# NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## **COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Course title:** Environmental Biology

**Course prefix, number, and section number:** BIOL 2406 0380

**Semester/Year of course:** Spring 2024

**Semester start and end dates:** Jan. 16, 2024- March 9, 2024

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

**Class meeting location, days, and times:** Lectures are asynchronous, prerecorded, and online on Canvas.

**Lab meeting location, days, and times:** Labs are asynchronous online on Canvas.

**Semester credit hours:** 4 (48 lecture hours + 32 laboratory hours)

**Course description:** Principles of environmental systems and ecology, including biogeochemical cycles, energy transformations, abiotic interactions, symbiotic relationships, natural resources and their management, lifestyle analysis, evolutionary trends, hazards and risks, and approaches to ecological research. Laboratory activities will reinforce principles of environmental systems and ecology, including biogeochemical cycles, energy transformations, abiotic interactions, symbiotic relationships, natural resources and their management, lifestyle analysis, evolutionary trends, hazards and risks, and approaches to ecological research.

**Course prerequisites:** None

**Required course materials:** Textbook Title: Principles of Environmental Science (access code not required)**,** 10th edition**,** ISBN: 9781266557781, Author: Cunningham, Publisher: McGraw-Hill.

**Name of instructor:** Amy Hoffman

**Office location:** Corinth Campus, Room 261

**Telephone number:** 940-668-4290 (fastest contact is via Canvas email)

**E-mail address:** ahoffman@nctc.edu

**Office hours for students:**

*Mondays:* Online 9:00am-11:00am, 1:00pm-3:00pm.

*Tuesdays:* Gainesville Campus, Room 404A, 11:30am-12:30pm.

*Wednesdays:* Corinth Campus, Room 261, 11:00am-3:00pm; Denton Campus, Room 214, 5:00pm-6:00pm.

*Thursdays:* Online 9:00am-11:00am.

## **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**

**List of graded assignments:**

3 Lecture Homework Assignments 15%

14 Lecture Group Work, Discussions, & Quizzes (lowest 2 dropped) 10%

3 Lecture Exams\* 45%

17 Laboratory Assignments & Laboratory Quizzes (lowest 2 dropped) 20%

2 Laboratory Group Projects 10%

If an assignment is REQUIRED it cannot be dropped.

Extra credit is given throughout the semester and is added to the lowest kept exam score.

\*The Final (fourth) Exam is an optional comprehensive final and will be offered as a make-up for missed exams or to replace the lowest exam grade.

**Final grade scale:**

89.5% & up = A

79.5-89.4% = B

69.5-79.4% = C

59.5- 69.4% = D

Below 59.5% = F

**Late work policy:**

Assignments are due by the stated time on the syllabus, Canvas, and/or the date on the worksheet. **No late assignments will be accepted.** The Canvas Calendar can be used to keep track of due dates. It is strongly encouraged for students to turn in assignments early. All assignments except for the Exam will be open when the Unit opens.

**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.

Consequences for academic dishonesty may include:

1) A zero “0” for the assignment and/or Exam.

2) A “Scholastic Dishonesty Report Form” will be submitted regarding the incidence.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be taken once a week and is based on the completion of the weekly assignments. 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.  If an exam is missed, the optional final exam can be taken to replace the missed 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.

Absences exceeding 9 contact hours of lecture and or laboratory of BIOL 2406 may result in the student being dropped from the course. It shall be at the discretion of the instructor to drop students who are absent in excess of 9 contact hours.

**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:** Monday, Feb. 19, 2024.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Lecture Learning Outcomes*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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 common resource management practices.
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. Communicate effectively 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:** 940-668-77321 ext.4377

**E-mail address:** mmartinson@nctc.edu