

Midland College Syllabus
2020-2021
ENVR 1401 Lecture
Environmental Science Lecture
4 Semester Credit Hours
(3 Lecture/3 Lab)
Core Curriculum Course

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INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:

Phone:

Email:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This combined lecture and lab course is a survey of the forces, including humans that shape our physical and biologic environment, and how they affect life on Earth. Introduction to the science and policy of global and regional environmental issues, including pollution, climate change, and sustainability of land, water, and energy resources. The laboratory is required. Lab activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze environmental data. (Cross-listed as GEOL 1405 Environmental Science)

Prerequisite: College Level Readiness in Reading AND Writing

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Recognize, describe, and quantitatively evaluate earth systems including the land, water, sea, and atmosphere, and how these function as interconnected ecological systems.
2. Assess environmental challenges facing humans caused by their interaction with the physical and biological environment (e.g., population growth energy resources, food production, pollution, water and resource use).
3. Acquire a scientific vocabulary and critical thinking skills related to environmental science.
4. Assess the effectiveness and feasibility of environmental policy and its impact.
5. Apply the scientific method to environmental investigation.
6. Measure and observe aspects of the environment (e.g., air, water, soil) through sampling and sample analysis.
7. Develop an assessment plan for an environmental case study.
8. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

CORE OBJECTIVES

This course fulfills four hours of the Life and Physical Science requirement in the Midland College **Core Curriculum**. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills and educational experiences that are essential for all learning. Please visit the [Midland College Catalog](#) for any questions about the core. As part of the core, this course addresses the following four objectives:

Critical thinking skills –Students will demonstrate critical thinking by examining and solving applied environmental issues.

Communication skills – Students will demonstrate communication skills in written, oral, and/or visual form within the classroom setting through instructor posed questions, collaborative peer assignments, and exams.

Empirical and Quantitative skills – Students will demonstrate empirical and quantitative skills by analyzing applied environmental science concepts via course assignments, discussions, and exams.

Teamwork – Students will demonstrate teamwork skills by functioning as collaborative and cooperative small groups to answer instructor posed questions and/or complete assignments.

MINIMUM TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Canvas

Courses at Midland College are delivered utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System. Read information about the [computer system requirements](#) for Canvas.

Word Processing, Spreadsheet, and Presentation Software

You will need access to a word processing program such as Microsoft Word, a spreadsheet program such as Excel, and a presentation program such as PowerPoint to create and submit some of your assignments. If you do not have these programs, you can get a free version of Microsoft 365 or OpenOffice, an open

source (free) program. If you use OpenOffice to create your assignments, be sure to save the file in the appropriate format prior to submission.

Download [Microsoft 365 free](#) Includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other tools.

Download [OpenOffice](#) Includes a word, spreadsheet, and presentation program.

Adobe Acrobat Reader

In order to download and print pdf files, you will need a free program, Adobe Acrobat Reader.

[Download Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)

GRADING POLICY

LECTURE/LAB GRADING PROPORTION: Lecture 70% of Course Grade; Lab 30% of Course Grade

Lecture: 70% of total course grade, may be composed of the following

Exams: 80% - 100%

On-line Quizzes/Writing Assignments: 0 – 20%

Lab: 30% of total course grade, may be composed of the following

Exams: 50% - 100%

Lab Reports from Lab Activities: 0 – 40%

Attendance: 0 – 10%

GRADING SCALE:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = Below 60

COVID-19 note (regarding exams):

If circumstances associated with the Coronavirus require the Midland College Campus, or the instructor, or an individual student (with a documented confirmed positive case) to quarantine, online exam protocol will be observed. In the event the entire class or individual students are unable to take an exam on the MC campus as per the above-noted methods, it is the student's responsibility obtain and install Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor (with a computer web cam) to take exams during the quarantined time period.

"What-If" grade feature in Canvas.

The "What-If" tool allows students to calculate their total grade by entering hypothetical grades for all assignments. To test a different score for an assignment, students can click an assignment grade and enter a score in the score column.

Canvas Guide for What-If Scores or (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2858>).

Student Contributions, Responsibilities and Class Policies:

Students will be expected to comply with the policies outlined in the Midland College student handbook. Instructor policies concerning academic behavior are consistent with the policies in the student handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is the responsibility of the students to know the policies and procedures associated with absences. These policies are set by instructors and can be found on the instructor's handout. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to, illness, severe weather, and death in the family. Instructors will determine whether or not an absence is excused. Please visit the [Midland College catalog](#)

Students will be evaluated based on the results of examinations, as well as Canvas-based quizzes, and writing assignments given throughout the semester. Your lecture instructor will inform you on the first day of class as to the tentative dates and content for each assignment. Students are expected to complete each assignment. Your instructor will inform you on the first day of class as to make-up procedures for missed exams and any exemption procedures if they apply (See Instructor Handout).

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Students who have enrolled in a Texas public institution of higher education as a first-time freshman in fall 2007 or later are permitted to drop no more than six courses during the entire undergraduate career. This limit includes all transfer work taken at a Texas institution of higher education and to second baccalaureate degrees. This statute was enacted by the State of Texas in spring 2007 (Texas Education Code 51.907). Any course that a student drops after Census Day is counted toward the six-course limit if "(1) the student was able to drop the course without receiving a grade or incurring an academic penalty; (2) the student's transcript indicates or will indicate that the student was enrolled in the course; and (3) the student is not dropping the course in order to withdraw from the institution." Please visit the [Midland College Catalog](#)

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Midland College does not tolerate scholastic dishonesty or academic misconduct in any form. Please read the MC Student Handbook on this subject. Please visit the [Midland College Catalog](#)

ADA STATEMENT:

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must place documentation on file with the Counselor/Disability Specialist. Students with disabilities should notify Midland College prior to the beginning of each semester. Student Services will provide each student with a letter outlining any reasonable accommodations. The student must present the letter to the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Math & Science Division CONTACT Information:

Division Office: AHSF 124 (432) 685-4561

Division E-Mail: mns@midland.edu

Department Chair: Mr. Tomas Hernandez (432) 685-6751

Dean: Dr. Miranda Poage

Secretary: Sarah Anderson

TENTATIVE LECTURE and LAB SCHEDULE (Please Attach Schedule HERE)