

SCI 124: Introduction to Environmental Science

Fall 2011



10-11:15am Wednesdays & Fridays Bldg 3393, Room 103 (Manono Campus)

Instructor: Dr. Pamela Scheffler

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Office phone: 933-0835

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:15-3:15pm, Friday 11:15-12:15pm

Or by appointment (Bldg 3393-124)

Text: *Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories* by Jay Withgott & Scott Brennan. 3rd Edition



Short Course Description: An introduction to ecological principles and how they relate to the human situation. An exploration of the causes of present environmental problems and possible solutions.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): By the end of the course, students should be able to 1) apply scientific method to address issues in the environmental sciences, 2) describe key ecological processes, 3) appraise the effect of human activity on the environment.

Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes/short assignments	25 pts
Chapter Quizzes	15 pts
Participation/attendance	10 pts
Media Project	15 pts
Topic Presentation	15 pts
Group Project	20 pts
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100 pts

Learning environment: I expect each of you to contribute positively to the learning experience, both your own and that of your classmates. As such, I will expect you to have completed all reading assignments by the day indicated on this syllabus and be prepared to ask questions and/or discuss the material in class. I expect honesty and integrity in all your work and interactions with other students*. If you need any special assistance, please ask**. All cell phones must be turned off for the duration of class. **Attendance** is mandatory. *All* missed classes will count against your attendance/participation grade. If you have a legitimate excuse for the absence you will be allowed to make up quizzes and assignments provided you inform the instructor of the reason you were absent within 24 hours. Make up exams must be taken within one week of the missed class. *You* are responsible for all missed material – you may want to exchange contact information with one or more classmates early on in the semester so that you can figure out what assignments and information you have missed. Up to 2 missed classes/quizzes may be made up through participation in a Service Learning*** project with a written trip report. **Quizzes** will occur often and will be unannounced.

Materials needed: Please come to each class with material for writing (i.e., pen(cil) and paper). Class may meet outside on some days and we may do some short walks during the class period so please wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

Email: You *must* check your hawaii.edu email account regularly while taking this course since email *will* be used for critical communication during the semester.

Chapter Quizzes: Each chapter will have a short (10 Q or less) quiz on Lulima to help you assess your understanding. You must take the quiz before the lecture occurs to receive full credit for it. All late quizzes will receive 50% of the grade.

Media Project:

Pick an environmental issue and create a portfolio from current media stories on the topic. Media can include clippings from newspaper or magazines, transcripts from radio and television news, copies of advertisements, or printouts from *legitimate* internet news sources. All media must be current (i.e., written after July 2011). A passing collection will contain at least 10 articles, preferably more. For each article write a short (3+ sentence) summary and explanation of how the article relates to your topic and the environment. Portfolios will be due during the 13th week of classes (Nov 16). You will be randomly selected for two (graded) short (<2min) presentations on your most current article during class periods between Sept 2 & Nov 6.

Topic Presentation:

On Oct 26 & 28 you will give a 5-10 minute presentation on an environmental topic of your choosing. Research the topic using resources available to you through the library.

Group Project:

We will be examining the environmental impact of Hawaii CC. You are expected to work with your group throughout the semester. Presentations and reports are due on Dec 12.

Passing Grades:

90-100% A	70-79% C
80-89% B	60-69% D

Counselors are available: please call 974-7741 if you would like to speak with a counselor about any issues which have a negative impact on you ability to successfully complete this, or any other, class.

***Compliance with Hawaii CC Student Conduct Code:**

Every student is expected to comply with the student conduct code: "Impermissible behavior includes... interference in the rights of others, interference with university processes, theft of mutilation of college property, disruption, abuse of controlled substances, off-campus behavior, academic dishonesty which includes cheating and plagiarism."

****Individual Accommodation**

H.C.C. is committed to provide equal access to the campus, classes, and programs for students who have disabilities. If you have a documented disability and/or related access needs, please see your instructor during office hours or contact Karen Kane of the Ha`awi Kokua Program (933-0702) as early as possible. If you are a student who needs to have an accommodation, please discuss your needs and make your request in a timely manner.



***<http://www.hawcc.hawaii.edu/laurab/servicelearning/default.htm>

Probable Schedule

Week	Day	Class	Reading & Quiz
1	August 24	Course Introduction	
	August 26	Sustainability 101 & Intro to media project	Chapter 1
2	August 31	Library	
	September 2	Env. Sci fundamentals & Intro to Project	Chapter 3
3	September 7	Evolution, Biodiversity, Ecology	Chapter 4
	September 9	Evolution, Biodiversity, Ecology	
4	September 14	Species Interactions & Community Ecology	Chapter 5
	September 16	Species Interactions & Community Ecology	
5	September 21	Human Population	Chapter 6
	September 23	Human Population	
6	September 28	Biodiversity & Conservation Biology	Chapter 8
	September 30	Biodiversity & Conservation Biology	
7	October 5	Environmental Health	Chapter 10
	October 7	Environmental Health	
8	October 12	Waste	Chapter 17
	October 14	Waste	
9	October 19	TBA	
	October 21	Fresh Water	Chapter 12
10	October 26	TOPIC PRESENTATIONS	
	October 28	TOPIC PRESENTATIONS	
11	November 2	Oceans	
	November 4	Energy	Chapter 15 & 16
12	November 6	Energy	
	November 8	<i>Veterans' Day Holiday!!!</i>	
13	November 16	Food & Agriculture	Chapter 7
	November 18	Food & Agriculture	
14	November 23	Eco-Potluck	
	November 25	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday!!!</i>	
15	November 30	Climate Change	Chapter 14
	December 2	Climate Change	
16	December 7	Wrap Up	Epilogue
	December 12	9:40 - 11:40am Group Presentation	