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| NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGECOURSE SYLLABUS |

 |
| *Course Title:*  | BIOL 2406 Environmental Biology  | Lecture MW, 1:30-2:50 PM; Lab M, 3-4:50 PM |
| *Course Prefix & Number:*  | Biol 2406 | *Section Number:*  | 500 | *Semester/Year:*  | SP 2020 |
| *Semester Credit Hours:*  | 4 | *Lecture Hours:*  | 3 | *Lab Hours:*  | 1 |
| *Course Description (NCTC Catalog):* 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 Prerequisite(s):*  |
| ***Required Course Materials and Technology:**** **Text -**Hard or electronic copy: *Principles of Environmental Science* 9th., Cunningham & Cunningham - ISBN13: 9781260219715
* **Computer and Reliable Internet access.** Computer labs and internet access are available on campus.
* **An up-to-date internet browser**: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720>
* **Hardware requirements:** A web-camera for testing; The testing center can be used in lieu of a web-camera
* **Software requirements:** Respondus Lock Down Browser is required for taking exams and quizzes. For more information <https://ecampushelpdesk.nctc.edu/hc/en-us/articles/203261940-Respondus-LDB-What-Students-Need-to-Know>
* Microsoft Office free download: <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>
* Google Docs for collaboration with classmates: <https://www.google.com/docs/about/>
* For NCTC technical support, visit the eLearning page: <https://www.nctc.edu/elearning/index.html>
* For Canvas related issues: <https://ecampushelpdesk.nctc.edu/hc/en-us/categories/200109234-Students> ; For general Canvas information: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>
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**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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| *Name of Instructor:* | Heather Does-Krell, M.A. |
| *Campus/Office Location:* | Midwestern State University Room 219 (Flower Mound) |
| *Telephone Number:* | N/A |
| *E-mail Address:* | hkrell@nctc.edu or Canvas message – allow 24 hours to respond weekdays/48 weekend |

**OFFICE HOURS \***Office hours are also available by appointment.

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| *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* |
| 12:00 – 12:50 PM | Corinth Campus | 12:00 – 12:50 PM | Corinth Campus | Not available |

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** From Academic Course Guide Manual/Workforce Ed. Course Manual/NCTC Catalog

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| *At the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:* |
|  | **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 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.
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**COURSE SUBJECT OUTLINE** (Major Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading Criteria) See Canvas

**GRADING CRITERIA**

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| *Frequency* | *Graded Course Elements* | *Percentage or Point Values* |
| Daily | Classwork and Homework consisting of quizzes, individual/group assignments administered in class and in Canvas. \*The 2 lowest grades will be dropped. | 15% |
| 4 Unit 1 Final | 4 Unit Exams and 1 comprehensive Final– consisting of multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. \*The lowest of all 5 exam grades will be dropped. | 60% |
| Daily | Lecture/Laboratory Attendance/Participation – recorded daily | 5% |
| Daily | Laboratory Classwork and Homework – consisting of quizzes, group/individual assignments administered in class or Canvas. \*The lowest 2 grades will be dropped. | 15% |
| 2 per semester | Team Member Evaluations – team members will evaluate your performance and contribution to the group in lecture and lab. | 5% |
| **Total** |  | **100%** |

**GRADING SCALE: 89.5 – 100% = A, 79.5 - 89% = B, 69.5 - 79% = C, 59.5 – 69% = D, Below 59.5% = F**

**\*\*I do not accept late work and missed assignments/exams cannot be made up.**

**EXAMS:**There will be 4 regular exams and 1 comprehensive final offered during the course of the semester. All exams will be conducted in Canvas using Lockdown Browser. Lockdown Browser is an application/browser that will be used to monitor student activity during on-line exams. It will record your image and activity for the duration of the exam and you will be unable to leave the Canvas site or access other applications during the exam until you have submitted your responses. As noted previously, the lowest exam grade will be dropped and for this reason, **make-up exams will not be offered for any reason except for approved college sponsored activities**. **Any student caught cheating during an exam will be given a zero for that assignment. Any use of unauthorized electronic devices or materials during exams will be considered cheating.**

**COURSE STRUCTURE:** This course is a blending of face-to-face and online learning. **The lecture and laboratory will meet in the Midwestern State University building. Refer to your class schedule for meeting times and room numbers.** Attendance in lecture and laboratory is required and assignments cannot be made up, therefore please make sure your schedule is clear each week during the entire scheduled meeting times.

**COURSE COMMUNICATION:** Announcements/class cancellations will be posted using the Remind application. You can set this up with the Remind app or through text message push notifications. It is your responsibility to join the class to receive announcements from your instructor.

Follow the link to sign up: <https://www.remind.com/join/hkbio2406>

**QUESTIONS:** It is normal to have questions about things that relate to the course, such as clarification about assignments, due dates, course materials, or assessments. Often, students send questions that are similar in nature or repetitive to the instructor via email. In order to get answers to you in a more efficient way, I have set up FAQ discussion boards in Canvas where you can post questions and receive responses/clarification from other students and/or myself. All questions of a personal nature should be sent directly to your instructor via email or Canvas message.

