

**ENVS 149L                    INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**  
Spring 2007

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**Instructors:** Dr. Christoph Geiss (lecture)  
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office hours: Tue 14:00 - 15:00  
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Wed 9:00 - 11:00  
or by appointment

**Textbook:** G.T. Miller: Environmental Science, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., Thomson, Brooks Cole, 2008.  
**Required !**

**Note: All deadlines are firm - no extensions (unless I screw things up). There is already enough work involved with this class - so no extra assignments for anybody.**

**Course Description**

An introduction to interrelationships among the natural environment, humans, and the human environment, including the biological, social, economic, technological, and political aspects of current environmental challenges. This course focuses on building the scientific framework necessary to understand environmental issues. We will explore the structure, function, and dynamics of ecosystems, interactions between living and physical systems, and how human enterprise affects natural systems. We will also examine current issues regarding human impacts on environmental quality, including global warming, air and water pollution, agriculture, overpopulation, energy, and urbanization. Labs will incorporate both laboratory and field exercises that complement lecture material. This is the first of the 3 required core courses for the Environmental Science major.

**Course Objectives:**

Goals of this course are to help students acquire 1) a thorough grounding in the scientific method; 2) an understanding of natural systems; and 3) an understanding of the issues, causes, and possible solutions to an array of environmental challenges.

**Course structure:**

We will have a short quiz every Thursday. The quizzes focus on current material, but many topics in Environmental Science are interconnected, so be prepared to remember things from the earlier parts of the course.

There will be no make-up quizzes, but you can drop one quiz.

Together with a fellow student you will also work on a term paper and present a poster at the end of the semester. More details on the term paper and poster presentation can be found below. I will also assign a yet to be determined number of homework problems.

**Deadlines:**

see note on previous page

**Class Attendance:**

I expect you to attend every lecture, pay attention and participate in class. I also expect you to stay for the full duration of the class. Yes, I do frown on bathroom breaks. They are disruptive and demonstrate poor planning on your part. Vacation planning, weddings, etc. are no excuse not to attend class. Please plan your spring break etc. accordingly. For quizzes you will be responsible knowing the class material and the assigned readings (even if we did not cover it in class). For exams you are responsible for all readings and in-class material.

I will not cover the book verbatim, but will address some of the problems presented in the book. You are expected to read the material **before** you come to class.

**Make-up Exams, Special Needs**

Make-up exams are only available to students with legitimate excuses for missing exams, such as severe illness, death in immediate family, or participation in an academic or College athletic event. If you must miss an exam please come see me BEFORE the exam (or immediately after the exam in emergencies) with PROPER DOCUMENTATION. There will be no exceptions to this policy. If you are allowed extra time for exams or deserve other considerations, please come see me at the beginning of the semester, not the day of the exam. I am happy to accommodate individual student needs but, in accordance with college policy, I must learn of these procedures ahead of time. Don't rely on the Dean of Students to send the paperwork on time.

**Grading Structure**

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

quizzes	40%	
lab assignments	25%	(this grade is determined by your lab instructor)
term paper and poster presentation	20%	
homework assignments and class participation	15%	

**Syllabus**

A copy of the syllabus with links to all the reading materials, assignments etc. is on the web at:

**[http://www.trincoll.edu/~cgeiss/ENVS\\_149/default.htm](http://www.trincoll.edu/~cgeiss/ENVS_149/default.htm)**

## Termpaper and Poster Presentation

As a group project you will do library research on a topic of your choice in the environmental sciences, write a termpaper about it and present your findings to your fellow students during a poster session.

### Termpaper Details:

group size:	2
length of paper:	2000 - 2500 words
format:	1.5 spacing 1 in margins
submissions:	see syllabus
file naming convention:	lastname_type of paper e.g., geiss_outline.doc Improperly named files will suffer from a 10% deduction !
acceptable file formats:	MS Word documents (.doc) Rich-text format (.rtf) Word Perfect v. 5 and higher (.wpd)
not acceptable:	Microsoft Works - any format

The term paper is a semester long project. You will start by reviewing and summarizing a paper on your topic, find additional resources and write a detailed outline and annotated bibliography. Your finished paper will then undergo peer review from your fellow students. You will use these comments to improve your paper for the final submission.

### Acceptable sources for term papers:

You need a minimum of five peer-reviewed sources for your term paper. Web pages, blogs newspaper articles are not peer reviewed and do not count. Neither does the textbook. This leaves you with publications in peer reviewed journals. So I advise you to hit the library early.

**[http://library.trincoll.edu/research/tor/tor\\_results.cfm?subject=Environmental+Science&Submit.x=15&Submit.y=10&Submit=Go](http://library.trincoll.edu/research/tor/tor_results.cfm?subject=Environmental+Science&Submit.x=15&Submit.y=10&Submit=Go)**

is a good starting point, the librarians also love to help you finding stuff.

The paper grade will be determined the following way:

<b>task</b>	<b>weight</b>	<b>comments / deadline</b>
paper topics		due in writing <b>Feb 3<sup>rd</sup></b> , submission needs to contain: topic, names of collaborators
review and summary of one peer reviewed source	10 %	use paper review sheet, available from class website (due <b>Feb. 12<sup>th</sup></b> , in class)
outline with annotated bibliography	15 %	outline + annotated bibliography (due <b>Feb. 24<sup>nd</sup></b> , via e-mail) filename: <i>name_outline.doc</i>
submitted copy for peer review	20 %	(due <b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b> , via e-mail) filename: <i>yournames_draft.doc</i>
peer reviews due	10 %	use Word to add comments on original document, peer reviews (due <b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b> , via e-mail) filename: <i>yourname_review.doc</i>
second submission	25 %	(due <b>April 16<sup>th</sup></b> , via e-mail) filename: <i>yournames_final.doc</i>
poster presentation	20 %	during class on Tue <b>28<sup>th</sup></b>

The paper is a group project and your group will receive one grade for each assignment, except for the initial paper reviews/summaries. During the poster presentation one of you will present the poster to me and your fellow students, while the rest of you will evaluate other posters.

### **Policies on Cheating and Plagiarism**

I expect you to do your own work. Any student who exhibits academic dishonesty such as cheating, assisting cheaters, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information, will be given an F in the class, according to College policy. If your references are from Internet pages I will look them up and check for plagiarism.

Here is a good website that explains plagiarism and how to avoid it. Check it out.

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide/citing.htm> (also on Blackboard under “External Links.”).

For more information on plagiarism check your student handbook.