

Savannah State University
College of Sciences & Technology
Department of Marine & Environmental Sciences
Environmental Sciences Program
ENVS 1140.01
Environmental Issues (CRN: XXXX)
Semester 20XX

Instructor & Title: Dr. Sue C. Ebanks, Associate Professor

Office Location: Marine Science Research Center 108A

Main Campus Office Hours: Nearly anytime by appointment and **Mondays 14:00-16:00H (2:00-4:00p.m. in DG 141 or as announced)**

Telephone: 912 358 4430

E-Mail: ebankss@savannahstate.edu. This is the best way to contact me. Message received immediately on my cell.

Course Credit Hours: 3

Class Location: **Drew-Griffith 134**

Class Time: **MTWThF 12:00-13:50H (12:00-1:50p.m.)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Survey of global environmental issues facing humankind from philosophical, sociological, historical, ecological, and technological perspectives.

PREREQUISITES: None

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

The goal of Savannah State University is the mastery of graduates in the following areas:

1. **Written Communication:** The development and clear expression of ideas orally and in writing.
2. **Critical Thinking:** A habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.
3. **Information Literacy:** The ability to know when there is a need for information to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.
4. **Quantitative Literacy:** A “habit of mind,” competency, and comfort in working with numerical data.
5. **Ethical Reasoning:** Ability to reason about right and wrong conduct. Development of framework of values on which to base moral analysis.
6. **Integrative Learning:** An understanding and disposition that a student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making simple connections among ideas and experiences to synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus.

Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to

- (a). Define the concept of sustainability.
- (b). Describe global demographic shifts.
- (c). Describe energy sources, energy, and energy conservation.
- (d). Explain global nature of pollution as a result of industrialization.
- (e). Understand the concept of biosphere, biomes, and global warming.
- (f). Describe environmental health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is designed to acquaint non-science majors with the most current environmental issues such as population and migration, consumption and quality of life, energy use and consumption, climate change, and environmental health affecting humankind.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:*Course materials:*

The course content will be delivered primarily through the use of online educational materials (OEMs) and PowerPoint slides. Materials will also include periodicals, multimedia, and other publically available informational sources for critical review. Much of the material will be provided through D-2-L Brightspace. By Friday, 18 May 2018, make sure that you can access D-2-L Brightspace.

Optional Text:

Environmental Issues: An Introduction to Sustainability by Robert L. McConnell and Daniel C. Abel. 2008. 3rd Edition, Pearson-Prentice Hall Publishers.

OR: The 4th edition, Environmental Issues: Looking Towards a Sustainable Future by Abel & McConnell, is also welcome. Instructor has provided references for at least 4th edition throughout the course.

***Students are responsible for obtaining materials made available by instructor, even if s/he missed class. Some assignments and materials may be exclusively distributed via D-2-L Brightspace so students need to ensure that they have valid information from each class meeting.**

Supplies:

-A notebook to take notes and store handouts

-Flash/thumb drive or other digital storage device (strongly suggested) to **frequently back-up materials** related to the course. Computer failures tend to occur when you least expect them and when it is most inconvenient.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH:

Attendance and Punctuality Policy: From the catalog: "Savannah State University endeavors to provide optimum conditions for the intellectual growth and development of its students. With the exception of University approved activities, it is expected that students should attend and be punctual to their classes, laboratories, and officially scheduled class requirements. Students who are absent because of participation in approved University activities will be permitted to make up work missed during their absences, provided that no more than 15% of class hours per course per term are missed and that work is assigned for completion prior to the University sanctioned activity.

All matters related to student absences, including the making up of work missed, are to be arranged between the student and the instructor."

It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to meet course requirements. As instructor, I will do my best to provide what I can to help you succeed. I ask that you exert the necessary effort to be successful in the course. **Because of the intensive format of the summer session, after the first two (2) absences**, I will submit an alert through SSC-EAB because you run the risk of jeopardizing your participation in the course.

It will be the responsibility of the student to sign-in and be on-time for each class meeting; however, three late arrivals (>10 minutes after class start time) may be counted as an absence. **On quiz and exam days, please respect the testing environment and do not disrupt the testing in session if you are more than 15 minutes late and for an unexcused reason.**

The instructor of record reserves the right to modify this syllabus and course requirements as needed.

