

**Western Kentucky University**  
**Department of Public Health**  
**Introduction to Environmental Science (ENV 280)**  
**Fall 2024**  
**Section 725\* Bi-term Course**

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\*Please note this course meets from 10/14 to 12/05. The same amount of material will be covered as a full semester in ½ the number of weeks. Understand this is an accelerated course and will move quickly.

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Office Hours:	Office Hours: *Monday 10:30-12:30, Thursday 12-2 (on South Campus) Monday- Friday: Available by appointment on main campus

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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.

### **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 to 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 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

### **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.

### **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**

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 Dishonesty**

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.