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SCI 350.01: Environmental Perspectives

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Science 350
Environmental Perspectives

Fall 2011
The University of Montana

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Textbook: <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/>
Last Child in the Woods, Richard Louv *(This text will be provided)*

Course Description: The goal of Science 350, Environmental Perspectives is to give students a conceptual understanding of the complexity of environmental science and gain experience in applying their understanding of human interactions with the environment to teaching. The course meets for approximately two hours a week and includes discussions, lectures and activities involving the central themes in environmental science and environmental education. One of the primary aims of the discussions and lectures is to provide students with an understanding of major ecological concepts and environmental issues necessary for responsible citizenship regarding the environment. In addition to discussions and lectures students will be involved in educational activities that model the content being discussed. At the end of class students will have a foundation of understanding of environmental science and have a collection of activities and resources they can use as teachers

Objectives: Lecture/Discussion Meetings

1. To give the students experience with the basic concepts underlying introductory environmental science in an accurate, balanced, and interesting way.
2. To show how environmental and resource issues are interesting, and important in our lives.
3. To show how population, pollution, and resource problems are interrelated and must be understood in an integrated manner on local, national, and global scales.
4. To give a realistic but hopeful view of how much has been done and what remains to be done in sustaining the Earth for humans and other species.
5. To develop skills in environmental problem solving; gathering, analyzing, synthesizing and interpreting information, and joint critical decision-making.
6. To provide opportunities to apply acquired knowledge regarding environmental problems in an educational setting.
7. To substitute feelings of apathy and powerlessness with the feeling that one individual or group can make a difference.

Lecture Syllabus

WEEK TOPIC

READING

How the Biosphere Works: Ecological Principles and Applications

8/30 Introduction to Envir. Sci & Course Overview

9/6 Ecological Principles and Application

Understanding Human Populations Impact on the Environment

9/13 Human Population

9/20 Human Population

Quiz #1

Environmental Resources: Protecting Biospheric Components

9/27 Biological Resources

10/4 Water Resources

10/11 Mineral/Soil Resources

10/18 Air Resources

Quiz #2/Optional Portfolio Lesson Check

Managing & Preserving The Materials and Products of Human Society

10/25 Climate Change *(Start reading Last Child in the Woods)*

11/1 Energy

11/8 Food Resources

11/15 Public Lands

Shaping Human Impacts on the Biosphere

11/22 Environmental Education: Last Child in the Woods

11/29 Environmental Education: Foundations

12/6 Environmental Education: Lesson/Presentations

Quiz #3

Student Evaluation

Quizzes: You will be given three quizzes involving the discussion/lecture and text material. The quizzes will be short answer in nature. All quizzes are worth 50 points each totaling 150 pts. Quizzes will be given following each major unit studied in class and are commonly take-home tests.

EE Teaching Resources: You will be asked to develop a portfolio for class that involves the identification and selection of activities, lessons plans or websites that you could use as a professional involving the content in the course. Each entry in the portfolio will include a description of the activity/lesson plan/website and a reflection on why you chose the lesson plan and how it fits into a theme you have selected for all entries. The portfolio will be worth 50 pts. Further details on the requirements for the portfolio will be given in class.

Last Child in the Woods: You will be given a book to read and discuss in class entitled ‘Last Child in the Woods: The Nature Deficit Disorder’. In addition to the classroom discussions you will be turning in a written essay regarding your interpretations, connections and reactions to the book. The essay is worth 50 pts.

Your final grade is based on 300 points and graded using the following scale.

250-225 = A

224-200 = B

199-175 = C

174-150 = D

****** You are responsible to turn in assignments on the assigned dates. Late work will be reduced by 50% and no work will be given credit beyond one week after the due date.