ENVR 1101.020, ENVR 1101.021, ENVR 1101.022
INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE LAB

Syllabus and Policy Statements

TERM: Spring 2024
LABORATORY: M 1:00 – 3:50, T 2:00 – 4:50, W 1:00 – 3:50
– all sections in FO 240
CREDIT: 1 SCH
TEXTBOOK: None is required. Handouts are posted on Brightspace.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sheryll B. Jerez, Professor
OFFICE: Room 119, Forestry Building
OFFICE HOURS: TR 9:15 – 11:15 AM, R 1:00 - 3:00 PM
OR by APPT
PHONE: Office – 936.468.6614; Cell – 217.493.2716
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TA SECTION 021: Kirsten Garza
EMAIL: garzake@jacks.sfasu.edu
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EMAIL: robinsoncj3@jacks.sfasu.edu
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EMAIL: shearl@jacks.sfasu.edu
OFFICE: 
OFFICE HOURS:

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. The lecture and lab are taken concurrently and graded separately. The lecture meets twice a week (two 75-minute lectures) for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2-hour final exam. The lab meets for 170 minutes once a week for 15 weeks. Students are required to submit at least seven laboratory reports that are completed outside class time. In addition, they must submit an environmental issue summary paper and an environmental photograph, and give an oral presentation. These requirements take at least eight hours of out-of-class work each week to complete.

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.
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.

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.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

Core Curriculum Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Oral Presentation on an Environmental Issue</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>
</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 Self-Reflection Essay</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING:** The total number of points for the laboratory reports, fields trips, and asynchronous learning activities (course discussion boards) 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 “Laboratory Reports” for information about the content and instructions on how to present your data in a tabular or graphical form. In addition, two of the lab reports have accompanying required discussion on Brightspace.

**COURSE POLICIES ON:**

**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:** Attendance to the face-to-face labs is mandatory. Labs will start promptly at their assigned times and tardiness will not be tolerated. **Lab reports from individuals that did not attend the lab session will not be accepted.** If 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.

**USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS**

Use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT and Google Barb, in completing the writing assignments (i.e., environmental issue summary, online essay quizzes, and lab reports) is expressly forbidden. Anyone caught using an AI tool to complete an assignment will receive a zero for the assignment.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying
research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**WITHHELD GRADES SEMESTER GRADES POLICY (5.5)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS:** Course evaluations should be completed online. It is the student’s responsibility to log on to mySFA and complete the evaluation.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**
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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**STUDENT WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING**
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu
The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub"
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK #</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LAB #</th>
<th>LAB TOPIC</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 22 - 24</td>
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<td>Lab Overview</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan 29 - 31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Data Presentation and Interpretation (30 pts)*</td>
<td>Feb 5 - 7</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb 5 - 7</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>Application of the Scientific Method (50 pts)</td>
<td>Feb 19 - 21</td>
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<td>(Experiment Setup and Initial Measurements)</td>
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<td>Discussion Board Activity 1 is due</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 12 - 14</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Application of the Scientific Method cont’d</td>
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<td>(Final Measurements &amp; Data Analysis)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 19 - 21</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>LAB 2 PRESENTATIONS*</td>
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<td>Discussion Board Activity 2 is due</td>
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<td>(Teamwork Core Objective)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 26 - 28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Toxicity Testing (30 pts)</td>
<td>Mar 4 - 6</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Mar 4 - 6</td>
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<td>Human Survivorship Changes (40 pts)</td>
<td>Mar 18 - 20</td>
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<td>(Empirical &amp; Quantitative Skills Core Objective)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 11 - 13</td>
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<td>SPRING HOLIDAYS - NO LAB</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 18 - 20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monitoring Water Quality (30 pts)</td>
<td>Mar 25 - 27</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 25 - 27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Field Trip 1 (15 pts)</td>
<td>Apr 1 - 3</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 1 - 3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Renewable Energy Resources (30 pts)</td>
<td>Apr 8 - 10</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 8 - 10</td>
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<td>Automobile Emissions and Energy Use (30 pts)</td>
<td>Apr 15 - 17</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 15 - 17</td>
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<td>Field Trip 2 (15 pts)</td>
<td>Apr 22 - 24</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Apr 22 - 24</td>
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<td>PRESENTATIONS (A&amp;P 1 = 15 pts)**</td>
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<td>(Communication Skills Core Objective)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Apr 29 - May 1</td>
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<td>PRESENTATIONS (A&amp;P 2 = 15 pts)**</td>
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<td>(Communication Skills Core Objective)</td>
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*There is an accompanying required discussion on Brightspace.  
**A&P = Attendance and Participation.

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