



Western Kentucky University  
Department of Public Health  
Introduction to Environmental Science (ENV 280)  
Fall 2025



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Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM Wednesday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Monday & Friday: Available by appointment.
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### **Recommended Textbook**

Cunningham, W.P. & Cunningham, M.A. 2017. Principles of Environmental Science: Inquiry & Applications. McGraw-Hill Education. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Print ISBN: 9781265125998, 1265125996  
eText ISBN: 9781265674557, 1265674558

All additional materials provided by the instructor through Blackboard.

**IMPORTANT:** This course site will be using the Ultra Experience within Blackboard. As a result, the course site may look different from what you are accustomed. It is a much more simple layout and the various components are easy to access. Please review the Introduction to Blackboard Learn with the Ultra Experience for Students video. I will also open the course site several days before the start of the term so that there is plenty of time for you to explore.

### **Course Description**

An introductory course to the study of environmental issues. This course gives you a general understanding of application of science to solution of contemporary environmental problems. This course surveys all aspects including the traditional, emerging and controversial issues associated with environmental issues, while focusing on issues most relevant today. Learning methods include posted presentations, discussions, readings, quizzes, assignments, and small group activities.

### **Student Responsibilities and Assessments**

Every student is expected to participate and contribute in all exercises, discussions, and assignments. There will be 10 quizzes that account for 100 points, 2 discussions that account for 50 points, and 2 assignments that account for 50 points. The mid-term exam accounts for 100 points, and the final exam accounts for 100 points. The final exam covers material from the entire course, including the quizzes, discussions, and assignments. Additional assignments may be added as needed during the semester.

## **Learning Objectives for the Colonnade Program**

This course fulfills the Colonnade Program's requirements for the Natural and Physical Sciences subcategory of the Explorations Category. As part of that program, ENV 280 has the following learning objectives in order to ensure that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of science inquiry
2. Explain basic principles and concepts related to one or more of the sciences
3. Apply scientific principles to interpret and make predictions in one or more of the sciences
4. Explain how scientific principles relate to issues of personal and/or public importance

## **Course Objectives**

The course objectives for ENV 280 are designed to fulfill the Colonnade Program requirements. Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Understand and apply basic principles of Environmental Science and demonstrate this knowledge on assignments, exams, and by completing class projects.
- Gain a basic understanding of how environmental impacts occur through discussion boards and assignments.
- Develop an appreciation for the complexity of environmental problems and the need for interdisciplinary solutions.
- Understand how environmental science can be applied to answer real world questions by completing class assignments and discussions.
- Use investigative, analytical, and critical thinking skills to acquire information, evaluate alternatives, and make decisions regarding environmental science.
- Derive meaning from the course text and other sources of written information, evaluate arguments and case studies, recognize explicit statements and inferences regarding the environment, reach conclusions, and makes generalizations about environmental science.
- Use written language to create documents with a clear and significant argument, adequate and relevant supporting evidence, appropriate documentation, and clear and valid assumptions and conclusions regarding environmental science.
- Interpret environmental data presented in tables and graphical displays, and synthesize a conclusion based on numerical data and practical environmental problems.

## **Course Content**

1. Understanding Our Environment
2. Environmental Systems: Matter, Energy & Life
3. Evolution, Species Interactions, & Biological Communities
4. Human Populations
5. Biomes & Biodiversity
6. Environmental Conservation: Forests, Grasslands, Parks & Nature Preserves
7. Food & Agriculture
8. Environmental Health & Toxicology
9. Climate

10. Air Pollution
11. Water: Resources & Pollution
12. Environmental Geology & Earth Resources
13. Energy
14. Solid & Hazardous Waste
15. Economics & Urbanization
16. Environmental Policy & Sustainability

### **Late Policy**

As part of this class you are expected to participate regularly and meet your due dates. Late assignments can be submitted to me via email if you are unable to submit through Blackboard. If you have communicated with me beforehand about why you need to submit something late I am willing to work with you. For late assignments submitted with no prior notice to the due date you will receive 10% off your grade for every day (24 hours) that the assignment/quiz is late. Once the due date is passed by 7 days the assignment will no longer be accepted unless you have communicated with me about why you need further extension.

