

Syllabus for
PSC 350/GEO 350—Environmental Geography Lecture
3 Credit hours
Spring 2008

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of human ecology focusing on problems created by human habitation of and interaction with the earth. Topics include culture, ecology, population, resources, food, energy, and pollution as well as social, economic, political, and ethical issues.

Prerequisite: One semester of laboratory science

Corequisite: PSC 350 Lab.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course will enable students to understand the nature and scope of environmental problems and the interrelationships among them; and to develop teaching strategies for science and social science material related to environmental issues.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this unit, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Outline management strategies that can lead to a better physical environment.
- B. Formulate a personal philosophy of what constitutes a quality environment.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

- 1. Textbook:
Cunningham, William P., Cunningham, Mary Ann, and Saigo, Barbara W. *Environmental Science: A Global Concern*, 9th Edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2007. The 8th and 7th editions are also usable.
- 2. Other:
Ferrell, John S. *Fruits of Creation: A Look at Global Sustainability As Seen Through the Eyes of George Washington Carver*. Shakopee, MN: Park Pub. 1995.
Study Guide for Environmental Science, 8th Edition. 2004.

B. Optional Materials

Rand McNally Quick Reference World Atlas. Chicago, Rand McNally, 1991.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

- 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for course.
- 2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
- 3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video,

multimedia, or computer software. By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding e-Portfolio requirements. Students should consult the ePortfolio handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

a. Examinations and Written Assignments

- (1) Unit Exams—There are four 100-point unit exams. The fourth exam will be given during the final exam; students may request to take this exam during the last week of classes.
- (2) There are five 12-point map quizzes
- (3) To avoid a late exam charge of \$15.00 for a missed exam or quiz, **students must call ext. 6933 prior to the exam or quiz.** If unable to call, have someone call for you as soon as possible!
- (4) Video Assignment—Race to Save the Planet. These 10 programs will be shown in class. Each program is worth 8 points, for a total of 80 points. Program notes, on a special form, are due one week after the show date.
- (5) Written assignment: A review article, worth 60 points, involving the book *Fruits of Creation: A Look At Global Sustainability As Seen Through the Eyes of George Washington Carver*. This is to be written in an essay style and format, with a length limit of 200 to 400 words (normally 1 to 1.7 pages). An essay differs from a report in that it is "a short literary composition dealing with a single subject, usually from a personal point of view and without attempting completeness." As in any essay or presentation, the review must have a central theme, i.e., an argument, opinion, inspiration, or set of ideas that run throughout the essay. Students are allowed much freedom in the selection of this theme, which should be clearly stated in the introduction, and summarized or brought to a point in the conclusion. The classic 5-paragraph essay for English 101 is a good model. The essay should reflect thoughtfulness, conciseness (brevity), and clarity, with good grammar and punctuation. Personal pronouns must be used. Also, before submitting the paper, students need to carefully proofread the text, correcting errors in ink. The due date is **Monday, April 14th**. Early submission is welcome. **Late papers are limited to 48 points.**

- (6) Final Examination - The comprehensive final exam is a take-home essay assignment worth 100 points and due at the final exam hour. This two- to four-page essay is to be a cogent discussion of the student's philosophy of what constitutes a quality environment and how that quality might best be achieved. Students need to refer to Schaeffer's *Pollution and the Death of Man: A Christian View of Ecology* in the discussion (copies are on reserve). Students should review relevant parts of the textbook, especially Chapter 2 "Building a Better World," before writing the paper.
 - b. Grading
There are 700 points possible: 400 from examinations, 60 from map quizzes, 80 from video assignments, and 160 from written assignments. Final grades will be assigned according to the normal schedule: 90% - A; 80% - B; 70% - C; 60% - D; below 60% - F.
 - c. Extra Credit - Relevant articles are listed in the Study Guide and are available at the Reserve Desk. There are three special-issue magazines on the environment. Any chapters or articles from these special issues are acceptable for extra credit. Credit is **3** points per item subject to the following point limits based on the final semester grade:
 - Maximum toward an A, 18 points (6 items)
 - Maximum toward a B, 27 points (9 items)
 - Maximum toward a C, 36 points (12 items)
 - Maximum toward a D, 45 points (15 items)

No more than one-half of the maximum allowed will be accepted after the Unit 3 exam.
2. ePortfolio Requirements.
The *Fruits of Creation* book review, required of all students, also will be the portfolio assignment for natural science general education credit.
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Monday 12:00 to 12:25 p.m. & 2:30 p.m..
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Wednesday 2:30 to 4:20 p.m.
Thursday 8:10 to 8:40 a.m. & 10:20 to 10:45 a.m.
Friday 9:50 a.m. & 12:00 to 12:25 p.m.
Location: LRC 111 (Elsing Museum area).
Office phone number: **495-6933**.
Instructor's e-mail: **nmeleen@oru.edu**
 - c. Race to Save the Planet videos. Each program is worth **8 points**. For credit the student should prepare the special sheets designed for these programs. These response sheets are due on the 3rd lecture after the show date. Should the student miss a program, video copies are on reserve in the library for a 24-hour checkout. When using these, check for the correct title (some numbers have been changed). Do not ask for more than one tape at a time.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

The first chapter number is for both the 9th and 8th editions. The second number refers to the 7th edition, e.g. 14/16.

