ENVR 1101.020, ENVR 1101.021, ENVR 1101.022, ENVR 1101.023

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LAB

Syllabus and Policy Statements

**TERM:** Fall 2020

**LABORATORY:** T 12:30 – 3:15, W 1:00 – 3:50, R 2:00 – 4:50 - FO 240; F 1:00 – 3:50 FO 222

**CREDIT:** 1 SCH

**TEXTBOOK:** None is required. Handouts are posted on D2L.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Sheryll B. Jerez, Associate Professor

**OFFICE:** Room 119, Forestry Building

**OFFICE HOURS:** MW 9-11; TR 10-11 OR by APPT

**PHONE:** Office – 936.468.6614; Cell – 217.493.2716

**EMAIL:** jerezs@sfasu.edu

**TA**

**LAB:** Heather Hall

**EMAIL:** hallhk1@jacks.sfasu.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:**

**TA**

**LAB:** Lais De Oliveira Machado

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

**TA**

**LAB:** Morgan Langlinais

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**OFFICE HOURS:**

**COVID-19 MASK POLICY**

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


**LAB HANDOUTS AND GRADES:** You can download all materials related to the lab from Brightspace by D2L (accessible through your MySFA account) at least a week before the scheduled laboratory exercise. It is your responsibility to print laboratory materials before coming to class. Your grades for
laboratory reports and other requirements related to the lab will be available at the Brightspace by D2L website as well.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Introduction to the multidisciplinary study of the environment using the scientific method. Must be taken concurrently with ENVR 1301. If dropped, then must drop both simultaneously.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:** The accompanying lecture, ENVR 1301, is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

**GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM**
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

By enrolling in ENVR 1301 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** requirement. You will see this course on your Brightspace by D2L list. At one point during the semester, you will receive an assignment that fulfills both the requirements of this course and the needs of Stephen F. Austin State University's Core Curriculum Assessment Plan with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. When you complete this one assignment, you need to upload the assignment to both your standard course dropbox determined by your Instructor and the “Core Curriculum” dropbox. The Core Curriculum dropbox will be identified by the Objective for which work is being collected (Examples: Critical Thinking, Teamwork, Social Responsibility Empirical & Quantitative Skills, Personal Responsibility, Communication Skills-Written, Communication Skills-Written & Visual, and Communication Skills- Oral & Visual). Please note that this only applies to the approved assignment. All other assignments should be submitted according to regular class operations. If you have any questions, please see your Instructor or the Office of Student Learning and Institutional Assessment.

When you complete the assignment mentioned above, you will submit a hard copy and upload the assignment to the ENVR 1301’s dropbox for Empirical and Quantitative Skills.

Please note that this only applies to the specific assignment listed in the matrix below. All other assignments should be submitted according to regular class operations.

If you have any questions, please see your instructor or contact the Institutional Effectiveness Office at (936) 468-1130.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to the Brightspace by D2L **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** dropbox this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to the Brightspace by D2L **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** dropbox. Not every assignment will be submitted for core assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in the Brightspace by D2L **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** dropbox.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in D2L</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Population Quiz</td>
<td>None due in D2L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Oral Presentation on an Environmental Issue</td>
<td>None due in D2L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Laboratory report on “Human Survivorship Changes” - LAB 4</td>
<td>Spring of odd-numbered years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>“Are We a Team Checklist” and “Evaluation and Self-Reflection Essay”</td>
<td>None due in D2L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:
1. describe and discuss major environmental issues such as global climate change, ozone depletion, overpopulation, air and water pollution, loss of biodiversity, waste disposal, and the search for alternative energy resources;
2. demonstrate scientific critical thinking skills by examining sources, assumptions, data, and arguments about major environmental issues;
3. exhibit the ability to communicate information related to environmental issues in written, oral, and visual forms appropriate to a scientific audience;
4. demonstrate the ability to summarize and present data in both tabular and graphical forms, and interpret the data to form informed conclusions;
5. use instruments and observation techniques, and apply appropriate data management skills in performing laboratory activities; and
6. participate in team settings and work effectively in team activities.

**COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING:** The total number of points for the laboratory reports and field trips is 300. The grading scale is below.

**LETTER GRADES:**

- 270 – 300 points = A
- 240 – 269 points = B
- 210 – 239 points = C
- 180 – 209 points = D
- 179 points or less = F

**Laboratory Reports.** Lab reports are due at least a week after the lab experiment was completed. Electronic copies must be uploaded to the corresponding Dropboxes. Submitting identical reports is unacceptable and considered plagiarism. All students submitting identical laboratory reports (in whole or in part) will be given a grade of zero for that lab report. Please see the handout on “Informal
Laboratory Reports” for information about the content and instructions on how to present your data in a tabular or graphical form.

COURSE POLICIES ON:

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING: Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. According to the Student Handbook, “dishonesty of any kind with respect to examinations, written assignments [completed] in and out of class, alteration of records, or illegal possession of current examinations or keys to examinations shall be considered cheating…the offering of materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment is also considered plagiarism. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism.” Cheating and/or plagiarizing could result in failure of the course (grade of F). Refer to the online Student Handbook for details.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Make-up exams will only be given if arrangements are made with me before missing the scheduled exam. If there is an emergency and prior arrangements cannot be made, the student should contact me as soon as possible. Make up exams must be taken within a week after the student returned to class. Missing exams will be counted as zeroes in the overall grade computation. Late lab report is penalized 20% of the grade per day.

ATTENDANCE: All lectures and laboratories are mandatory. Lectures and labs will start promptly at their assigned time. Tardiness will not be tolerated and may result in your being left behind on lab field trips. Lab reports from individuals that did not attend the lab session will not be accepted. If lectures or labs are missed because of a university recognized excused absence, it will be the responsibility of the student to notify me in advance of the absence AND provide appropriate documentation before assistance is provided on missed information. If it is an emergency and early notification is not possible, the student must contact me within a week of his/her absence before assistance is provided.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
It is expected that all students will only use cell phones, PDAs, laptop computers, MP3 players and other technology outside of class time or when appropriate in class. Answering a cell phone, texting, listening to music or using a laptop computer for matters unrelated to the course may be grounds for dismissal from class or other penalties.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-code-of-conduct_10.4.pdf

COURSE EVALUATIONS: Course evaluations should be completed online. It is the student’s responsibility to log on to mySFA and complete the evaluation.
STUDENT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY (4.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY (6.1)
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/
## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK #</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LAB #</th>
<th>LAB TOPIC</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 25 - 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lab overview</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 1 - 4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Data Presentation and Interpretation (25 pts)</td>
<td>Sep 8 - 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 8 - 11</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Application of the Scientific Method (45 pts) (Experiment Setup and Initial Measurements)</td>
<td>Sep 22 - 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 15 - 18</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Application of the Scientific Method cont'd (Final Measurements &amp; Data Analysis)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 22 - 25</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>LAB 2 PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 29 - Oct 2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Toxicity Testing (30 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 6 - 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 6 - 9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Human Survivorship Changes (45 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 13 - 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 13 - 16</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monitoring Water Quality (30 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 20 - 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 20 - 23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Virtual Field Trip 1 (15 pts)</td>
<td>Oct 27 - 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 27 - 30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Renewable Energy Resources (30 pts)</td>
<td>Nov 3 - 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 3 - 6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Automobile Emissions and Energy Use (35 pts)</td>
<td>Nov 10 - 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 10 - 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS (A&amp;P 1 = 15 pts)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 17 - 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>PRESENTATIONS (A&amp;P 2 = 15 pts)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 24 - 27</td>
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<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 1 - 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Virtual Field Trip 2 (15 pts)</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*In the event that in-person presentation is not possible, A&P 1 and A&P 2 will be replaced with a problem set.

**THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THE SCHEDULE OF LABS AS NEEDED.**