



Course Number, Title and Credits

ESCU 101 - Introduction to Environmental Science - 3 credits

Course Description

An introduction to the causes of environmental problems as well as strategies for potential solutions from both a natural science and a social science perspective. Scientific understanding of the environment is emphasized. The course gives an overview of major environmental problems and scientific principles, with a focus on managing environmental problems and important natural resources. The most important topics that will be covered include trends in energy use and generation (fossil fuels and alternatives), water and air pollution, weather, and climate (and the biosphere's response to climate). The homework will emphasize calculations assisting in a better understanding of quantitative models and the manipulation environmental data.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate problems from an environmental and social scientific perspective.
2. Determine the connection between environmental science, sustainability and inequality.
3. Apply a critical lens to the study of environmental issues across different geographies.
4. Explore the role of spatial analysis in evaluating global environmental issues.
5. Evaluate the role that decision-making plays in achieving sustainable environments.

Required Textbooks

Essential Environment the Science Behind the Stories, Jay Withgott Matthew Laposata English; ISBN-10: 0321984579; ISBN-13: 978-0321984579

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades

Assignment Detail for Course:

Assignments	Possible Points
Tests	600
Final Exam	150
Homework	125
Discussions	125
Total Points Possible in Course	1000

Letter Grade/Percentage Equivalents

Grades are determined on a straight-scale basis using the following scales.					
A	94% to 100%	A-	90% to 93%	B+	87% to 89%
B	84% to 86%	B-	80% to 83%	C+	77% to 79%
C	74% to 76%	C-	70% to 73%	D+	67% to 69%
D	64% to 66%	D-	60% to 63%	F	59% and below

Course Outline:

Module	Topics&Assignments
Module 1	- Chapter 1: <i>Science and Sustainability: An Introduction to Environmental Science</i> - Chapter 2: <i>Environmental Systems: Matter, Energy, and Ecosystems</i> - Homework 1
Module 2	- Chapter 3: <i>Evolution, Biodiversity, and Population Ecology</i> - Test 1
Module 3	- Chapter 4: <i>Species Interactions and Community Ecology</i> - Chapter 6: <i>Human Population</i> - Homework 2

Module 4	● Chapter 8: <i>Biodiversity and Conservation Biology</i> ● Test 2
Module 5	● Chapter 11: <i>Geology, Minerals, and Mining</i> ● Homework 3
Module 6	● Chapter 12: <i>Fresh Water, Oceans, and Coasts</i> ● Test 3
Module 7	● Chapter 13: <i>Atmospheric Science, Air Quality, and Pollution Control</i> ● Chapter 14: <i>Global Climate Change</i> ● Homework 4
Module 8	● Chapter 15: <i>Nonrenewable Energy Sources, Their Impacts, and Energy Conservation</i> ● Chapter 16: <i>Renewable Energy Alternatives</i> ● Test 4 ● Final Exam

Academic Integrity

The University of Massachusetts Global is an academic community based on the principles of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity is a core University value, which ensures respect for the academic reputation of the University, its students, faculty and staff, and the degrees it confers. The University expects that students will conduct themselves in an honest and ethical manner and respect the intellectual work of others.

Submitting to faculty work completed by the use of any artificial intelligence tool without permission and/or when prohibited by class policy. When faculty require the use of technology, including artificial intelligence, as a part of an assignment for the course, there is no violation. Students are reminded to consult syllabi, assignment sheets/rubrics, program documents and their faculty. Use of artificial intelligence, when permitted, must be correctly cited in the assignment.

The UMass Global online library provides resources to support research, proper citation styles, and the safe and responsible use of generative artificial intelligence or Gen AI.

- The [Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Avoidance](#) page provides guidance to help students better understand academic integrity and includes tips on how to avoid plagiarism.
- The [Citing Sources](#) page offers guidance on how to properly cite using APA, MLA, and Chicago styles.

- The [Artificial Intelligence Resource Guide for Students](#) provides advice for understanding and appropriately using generative artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT and Bard.

UMass Global's Office of Accessible Education

Students who require disability-related services or accommodations to access their educational experience can register with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). The Office of Accessible Education (OAE) is committed to ensuring equal educational access and opportunity for all members of our academic community. Students will be provided equitable and reasonable accommodations and services that are in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)/Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAA). Registration with OAE is on a voluntary, self-identifying basis. Please visit the Office of Accessible Education (OAE) website for more information about how to register for services, eligibility requirements, and information about potential academic accommodations and services.

Our university is committed to ensuring equal access for all students. Let us know about any accessibility barriers you encounter using any of our online systems or websites by submitting a [Feedback or Accessibility Concern Submission Form](#). We'll do our best to improve things and get you the information you need.

UMass Global's CARES Team

The CARES team is a campus-wide team of appointed staff and faculty responsible for identifying, assessing, and responding to concerns and/or disruptive behaviors by students, faculty/staff, and community members who struggle academically, emotionally, or psychologically, or who present a risk to the health or safety of the university or its members.

Individuals may refer themselves or other community members of concern by emailing cares@umassglobal.edu or by filling out a referral form [here](#). The CARES Team provides short term assessment, intervention, support, and recommendations of resources to those referred and engaged in the process.

UMass Global's Title IX Statement

The University of Massachusetts Global strives to maintain and foster a climate that promotes respect and human dignity. Sexual misconduct and relationship violence in any form is antithetical to the university's mission and core values, violates university policies, and may also violate federal and state law. The office of Title IX is primarily concerned for students' safety and well-being and is tasked with investigating all reports of sexual misconduct experienced by our community members. Title IX prohibits sex-based and gender-based discrimination and harassment, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related complications, parental status, and marital status. Students

expecting or experiencing pregnancy-related complications, that may require educational accommodations, should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator and/or the Office of Accessible Education.

The University and Title IX's prohibition of sex discrimination also covers sexual harassment, sexual violence, and any other form of sexual misconduct. We offer options and resources to all students affected by these issues and are committed to providing a fair, thorough, and prompt investigation and adjudication process. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual assault, dating, and domestic violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, please visit the [University's Title IX Resource Page](#) to access additional resources and information.

UMass Global's staff and faculty are tasked with reporting any possible sex or gender-based discrimination or Title IX violations to the University's Title IX Coordinator at civilrightscomplaints@umassglobal.edu.

[Click on this Link to our University Title IX Policy](#)