Abbreviations: EC—Extra Credit. SciAm—Scientific American special publication: Managing Planet Earth.

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1/11	F	2	VC – NOVA: “Return to Mt. St. Helens”
1/14	M	3	Ch. 1/1 – Understanding Our Environment. WK 1 Map quiz information
1/16	W	4	Ch. 2/2 – Environmental Ethics and Philosophy. Apollo 8/11 EC-SciAm: “Managing Planet Earth” Introduce and show first 7 to 10 minutes of Race to Save the Planet video (RTSTP #1): “The Environmental Revolution”
1/18	F	5	Show remainder of RTSTP #1 : “The Environmental Revolution”
1/21	M	6	Ch. 3/3 – Matter, Energy, and Life. IHP 2
1/23	W	7	Ch. 4/4 – Biological Communities and Species Interactions. WK 3 EC-SciAm: “Threats to Biodiversity”
1/25	F	8	Ch. 5 – Biomes: Global Patterns of Life. IHP 8
1/28	M	9	Ch.14/16 – Environmental Geology. WK 8a Map Quiz 1 (12 points) – North America and Pacific Ocean.
1/30	W	10	Unit 1 Exam , Chapters 1-5, 14/16 (100 points). Hand in extra credit items.
2/01	F	11	RTSTP #2 – “Do We Really Want to Live This Way?”
2/04	M	12	Begin Unit II – Chapters 6-9, 23/6-11 Ch. 6/6 – Population Biology. WK 8b EC-SciAm: “The Growing Human Population”
2/06	W	13	Ch. 7/7 – Human Populations. EC: Malthus – “Essay on Population,” in Young, <u>Population in Perspective</u> (on Reserve – triple credit). WK 5
2/08	F	14	Ch. 7/7 – Human Populations (continued). IHP 5 Ch. 23/8 – Ecological Economics.
2/11	M	15	RTSTP #3 – “In the Name of Progress”
2/13	W	16	Ch. 8/9 – Environmental Health and Toxicology. IHP 4 Map Quiz 2 (12 points) – Central and South America
2/15	F	17	RTSTP #4 – “It Needs Political Decisions”

2/18	M	18	Ch. 9/11 – Food and Agriculture. IHP 3 EC: “The Tyrant: Maize” in Salter, <u>The Cultural Landscape</u>
2/20	W	19	Ch. 9/11 – Food and Agriculture: Soil Resources and Sustainable Agriculture. WK 2. EC-SciAm: “Strategies for Agriculture”
2/22	F	20	RTSTP #5 – “Save the Earth, Feed the World”
2/25	M	21	Unit 2 Exam , Chapters 6-9, 23/6-11 (100 points). Hand in extra credit items.
2/27	W	22	Begin Unit III – Chapters 10-13, 25-16/12-15, 17-18 Ch. 10/12 – Pest Control. IHP 6 Introduce and show first 7 to 10 minutes of “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring”
2/29	F	23	VC – The American Experience: “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring”
3/03	M	24	Ch. 11/13 – Biodiversity. WK 6
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3/07	F	26	RTSTP #6 – “Remnants of Eden”
3/10	M	27	Ch. 13/15 – Preserving and Restoring Nature. Ch. 15/17 – Air, Weather, and Climate. Begin Ch. 16/18 – Air Pollution. WK 4a EC-SciAm: “The Changing Atmosphere” and “The Changing Climate”
3/12	W	28	Ch. 16/18 – Air Pollution. WK 4b
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SPRING BREAK – March 17-21, 2008			
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3/28	F	32	Unit 3 Exam , Chapters 10-13, 25-16/12-15, 17-18 (100 points).
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4/02	W	34	Ch. 18/20 – Water Pollution. IHP 9
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4/07	M	36	Ch. 19/21 – Conventional Energy. IHP 10a

4/09	W	37	Ch. 19/21 (continued) – Fossil fuels; Nuclear energy. IHP 10b
4/11	F	38	RTSTP #8 –“More For Less”
4/14	M	39	Ch. 10/22 – Sustainable Energy. Moody film – “Energy: What Now?” <i>Book review essays are due</i> (60 points).
4/16	W	40	Ch. 21/23 – Solid, Toxic, and Hazardous Waste. WK 9
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4/28	M 3:00 p.m.		<i>Unit 4 Exam</i> , Chapters 17-22, 24-25/19-23, 10, 25 (100 points). Hand in extra credit – limit of 6 items . <i>The 100-point final exam essay is due at the time of the final exam. However, the instructor may allow late submission.</i>

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

PSC 350/GEO 350—Environmental Geography Lecture Spring 2008

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

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OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			√	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			√	
1C	Evangelistic capability			√	
1D	Ethical behavior			√	

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking			√	
2B	Information literacy			√	
2C	Global & historical perspectives	√			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			√	
2E	Intellectual creativity			√	

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle			√	
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle			√	

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills		√		
4B	Interpersonal skills			√	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences			√	
4D	Responsible citizenship			√	
4E	Leadership capacity			√	

Revised October 2007

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1C	Evangelistic capability			√	
1D	Ethical behavior			√	

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2B	Information literacy			√	
2C	Global & historical perspectives	√			
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4B	Interpersonal skills			√	
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