Student-athletes and others participating in university-approved activities MUST provide a copy of their game schedule (athletes via D-2-L Dropbox) by the end of the first week of class (deadline: 18 MAY 2018) AND make PRIOR arrangements with the instructor for any assignments or exams that will be missed for university-approved events.

Academic Honesty:

Student should read the entire text from the catalog regarding SSU Honesty Policy and adhere to the same. A section has been copied here. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss a student from class for academic dishonesty.

From page 44 of the Student Handbook

<https://www.savannahstate.edu/student-affairs/documents/Savannah-State-University-2014-2015-Student-Handbook-Housing-Policies.pdf>:

“Academic Dishonesty: Students are subject to disciplinary action for engaging in academic misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Submitting another's work as one's own or allowing another to submit one's work as though it were his or hers.
- b. Several people completing an assignment and turning in multiple copies, all represented either implicitly or explicitly as individual work.
- c. Failure to properly acknowledge authorities quoted, cited or consulted in the preparation of written work (plagiarism). Specific examples of plagiarism are:
 - i. Copying and/or presenting the words of others as one's own writing, including from Internet sources.
 - ii. Copying words, even if you cite the sources, unless appropriate quotation is noted.
 - iii. Copying words and then changing them a little, even if you give the source.
 - iv. Expressing in your own words someone else's ideas as your own.
- d. The use of any materials, textbook, notes, cellular phones, MP3 players, or other electronic devices during an examination without the expressed permission of the instructor.
- e. The receiving or giving of unauthorized help on assignments.
- f. Stealing a problem solution from an instructor.
- g. Tampering with experimental data to obtain 'desired' results or creating results for experiments not done ("dry labbing").
- h. Tampering with or destroying the work of others.
- i. Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work for credit of honors more than once without permission of the present instructor.
- j. Lying about these or other academic matters.
- k. Falsifying college records, forms or other documents.”

*Please be aware that your submissions may be scanned through SafeAssign anti-plagiarism software to check for originality. (See <http://www.cod.edu/It/blackboard/SafeAssign/SafeAssignFAQ.htm> for details.)

Exam Retention Policy: Instructor may retain all the copies of the exam and the answer sheets for student future reference.

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Make-up Exam Policy: You must let the instructor know PRIOR to the test date or as soon as possible if you are unable to take an exam for non-academic reasons. Failure to do so will result in a grade of 0. If you are unable to attend an exam, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible AND before the exam. If there is an emergency that prevents you from notifying the instructor before the exam, you **MUST** provide an official document (i.e. on official letterhead) stating the reason that you could not attend class to take the exam in order to be excused. Examples of appropriate documents include letter from court/law enforcement/health/hospital official, clergy, or funeral director. In general, **there will be no post-exam make ups**. If you have met the excuse requirements, the weight of your other exams will be adjusted accordingly. Please, for your sake, make arrangements beforehand. Reminder: Student-athletes must provide a copy of their game schedule.

There will be no make up for *pop quizzes* and to remove a zero for a pop quiz, student must present evidence to justify being excused. As tempting as it may be, avoid scheduling work hours for class time. Missing class negatively affects yours and your classmates' ability to succeed in the course.

Remember: Student-athletes and those on University travel must provide a copy of their game schedule (via D-2-L Dropbox, please) so that accommodations can be made. Make arrangements ONE WEEK before a scheduled exam. Student-athletes must provide a copy of their game schedule by 18 May 2018.

Work submission policy including penalties: Assignments must be submitted on time. Late submissions may incur a **one letter grade penalty per day (including days that we do not meet)**. No submissions will be accepted after the last day of class for this course, 16 June 2018.

Group Projects

A major component of this course will consist of a group project in which each group member is expected to actively participate as a part of cooperative learning. Failure to participate will result in significant penalties to student's final score in the course.

Assignment submission

Whether submitting an assignment in-person or electronically (D-2-L Brightspace or email), you must type your name, date, and assignment title/description on assignment. This is to be done for every assignment. If you are making submissions via email (ONLY to ebankss@savannahstate.edu), send work as an attachment (do not cut and paste assignments into body of email). When naming the file and subject line, please start with your last name and first initial and end with submission date and with the following example format:

LastnameF_ENVS 1140-01_EcologicalFootprintAssignment_1Jun2018. If your name is John Public, your file name and email subject line for an assignment titled "Ecological Footprint Assignment" would be PublicJ_ENVS1140-01_EcologicalFootprintAssignment_1Jun2018.

Deductions will be made from your score if you do not follow these instructions.

Withdrawal from class: 5 June 2018 is the last day to withdraw/drop this course without academic penalty. See the current SSU Academic Calendar for Summer 2018 for more information.

Class participation policy: Each student is expected to participate in classroom discussions. For this course, a significant portion (20%) of the final grade is dedicated to participation (see grade determination section). Note that you must be present to participate so if, for example, you miss 20% of the class meeting days, the maximum that you can score on this section is a 90% and that is if you were 100% participatory when you were present (Average of 80% attendance and 100% participation is 90%). Thus students will be awarded or penalized based on their record.

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Policy regarding advance preparation for class: Each student is expected to participate in classroom discussions. To do this, students will need to read, do literature searches, and prepare the assignment that is required for the class session. Therefore students should expect to follow the general rule that for **every hour spent in class, 1-2 hrs. will need to be spent on the course material outside of the classroom** in order to be successful in the class. **The use of cell phones will not be tolerated in the classroom, except for accessing course-related materials. If you choose to ignore this rule, you may receive a zero (0) for participation for the class period.**

Students are required to complete reading of material and any assignments in a particular chapter to be able to come prepared to class before the topic is covered by the instructor.

Quizzes & Exams

Scheduled quizzes, pop quizzes, and exams will start at the beginning of the class period. Generally, quizzes will only be 15 min (exams 1 hr.) then we will move on to the material for the class period. Thus, those arriving late will sacrifice that portion of their allotted quiz/exam time. All exams will have a cumulative component to enhance assimilation of the material.

Writing

In support of the Savannah State University's initiative to produce strong writers and the goals of this course, students will produce a minimum of four (4) pages of writing during the semester in a variety of forms. Keep in mind that this is the minimum.

GRADE DETERMINATION:

Requirement	Approximate Weight
Participation	20%
Three (3) lecture tests @ 10% ea.	30%
Assignments & Quizzes (including project, which counts as 4 assignments)	30%
Comprehensive Final Exam*	20%
Total	100%

Note: *All exams will have a cumulative component to enhance assimilation of the material.

GRADING SCALE:

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<60	F

STUDENT SERVICES/ASSISTANCE:

PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AT SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY:

Savannah State University is committed to providing support services for our students. *Disability Services* provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented temporary and permanent disabilities and pregnancy related issues as required under federal law. *Counseling Services* provides free, professional, confidential, individual and group counseling. The *STAR Program* provides support for students that aged out of foster care or are homeless. The offices are located in King Frazier 233, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 912 358 3129. Another resource for mental health emergencies is the GA Crisis and Access Line, available 24 hours a day at 1800 715 4225. **Free wellness screenings** are located on each highlighted office website: <http://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/savannah>

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CENTER FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS:

The Center for Academic Success provides comprehensive academic support classes, services and resources specifically designed to enhance student academic achievement and success. Resources provided include specialized advisement, testing, and tutoring services. University College/CAS assists students with developing a roadmap for success as they pursue their personal and academic goals at Savannah State University.

Contact Information: Morgan & Whiting Halls, <http://www.savannahstate.edu/cas/index.shtml>

TUTORING/WRITING SUPPORT:

If writing is a bit of a challenge/scare for you, we are here to help you overcome that. Be sure to talk to me (Dr. Ebanks) and I will make sure that you have the support that you need. This is also true for any other aspect of the course. Beside your instructor, I have access to others working as peer and near-peer tutors & mentors. We are all here to learn so let's do it together! Don't hesitate to ask.

Core Values of Student Conduct at Savannah State University (Tiger Values)

Integrity: Savannah State students exemplify honesty, honor and a respect for the truth in all of their dealings.

