



## ES 103 Syllabus

Fundamentals of Environmental Science Spring 2025

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Instructor	Robert M. Jonas, Ph.D.
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Course Meeting Days and Time	MW 9:30
Office Hours	Any time by appointment; Zoom or FaceTime
Course Mode	In-person

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### Catalog Description:

The course introduces the interdisciplinary nature of problems relating to the human environment, including social, political, and economic aspects. Together, we will examine the impact that humanity has on the environment and discuss strategies to diminish those effects, especially considering European approaches to environmental challenges. Class activities include lecture/discussions, writing assignments, quizzes, exams, and a cumulative final exam.

### Credit Hour Policy Statement:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.” (Def 1)

### General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for Outcome 7 [Choose an overlay].

### Course Learning Objectives:

As this course progresses and at the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Understand the Scientific Method
- B. Have a general understanding of the Lithosphere, Hydrosphere and Atmosphere
- C. Understand the relationship between the biosphere and the other spheres of the planet

# HARLAXTON



- D. Be able to engage in thoughtful discussion on the interactions between humans and the planet
- E. Understand the various approaches to farming and agriculture and their impacts on the Earth
- F. Have an introductory understanding to environmental toxicology and the impacts of toxins on humans and the planet

### Methods of Instructions:

The goals of this course are to introduce non-science majors to the scientific method and increase science literacy using the Earth as a focus of study and to understand the impacts of humans as they relate to natural Earth cycles. Discussion will incorporate the disciplines of geology, chemistry and biology as we investigate the various “spheres” of the Earth including the lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and biosphere. The class will investigate cycles of the Earth’s systems, and the inter-relationships and feedback loops between systems. The course will be an overview of the sciences applied to the Earth and students will be encouraged to examine environmental data and think critically about environmental questions and problems. We will compare American and European approaches to environmental issues. Class will be a combination of lecture, writing and group discussions.

### Textbooks and Required Reading:

**Required Text:** Cunningham and Cunningham, *Environmental Science: A Global Concern* 16<sup>th</sup> ed. with Connect © 2023 (ISBN 9781266656804); McGraw Hill

### Course Schedule:

Week 1: Environmental perspectives, Scientific Method	Ch. 1, 2
Week 2: Energy vs. Chemicals	Ch. 3
<b>Exam 1</b>	
Week 3: Evolution; Biomes	Ch. 4, 5
Week 4: Population biology	Ch. 6, 7
<b>Exam 2</b>	
Week 5 Toxicology; Hazardous wastes	Ch. 8, 21
Week 6: Food & Farming	Ch. 9, 10
<b>Exam 3</b>	
Week 7: Biodiversity	Ch. 11, 12
Week 8: Restoration; Minerals, Geology	Ch. 13, 14

**Exam 4**

Week 9: Climate change; Air Pollution Ch. 15, 16

Week 10: Water & Pollution Ch. 17, 18

**Exam 5**

Week 11: Energy Ch. 19, 20

Week 12: Urban ecosystems; Economics Ch. 22, 23

**11/12 Exam 6**

Week 13: Law; Sustainability Ch. 24, 25

**Exam 7**

Week 14 presentations

**Grading Criteria:**

The grade you receive in this class will be based on the following:

7 mini-exams (25 pts. each) 175 pts.

Final Exam: (75 pts.) 75 pts.

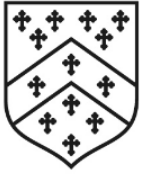
Term paper and discussion: 100 pts.

Total: 350 pts.

Term Paper: Groups of 2 or 3 students will collaborate to research a specific Global Challenge. You will sign up for a topic and lead a 30-35 minute class discussion on the topic. You must turn in a Works Cited page, with at least five (5) references post-2015, and a sheet explaining the contributions of each group member. Examples of topics would be: farming and the food supply, sustainable water supply, energy and climate change, toxic waste disposal, sustainability and recycling of resources, sustainable development of the “third world”, how to put a price on environmental services, etc. Identify your objectives and alternative solutions to the challenge. Those solutions will involve specific trade-offs. This will involve gathering and analysing information and evidence.

All out of class writing assignments must be submitted to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). The procedure takes about 5 minutes, and you must have access to the internet. Your assignment will not be graded, and may be counted as late, until the instructor receives the turnitin.com confirmation that your paper has been received.

The above information is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.



### **Withdrawal and Attendance policies:**

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

### **Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:**

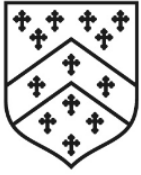
Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty of a full letter grade deduction (A to B, for example).

### **Policy Governing Excused Absences.**

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.



- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

### Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

**AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.**

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

### Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.



Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



## Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

## Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

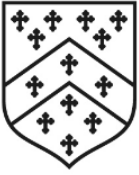
Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

[cs175@evansville.edu](mailto:cs175@evansville.edu) ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: [kg77@evansville.edu](mailto:kg77@evansville.edu) ·

Title IX: [titleix@evansville.edu](mailto:titleix@evansville.edu)

Phone: 812-288-5261



Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

#### University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: [counselingservices@evansville.edu](mailto:counselingservices@evansville.edu), 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: [healthcenter@evansville.edu](mailto:healthcenter@evansville.edu), 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: [chaplain@evansville.edu](mailto:chaplain@evansville.edu), 812-488-5262

#### Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, [lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk)
- Counselling Services: [counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk)