

# **BSC 1050 SYLLABUS Fall, 2007-2008**

**Instructor:** Anthony Cornett

**Email:** acornett@valenciacc.edu

**Phone #:** (407) 582-4917

**Office Room:** 3-215

**Office Hours:** MW 1030-1145, TR 0800-1015, or by appointment

**Lecture Times:** MW 1200-1315

**Credits:** 3

## **Required Text**

Miller, G. Tyler. 2006. *Environmental Science: Working With the Earth*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed.

## **Catalog Description**

This is a general education, non-lab course that is designed to increase your ability to understand our interdependence with and responsibility for the environment. This course investigates such environmental aspects as pollution, urbanization, population trends, changes in lifestyle, and treats present and projected solutions to problems.

## **Course Objectives**

The purpose of this class is to introduce you to some of the main environmental issues facing world today, including Florida's ecosystems. These issues include ecology and biodiversity sustainability, human population impact, and natural resource management and degradation. Different aspects of each field will be explored, such as basic scientific principles, the economic and political influence affecting each area, and what actions are currently being undertaken or could be utilized to reduce human impact on the environment. With this class, you will increase your understanding of the environment, how we influence it, become more informed on environmental issues, and learn how to become more responsible resource users.

## **Attendance and Participation**

You are expected to attend all class lectures. A sign in sheet will be passed around at the beginning of class. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have confirmed their presence by signing in. Missing signatures will be viewed as absences. If for some reason you can not make a lecture, you must inform me (via email preferably) that you will be absent. You are also responsible for gathering the class notes and making up any work missed on your own time. This class will combine a lecture and open discussion format. I encourage class participation, especially when the class work coincides with current world events. This will not only make the class more fun and rewarding, but will help increase your ability to understand the topics being discussed.

## **Student Code of Conduct**

That said, I expect students to show respect for and tolerate each others points of view. Some subject areas may be controversial, and may be freely debated in the classroom, but a positive learning environment must be maintained. Be respectful of your fellow students desire to learn. Talking among classmates during lecture is a distraction and, more than likely, others would be interested in the subject being discussed. Please ensure all cell phones are turned off or placed on silent during class.

### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student caught doing so will be subject to Valencia's policy on academic honesty. The immediate action will be an F on the assignment, with the potential for an F in the course and/or expulsion from the college.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students must provide a letter from the Office of Students with Disabilities and discuss specific needs with me at the beginning of the semester. The Office of Students with Disabilities will determine what accommodations are needed for each student.

### **Competencies**

Valencia faculty defined four interrelated competencies that prepare students to succeed in both work and in their community. These competencies are:

*Think, Value, Communicate, Act*

While these core concepts are important in all aspects of your life (not just in education), this course provides an excellent chance to develop your skills in these areas since the classroom discussions are vitally important to understanding the material. Each discourse should provide an opportunity for you to use each of these competencies on the subject being discussed.

### **Grades and Testing**

2 exams (midterm & final), 100 pts each	=	200 pts
6 quizzes (lowest dropped), 20 pts each	=	100 pts
Group presentation	=	100 pts
Chapter outline journal	=	100 pts
<u>Attendance/class discussion</u>	=	<u>100 pts</u>
Total Possible	=	600 pts

100-90% = A

89-80% = B

79-70% = C

69-60% = D

59% > = F

All quizzes and exams will begin promptly at the beginning of class. Each quiz will take the first 10 minutes of class time. If you arrive late, you will have the remaining allotted class time to finish your exam or quiz. If you miss the quiz entirely, it can only be made up at my discretion and then only with a valid reason with proof (i.e. death in the family,

emergency room visit, etc.). Usually, exams can not be made up. If you miss the midterm, the final exam will count double (once for each exam). The final exam may only be made up with a valid, certifiable reason (see above). The midterm exam will cover all information from the beginning of class to the midpoint. The final exam will cover all information from the midterm until the end of the class. The quizzes will include all information covered between successive quizzes. All the material covered in the text is important information. However, due to time constraints, we can not possibly cover all the material in our allotted class time. The journal outline is designed to ensure you have been reading the material in the book. This is especially important since you may be tested on material that is not covered in the lecture but is found in the text. Each chapter should be read and an outline created to cover the important points of each chapter. While there is not a set page or information limit on the journal, I will be able to tell from your notes who read the journal and who simply skimmed it... Do not try to beat the system, just read the book! You may even find it interesting!

### Disclaimer

I reserve the right to modify course procedures or policies at any time. I will announce any changes at least one class period in advance and provide you with an updated syllabus.

### Class Schedule

Week of...	Chapters	Quiz	Test	Project
Aug 27	Intro/1			
Sept 3	2/3	1 (W 1-2)		
Sept 10	3/4			topic due (M)
Sept 17	4/5	2 (W 3-4)		
Sept 24	5/6			
Oct 1	7	3 (W 5-6)		
Oct 8	8		MID (M)	
Oct 15	9/10			summary (M)
Oct 22	10/11			
Oct 29	11/12	4 (M 8-10)		
Nov 5	13			
Nov 12	14/15	5 (M 11-13)		
Nov 19	16			
Nov 26	17	6 (W 14-16)		
Dec 3				talks
Dec 10	n/a		FINAL	

### Class Project