Community: Savannah State students build and enhance their community. Savannah State students will be active and engaged citizens.

Social Justice: Savannah State students are just and equitable in their treatment of all members of the community and act to discourage and/or intervene to prevent unjust and inequitable behaviors.

Respect: Savannah State students show positive regard for each other, for property and for the community.

Responsibility: Savannah State students are given and accept a high level of responsibility to self, to others and to the community.

Tradition: Savannah State students recognize the importance of our traditions and the legacy we leave for future generations of students.

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COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The following outline and readings may change as the course progresses, as the instructor deems necessary, given student interests and needs. You are to be prepared to present thoughtful questions to enhance dialogue, and be prepared to offer relevant points to class discussion...Hint: Current Events are some of the most exciting points for this course.

Date*	Reading** Text (4th ed.)	My Assignment(s)	Lecture/Discussion/Class Activity/Class Event
Week 1 (week of 16May)	Preface & pp. 1-28	Log in to D-2-L. Can you see this class? Read syllabus & Sustainability lecture notes (Content) <i>Schedules due to me 18 May (D-2-L Dropbox)</i>	W- Introductions, pre-test & survey, receive syllabus expectations Th-Introduction cont'd, syllabus (Quiz 18May); contact information; expectations; D-2-L; Basic Concepts, Tools, Sustainability F- Quiz Syllabus ; Distribute Footprint Activity (due next week); Basic Concepts, Tools, Sustainability
Week 2 (week of 21May) <i>Report non-attendance 17:00H 21May</i>	pp. 29-41	Homework sheet on Basic Concepts & Tools (unit conversion)	M-Basic Concepts T-Tools, & Sustainability W-Quiz (Basic Concepts & Tools)**; Global Population Growth: Is it sustainable? (Issue 1) Th-Carrying Capacity and Ecological Footprint (Issue 2) F- Exam 1 (Basic Concepts, Tools & Sustainability) ; Getting to know your environment: Retention ponds, riparian buffers
Week 3 (week of 28May) <i>28May-Memorial Day observed no class, univ. closed 31May-Mid-term grades reported, 17:00H</i>	pp. 42-68 pp. 239-301	Hazards & Risk Assignment	M- Coastal Population Growth: Bangladesh (Issue 3) T- Population Growth and Migration (Issue 4) W- Greenhouse Gases & Climate Change (Issue 5) Th- Q&A; What can we do? (Issues 27,28; Guidelines for Final Group Presentations); The Challenges of Climate Change (Issue 6) F- Exam 2 (Introduction-Issue 5) ; Getting to know your environment: Saltmarsh & Tide creeks
Week 4 (week of 4Jun) <i>5Jun-Last day to drop without academic penalty</i>	pp. 69-89 pp. 95-125	Interactions Between Water, earth's Surface, and Human Activity	M- Oil, Natural Gas, & Coal (Issues 7,8) T- Sustainable Energy: Is the Answer Blowing in the Wind? (Issue 10) W- Global Water Supplies: Are They Sustainable? (Issue 11) Th-Q&A; Motor Vehicles & the Environment I (Issue 12) F- Exam 3 (Introduction & Issues covered through 8 Jun) ; Getting to know your environment: Saltmarsh
Week 5 (week of 11Jun) <i>14Jun-Last day of class</i>	pp. 144-183 pp. 228-238	-Cli-fi Assignment -Final Projects due	M- Mountains of Trash: Are They Sustainable? (Issue 15); OR Climate Fiction (Cli-Fi) T- Global Grain Production: Can We Beef It Up? (Issue 18) OR Persistent Organic Pollutants (Issue 17) OR Global Fisheries (Issue 23) W-Catch-up & Review Th- Final Reports: What have we done? F- 15 June: Final Exam (class time)

NOTES: *All dates and topics are tentative and subject to adjustment by instructor. *Assignment descriptions here are brief. Pay close attention to guidelines provided in class. **Quizzes will be given often to help prepare for exams, which are cumulative. *Readings posted here are a nice addition to the materials found on D2L Brightspace and provided in other ways throughout the course.

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