ENR 2100 Syllabus
Introduction to Environmental Science
Autumn Semester 2021 (AU21): Section 25708

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor: Dr. Nadia Casillas Ituarte, Ph.D.
Teaching Associate: Ms. Ella M. Weaver, MENR. Office Hours TBD.
Course times and location: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:35 am - 10:55 am. Fontana Lab 1000.
Course Email: ENR2100@osu.edu make sure to add Dr. Casillas/Section 25708/Fontana

Course content: it includes lecture presentations and videos delivered using platforms:
(1) Live in class and
(2) Carmen.
Carmen will be used to complete all quizzes, exams, and other assignments.

Course Description

This course fulfills the General Education (GE) Category Natural Science, Biological Science. Natural Science coursework fosters students' understanding of the principles, theories, and methods of modern science, the relationship between science and technology, the implications of scientific discoveries and the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

General Education Expected Learning Outcomes

As part of the GE Natural Science: Biological Science category of the General Education curriculum, this course is designed to prepare students to be able to do the following:

- Understand the basic facts, principles, theories and methods of modern science.
- Acknowledge key events in the development of science and recognize that science is an evolving body of knowledge.
- Describe the inter-dependence of scientific and technological developments.
- Recognize social and philosophical implications of scientific discoveries and understand the potential of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.

This course fulfills these GE learning outcomes by engaging students in theoretical and empirical study within the natural sciences. Students will gain an appreciation of modern principles, theories, methods and modes of inquiry used generally across the natural sciences. Students will discern the relationship between science and technology, while appreciating the implications of scientific discoveries and the potential impacts of science and technology to address problems of the contemporary world.
Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand Earth systems and apply concepts and methodologies to analyze interactions between biological and physical processes.
- Describe and analyze the process of scientific inquiry.
- Demonstrate proficiency in quantitative methods, qualitative analysis and critical thinking.
- Understand how collaborative efforts among scientists, engineers and policymakers can provide solutions to environmental challenges.
- Recognize that humans are part of Earth systems and reflect critically on our individual roles as citizens and consumers to protect and preserve natural systems.
- Critically evaluate and responsibility use information from primary and secondary sources.
- Demonstrate proficiency in written, visual and oral communication needed to succeed in an interdisciplinary workplace.

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

Mode of delivery: This course is an in-person course so attendance and participation in class is expected. You are also expected to log in to the course in Carmen at least every week. During most weeks you will probably log in multiple times. Class announcements will be also posted in CamenCanvas. Please check your notification preferences (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to be sure you receive these messages. For the completion of quizzes, assignments, and exams. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, please email ENR2100@osu.edu to discuss adjusted timelines.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State bylaws (go.osu.edu/instruction), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Recommended/Optional Materials


If you are interested in purchasing this textbook, we recommend purchasing from an online retailer such as Amazon. Any edition of the textbook is acceptable for the course as the textbook can serve as additional content and background information. There will be no assessments for the course solely based on textbook content.
• **Scientific Posters: A Learner’s Guide**, this is a free textbook for our class and available at https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/scientificposterguide/

**Required Equipment and Software**

- **Computer**: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- **Webcam**: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- **Microphone**: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- **Other**: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, review options for technology and internet access at go.osu.edu/student-tech-access

- **Microsoft Office 365**: All Ohio State students are eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading/installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

**CarmenCanvas Access**

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- **Register** multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- **Request** passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- **Download** the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

**Technology Skills Needed For This Course**

- **Basic computer and web-browsing skills**
- **Navigating Carmen** (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- **CarmenZoom virtual meetings** (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

**Technology Support**
For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the IT Service Desk which offers support 24/7.

- **Self-Service and Chat support:** [go.osu.edu/it](http://go.osu.edu/it)
- **Phone:** 614-688-4357(HELP)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu

If you experience connection problems with Carmen then the very first thing that you should try is another web browser such as Firefox, Explorer, Chrome, and Safari. If you are having difficulty opening a document or viewing an image or any other issue associated with this class, then it is most likely a problem with your computer, Internet connection or Internet browser. Everything for this class has already been thoroughly tested by thousands of students from all over the world to ensure that it works. Occasionally we do make mistakes, and when we do, we will always make it right.

**GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE**

**How your grade is calculated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Poster Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See course schedule below for due dates.

