The U.S. Department of Education calculates the last date of attendance by the last time a student participated in an online discussion or made contact (interacted) with a faculty member and this standard is applied to online courses.

Withdrawal Policy

A student may withdraw from a course on or after the official date of record. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete a Withdrawal Request Form.

Last day to withdraw from the course with a "W" is: Apr 3, 2023 .

Student Learning Outcomes:

Lecture Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the structure and impact of biogeochemical cycles.
2. Describe energy transformations across trophic levels.
3. Illustrate abiotic/biotic interactions and symbiotic relationships.
4. identify various types of natural resources, human impact on these resources, and compare the impacts of those resources
5. Quantify and analyze the impact of lifestyle on the environment.
6. Depict evolutionary trends and adaptations to environmental changes.
7. Describe environmental hazards and risks and the social and economic ramifications.
8. Describe ecological and statistical techniques and approaches used in the study of environmental Biology.

Lab Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
2. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
3. Effectively communicate the results of scientific investigations.
4. Explain the structure and impact of biogeochemical cycles.
5. Describe energy transformations across trophic levels.
6. Illustrate abiotic/biotic interactions and symbiotic relationships.
7. Identify various types of natural resources, human impact on these resources, and common resource management practices.
8. Quantify and analyze the impact of lifestyle on the environment.
9. Depict evolutionary trends and adaptations to environmental changes.
10. Describe environmental hazards and risks and the social and economic ramifications.
11. Describe ecological and statistical techniques and approaches used in the study of environmental biology.

Core Objectives:

Critical Thinking
Communication
Teamwork
Empirical and Quantitative Analysis

COLLEGE POLICIES

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the Student Handbook.

ADA STATEMENT

NCTC will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Office for Students with Disabilities to arrange appropriate accommodations. See the OSD Syllabus Addendum.

STUDENT SERVICES

NCTC provides a multitude of services and resources to support students. See the Student Services Syllabus Addendum for a listing of those departments and links to their sites.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, or COMPLAINTS

The student should contact the instructor to deal with any questions, concerns, or complaints specific to the class. If the student and faculty are not able to resolve the issue, the student may contact the chair or coordinator of the division. If the student remains unsatisfied, the student may proceed to contact the instructional dean.

Name of Chair/Coordinator: Jaime Noles

Office location: Gainesville 408

Telephone number: 940-668-7731 ext. 4930

E-mail address: jnoles@nctc.edu

Name of Instructional Dean: Mary Martinson

Office location: Gainesville 1403

Telephone number: 940.668.7731 ext. 4377

E-mail address: mmartinson@nctc.edu