**NETIQUETTE:** When posting on discussion boards as well as sending private messages, it is important to understand how to interact with classmates/instructors online. You should plan to read about the rules of netiquette as a requirement for this course at <http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/elearning/netiquette> This will be an assigned reading during the first unit of this course and assignments will follow to test your understanding.

**LEARNING TEAMS:** You will be assigned to a learning team the first week of class, which you will work with for the duration of the semester in lecture and lab. In-class team work will take place during the first 15-30 minutes of class, so for that reason please plan on arriving on time to each class and sit with your team members. You are expected to come to class prepared to work with your team and actively participate. You are encouraged to exchange contact information with your team members within the first week. Your team members will evaluate your participation efforts in the middle and end of the course.

**PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to participate by attending lectures and labs, asking questions, commenting (respectfully) on subject matter, engaging in the discussions and taking appropriate notes. The required textbook is a valuable resource of information and students will be expected to keep up with its reading. Students are expected to participate in all lab exercises and attend all field trips unless arrangements are made with the instructor beforehand. Students must take responsibility for their own learning.

Since the goal of this course is to engage students in active discussions utilizing critical thinking skills, there will not be adequate class time to cover all the course material in lecture format. Note however, that approximately 60 -80% of the tested material will come from lecture presentations, class discussions/assignments, and Canvas assignments. The remaining material will come from the required textbook readings and additional Canvas material.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students in all classes for which they have registered. Approved college sponsored activities are the only absences for which a student should not be held liable and only when provided by a college official ahead of the absence.

Students may be dropped from a class by the Registrar upon recommendation of the instructor who feels the student has been justifiably absent or tardy a sufficient number of times (see below) to preclude meeting the course’s objectives. Persistent, unjustified absences from classes or laboratories will be considered sufficient cause for College officials to drop a student from the rolls of the College. From Board Policy FC (LOCAL)

**Any student absent from more than 5 lectures and/or 2 labs may be dropped from the course**

**Last day to Withdraw for the Fall 2019 semester with a “W” is April 3rd, 2020**

For other important datesvisit:<https://www.nctc.edu/_documents/academics/2019-2020-academic-calendar.pdf>

If a student cannot complete all the requirements of this course due to illness or some unavoidable conflict, they must request in writing a grade of “I” (incomplete) in order to be allowed to finish the requirements at a later date. When the instructor receives the request, he/she must reply in writing to the request, explaining why the grade of “I” will or will not be assigned.

**DISABILITY SERVICES - THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (OSD)**: provides support services for students with disabilities, students enrolled in technical areas of study, and students who are classified as special populations (i.e. single parents). Support services for students with disabilities might include appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or they may be in the form of personal counseling, academic counseling, career counseling, etc. Furthermore, OSD Counselors work with students to encourage self-advocacy and promote empowerment. The Counselors also provides resource information, disability-related information, and adaptive technology for students who qualify.

If you feel you have needs for services that the institution provides, please reach out to either Wayne Smith (940) 498-6207 or Yvonne Sandman (940) 668-3300. Alternative students may stop by Room 170 in Corinth or Room 111 in Gainesville. For more information, visit the NCTC Office for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/student-services/office-students-with-disabilities.html>

**CORE CURRICULUM FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA** (For classes in the Core)

* Communication
* Mathematics
* Life and Physical Science
* Language, Philosophy & Culture
* Creative Arts
* American History
* Government/Political Science
* Social and Behavioral Sciences
* Component Area Option

**REQUIRED CORE OBJECTIVES**

* Critical Thinking
* Communication
* Empirical and Quantitative
* Teamwork
* Personal Responsibility
* Social Responsibility

**COURSE TYPE**

* Academic General Education Course (from ACGM but not in NCTC Core)
* Academic NCTC Core Curriculum Course
* WECM Course

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**: Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the student handbook and published online.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Electronic devices must be silenced during class time. Your full attention is needed in class for your success; therefore, if you use electronic devices for non-class activities you may be asked to leave or put them away at the discretion of the instructor. When authorized, you may use electronic devices to help you during individual/group lab/lecture assignments. Cell phones and other electronic devices need to be silenced and put away during Exams/ Quizzes. **Any unauthorized use of electronic devices during exams or quizzes will result in a zero for the assignment.**

**NCTC TOBACCO-FREE POLICY:** NCTC restricts the use of all tobacco products including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and smokeless tobacco on campus property.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**: 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.

You are not to give any person (which includes parents, spouses, friends, etc.) access to your Canvas account at any time during the semester. If you do, you are putting the integrity of the coursework completed in question.

See Student Handbook, “Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct ([FLB(LOCAL)]”.

Consequences for academic dishonesty may include:

1. Any student who commits academic dishonesty will immediately receive a zero for the assignment;
2. Academic Dishonesty papers filed with the Dean and VP of Instruction

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| Name of Chair/Coordinator:  | Dr. Lisa Bellows |
| Office Location:  | Gainesville Science Building Office 408 |
| E-mail Address: lbellows@nctc.edu | Telephone: 940-668-4252 |

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, or COMPLAINTS: please contact your instructor first to resolve any issues that arise during the course.**