### **Dual Credit Student Information**

Your climb to greater heights as a Western Kentucky University Hilltopper starts in this course as a Dual Credit student. At WKU, our academic programs are designed to provide you with an education that is relevant to the world around you. During this course, you will engage in experiential learning and applied-research opportunities, all while working alongside an expert faculty member who is dedicated to helping you achieve your goals. We want you to continue to support you on your climb to the top after high school graduation, too, and encourage you to apply for admission to WKU during your senior year. If you have any questions about the full-time Hilltopper experience or the admissions process, please reach out to the Office of Admissions at 270-745-2551 or by email at [admission@wku.edu](mailto:admission@wku.edu).

### **Regular & Substantive Interaction Statement**

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the [Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage](#).

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- At least two group discussions will be facilitated by the instructor regarding the course content,
- Recorded lectures from the instructor will be provided for the course content,
- Weekly announcements will be posted to update students on due dates and course content,
- Assignments and assessments deadlines will be spread throughout the semester
- Constructive feedback will be given on assessments so that students are aware of the correct responses and where they could improve.

### **Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement**

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

### **ADA Accommodation Statement**

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

### **Pregnant & Parenting Students**

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/) under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

If you are a WKU student and believe that you have experienced an incident(s) of discrimination or harassment based on pregnancy (or pregnancy related conditions or issues), please report it to the Title IX Coordinator via email at [ena.demir@wku.edu](mailto:ena.demir@wku.edu) or by phone at (270) 745-6867.

Additional resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found on WKU's Title IX Website at [www.wku.edu/titleix/](http://www.wku.edu/titleix/).

### **ChatGPT & Generative AI Statement**

In this class you are free to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as on assignments and activities in this course. If you chose to utilize AI, you will be expected to properly document and cite this information. For this course, we will use either APA or MLA styles depending on your academic discipline. Examples of citing AI are available at: <https://libguides.wku.edu/stylewrite/ai>

### **The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services**

The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc)

### **Academic Offenses (As in WKU's Student Handbook)**

The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature.

#### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure.

#### **Plagiarism**

To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism

#### **Cheating & Other Types of Academic Dishonesty**

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment or other project which is submitted for purposes of grade determination. Other types of academic offenses, such as the theft or sale of tests, electronic transmission of test, test sharing, etc. will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

## Course Schedule

Week	Content Covered	Quizzes / Assignments
8/18 - 8/22	Syllabus Ch. 1	
8/25 - 8/29	Ch. 2	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1) Due 8/26 at 11:30 PM
9/1 - 9/5	Ch. 3	Quiz 2 (Ch. 2) Due 9/2 at 11:30 PM
9/8 - 9/12	Ch. 5 & 6	Quiz 3 (Ch. 3) Due 9/9 at 11:30 PM
9/15 - 9/19	Ch. 7	Quiz 4 (Ch. 5 & 6) Due 9/16 at 11:30 PM
9/22 - 9/26	Endangered Species Documentary	Quiz 5 (Ch. 7) Due 9/23 at 11:30 PM
9/29 - 10/3	Study for Midterm	Discussion Board 1 Due 9/30 at 11:30 PM
10/6 - 10/10	Fall Break (10/6 - 10/7) Midterm Exam	Midterm Available All Day 10/9
10/13 - 10/17	Ch. 4 & 8	
10/20 - 10/24	Ch. 14 & 15	Quiz 6 (Ch. 4 & 8) & Assignment 1 Due 10/21 at 11:30 PM
10/27 - 10/31	Ch. 13 & Power Surge Documentary	Quiz 7 (Ch. 14 & 15) Due 10/28 at 11:30 PM
11/3 - 11/7	Ch. 11	Quiz 8 (Ch. 13) & Assignment 2 (Documentary) Due 11/4 at 11:30 PM
11/10 - 11/14	Ch. 9 & 10	Quiz 9 (Ch. 11) Due 11/11 At 11:30 PM
11/17 - 11/21	Course Reflection	Quiz 10 ( Ch. 9 & 10) Due 11/18 at 11:30 PM
11/24 - 11/28	Thanksgiving Break	
12/1 - 12/5	Study for Final	Discussion Board 2 (Reflection) Due 12/2 at 11:30 PM
12/8 - 12/11	Finals Week	Final Available All Day 12/9