

Introduction to Environmental Problems

ENV 1110 Course Syllabus – Spring 2020

- Instructor:** Leslie Kanat, Ph.D.
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Course web page at <http://kanat.jsc.vsc.edu/env1110>
Canvas grades at <https://vsc.instructure.com/courses/14067/gradebook>
- Office hours:** Scheduled office hours are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Monday through Thursday; otherwise, stop in anytime, or schedule an appointment. Office location: Bentley 332.
- Lecture:** Meeting times: 10:00 to 11:15 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday in Bentley 308
- Texts:** There is no formal textbook for this course. Relevant literature will be provided as online links and books on reserve in the Willey Library.

Course Description and Objectives

Introduction to Environmental Problems will expose the student to a world view that is based upon limited resources thus requiring cooperation with other people and all living organisms. This course provides a survey of the relationship between living things and the environment. The knowledge gained in this course should help one make intelligent decisions about events that affect humankind. This knowledge may help you make intelligent decisions about events that affect humankind.

Students in this course will have opportunities to:

- critically read, evaluate, and synthesize information from relevant literature that addresses the complex interactions between humans and the environment;
- work individually, and with others, to evaluate the economic, social, ethical, and scientific aspects of environmental problems;
- articulate, in oral, written, and graphical form, the causes, scale, and relative importance of emergent and persistent environmental problems and human practices.

Activities in the course

Lightning rounds, debates, and poster presentations will be used to stimulate thought and dialogue centered around environmental problems. Lightning rounds will allow each person to conduct research and practice making a case for their position. Debates will help focus the issues, and provide opportunities for respectful disagreement, constructive criticism, and reflection. Knowledge gained through critical thinking and dialogue will be shared in the poster presentations.

Distribution of Grades

No grades are dropped for any assignment. Due dates for activities will be posted on the class web page. The final grade for the course is determined by a weighted average using the following distribution:

<u>weight</u>	<u>topic</u>
10%	Two-minute quizzes
15%	Lightning rounds (6% and 9%)
30%	Debate (3% concept map, 3% table, 10% essay, 4% debate map, 10% debate)
15%	Poster presentation
10%	Assignments
20%	Final Exam (date to be determined by NVUJ Administration)

Core Curriculum

This course is designated as a Climate Change Enriched, Sustainability Enriched, or Social Justice Enriched course of the Northern Vermont University General Core Curriculum. It explores the many natural forces and cultural constructs that have shaped and continue to shape our world across regions, within contexts, and throughout time.

Accommodations

Students with a documented disability, who require accommodations, should acquire an Academic Accommodations Form from Academic Support Services (Dewey 123, phone 635-1264).

Plagiarism

Students at the University are expected to be honest in all their academic work. Acts of dishonesty for which a student may be disciplined include, but are not limited to, receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on coursework or plagiarizing the work of others in writing assignments. The American Heritage Dictionary defines plagiarism in the following way: "To steal or use (the ideas or writings of another) as one's own." You are responsible for knowing what specific acts constitute plagiarism. If you are unsure, then consult me, or read the Undergraduate Catalogue. Academic dishonesty in any form is prohibited and unacceptable.

Comments Regarding Assessment

- Surprise, two-minute quizzes will be given throughout the semester at the beginning of the class.
- All exams and quizzes are cumulative – the pyramid exam style will be used in this class.
- There are no make-ups offered for the final exam or for the two-minute quizzes.
- Everything counts—no grades are dropped.
- Grading rubrics will be provided for most assignments.
- All assignments will be posted on the class web page – read assigned readings prior to each class.
- Use Google Scholar to find resources – see <https://scholar.google.com/>.
- All material submitted for a grade must be presented in professional form—type everything; there will be a reduction of 20% for assignments that are not typed.
- All assignments are due at the start of the class period—otherwise they are late. For each calendar day (24-hour period) an assignment is late it will be down-graded by 10%. Please note, I recognize that extraordinary circumstances may arise that would mitigate the late fee.

Comments Regarding Class Management

- You are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions.
- Please come to class a few minutes early so that everyone is ready to start on time.
- I expect a lot out of you and I place a great deal of responsibility on you – I cannot do your learning for you, but I will give you many opportunities to seek new knowledge, to show me what you learned, and to show me what you can do.
- You will have several opportunities, during class and after class, to work in small groups.
- I do not usually take attendance, but I do expect you to make up all missed work prior to the next class. Find out from another student, and from the class web page, what you missed and learn the material.
- A textbook is not required for this course, yet supplemental reading material is available in the library, literature can be signed out from my office, and papers will be posted on the class web page.
- Read the appropriate literature prior to attending lecture, get ready to discuss the content in class, keep good notes, ask questions, and come see me when difficulties arise.
- Copies of many of the PowerPoint slides will be available on the class web page.
- I will be happy to meet with you at any time, except the day before an assignment is due.

Introduction to Environmental Problems

Course Schedule – Spring 2020

Week	Topic for discussion
1	No class Introduction, resources, web pages, APA, basics
2	PowerPoint lesson for Lightning Round and posters; image search Concept mapping
3	Ecology Ecology
4	Energy Energy
5	Energy Lightning Rounds 1
6	<i>Winter Break</i>
7	Climate Climate
8	Climate Climate
9	Pollution Lightning Rounds 2
10	Debates Debates
11	Debates Debates
12	<i>Spring Break</i>
13	Population Population
14	Water Water
15	Poster Presentations Civil unrest
16	Biodiversity The future
F	Cumulative final exam (date to be determined by NVUJ Administration)

We may modify the course outline, as needed, as the term progresses