**Description of Course Assignments**

**Poster Assignment**  
**Description:** Throughout the semester students will create a scientific poster. Students will complete 6 poster assignments. These assignments aim to instruct students on the importance of scientific research and how to compose scientific posters and presentations. All assignments must be submitted through the appropriate Carmen location. Dr. Casillas does not accept assignments via email.

**Academic integrity and collaboration:** Your written assignments should be your own original work. Formatting should follow what is provided in Carmen and the Scientific Posters: A Learner’s Guide ([https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/scientificposterguide](https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/scientificposterguide)). You are encouraged to ask a trusted...
person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in but no one else should revise or rewrite your work. Plagiarized work will result in a grade of 0% and may be reported to Ohio State Academic Affairs.

Quizzes
Description: Quizzes in the course include supplemental materials and can be completed at any time. All of the resources needed for a quiz will always be provided within the quiz directions on Carmen. You should always review all of these resources before beginning the quiz.

Academic integrity and collaboration: Quizzes and assignments are open-book but they should be completed by yourself with no outside assistance from another person. Taking quizzes as part of a group or sharing quiz answers with others is prohibited.

Exams
Description: Exams will be taken on Carmen within a flexible time frame of approximately 7 days. Exams can be taken at any time within these 7 days. Students will be given 2 attempts to take an exam during this time frame. We keep the highest grade between the 2 attempts.

Academic integrity and collaboration: Exams must be completed according to the directions on Carmen. Exams must be taken individually. Taking an exam as part of a group is prohibited. You may not share exam questions or discuss the exam with others.

Late Assignments
Assignments and Quizzes: Assignments and Quizzes are open for at least 7 days before the due date and 10 days after the due date. Submission after the due date for assignments or quizzes will result in a 10% deduction per day from the overall grade. The submission areas will automatically close after 10 days from the due date and will not reopen. Dr. Casillas will not accept assignments or quizzes that are sent by email. All assignments must be uploaded to Carmen. All quizzes must be taken on Carmen. Students will be given 2 attempts to take a quiz.

Exams: Exams will be taken on Carmen within a flexible time frame of approximately 7 days. Exams can be taken at any time within these 7 days. Students will be given 2 attempts to take an exam. Late submissions will not be accepted and will result in a grade of 0%. Missed exams will result in a grade of 0%. All exams must be taken on Carmen. Dr. Casillas will not accept exams that are sent by email.

The due date for each quiz, assignment and exam is provided on Carmen on the very first day of class to help students plan their semester. It is the responsibility of the student to know the due date for all quizzes, exams and writing assignments. We do this to accommodate students’ busy schedules. Students are expected to plan their semester accordingly. Students should not wait until the last hour to complete a quiz, exams or writing assignment. Technical glitches such as a bad Internet connection, faulty Internet browser, a computer that “crashes”, a battery that runs out of power, an obnoxious roommate, software malfunction, a flat tire, etc. are not acceptable excuses for missing a deadline.

Dr. Casillas does not accept writing assignments, quizzes or exams by e-mail, and these will be deleted and not graded. Assignments, quizzes and exams should always be completed and/or submitted to Dr. Casillas using Carmen.
Extenuating circumstances sometimes occur. Students who miss an assessment due to a legitimate reason (e.g., emergency, hospital visit, extended illness) should contact their Dr. Casillas at ENR2100@osu.edu to request permission to make-up an assessment. Dr. Casillas will determine if an excuse is acceptable. If approved, the student must make up the missed assessment within a time frame specified by the instructor. Since this course has flexible due dates with assignments, quizzes and exams open for a period of days to weeks on Carmen, acceptable excuses typically entail lengthy illness, extended hospitalization or other serious issues.

Instructor feedback and response time

- **Grading and feedback:** For writing assignments, you can expect a grade and feedback within 10 days. Assignments submitted after the due date may have reduced feedback, and grades may take longer to be posted.

- **Email:** Instructors check and reply to emails daily. Please email **ENR2100@osu.edu** for questions. Please use your OSU email account to send emails to this account.

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93–100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83–86.9</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73–76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90–92.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80–82.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70–72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87–89.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77–79.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67–69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60–66.9</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity Policy**

See Descriptions of Course Assignments for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

**Ohio State’s Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university’s Code of Student Conduct ([studentconduct.osu.edu](http://studentconduct.osu.edu)), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university’s Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or
subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university’s Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct (go.osu.edu/coam)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Copyright Disclaimer

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.
To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. The Ohio State University’s Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you go.osu.edu/ccsondemand. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Principles of Community

This course adheres to The Principles of Community adopted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environment Sciences. These principles are located on the Carmen site for this course and can also be found at https://go.osu.edu/principlesofcommunity. For additional information on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CFAES, contact the CFAES Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (https://equityandinclusion.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/). If you have been a victim of or a witness to a bias incident, you can report it online and anonymously (if you choose) at https://studentlife.osu.edu/bias/report-a-bias-incident.aspx.
ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requesting Accommodations

If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university’s request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services.

Disability Services Contact Information

Phone: 614 292-3307
Website: slds.osu.edu
Email: slsd@osu.edu
In person: Baker Hall 089, 113 W 12th Avenue

Several accessibility accommodations are already built into our course for all students (see list below). We work to provide these accommodations to all students and want to make sure all students have a positive learning experience in our course. Please send documentation from SLDS to ENR2100@osu.edu in order to establish any further accommodations needed during the semester.

1. Extended Time (1.5x or 2x) for Exams: SLDS-REGISTERED STUDENTS SHOULD EMAIL THEIR PLAN TO Dr. Casillas. A student MUST ask SLDS to send their paperwork to Dr. Casillas: ENR2100@osu.edu and she will setup Carmen so extended time is provided to the student during an exam.

2. Extended Time for Quizzes: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. We provide all students with 6X-extended time for all quizzes. If any student requires more than 6X-extended time, then they should contact Dr. Casillas at ENR2100@osu.edu to request additional time.

3. Computer/Word for Essay Exams: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. We don’t have essay exams. All exams consist of matching, multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, true/false. All exams are taken on Carmen

4. Scribe for exams and quizzes: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. Students can take exams and quizzes anywhere. Exams and quizzes can be taken anywhere on Carmen.
Students who are registered with Office of Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) and require a scribe should make their own accommodations with SLDS.

5. Distraction Reduced Testing Space, Small Group Setting: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. Students can take all quizzes and all exams on Carmen from anywhere. Students who are registered with Office of Student Life Disability Services (SLDS) and require distraction reduced testing space should make their own accommodations.

6. Deadline Modifications: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. All quizzes, exams and assignments are open on Carmen for a period of at least 7 days to weeks to accommodate students’ busy schedules. Many are open for 14 days. All materials required to complete quizzes, exams and assignment are also provided online for at least 7 days. Students can complete quizzes, exams or assignments anytime while the window is open. Extenuating circumstances sometimes occur. Students who miss a due date for a legitimate reason (e.g., emergency, hospital visit, extended illness, unforeseen health issue) should contact Dr. Casillas before the due date by email (ENR2100@osu.edu) to request additional time. Dr. Casillas will determine if an excuse is acceptable.

7. Multiple attempts for exams and quizzes: PROVIDED TO ALL STUDENTS. Students will be given 2 attempts for each quiz and 2 attempts for each exam. We keep the highest grade between the two attempts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to Environmental Science</td>
<td>Optional: Carmen Scavenger Hunt Poster Assignment #1: Intro to Scientific Posters Quiz</td>
<td>August 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Scientific Process</td>
<td>Optional: Plagiarism Quiz Quiz #1</td>
<td>September 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Persistent Pollutants</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #2: Poster Title, Abstract, and References</td>
<td>September 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Human Populations</td>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
<td>September 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Population Ecology</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #3: Completing a Poster Section</td>
<td>September 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Community Ecology</td>
<td>Quiz #3</td>
<td>October 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Biomes and Biodiversity</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>October 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Freshwater Resources</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Freshwater Resources</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #4: Poster First Draft</td>
<td>October 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Protecting Earth’s Freshwater</td>
<td>Quiz #4</td>
<td>November 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Protecting Earth’s Atmosphere</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #5: Poster Final Draft</td>
<td>November 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Environmental Cost of Coal</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #6: Submission to Virtual Poster Symposium</td>
<td>November 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Environmental Cost of Petroleum</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Alternative and Renewable Energy</td>
<td>Poster Assignment #6: Peer Reviews Virtual Poster Symposium</td>
<td>December 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Course Wrap Up</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>December 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>