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Fall 9-1-2000

SCI 350.01: Environmental Perspectives

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Brown, Fletcher, "SCI 350.01: Environmental Perspectives" (2000). *Syllabi*. 5165.

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Science 350
Environmental Perspectives

Fall 2000
The University of Montana

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Textbook: Biosphere 200: Protecting Our Global Environment. By D.G. Kaufman & C.M. Franz

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 solving environmental issues. The course meets for two hours a week and includes discussions, lectures and activities involving the central themes in environmental science. 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 which model the content being discussed. Following these exploration activities groups become active participants in solving a local environmental issue. These action group projects give students hands-on experiences in the complexities of solving environmental problems involving the social/political components of environmental issues.

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 fun, 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.

Objectives: Laboratory/Field Experiences

1. To develop skills in environmental problem-solving; gathering, analyzing, synthesizing and interpreting information, and joint critical decision making.
2. To place education content in a meaningful context.
3. To provide opportunities to apply acquired knowledge to an environmental problem that students have identified and recognized as important.
4. To substitute feelings of apathy and powerlessness with the feeling that one individual or group can make a difference.

Lecture Syllabus

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
<u>How the Biosphere Works: Ecological Principles and Applications</u>		
9/6	Introduction, What is environmental science?	CH 1&2
9/13	Structural components of the environment	CH 3
9/20	Functional components of the environment	CH 4
<i>Take-home quiz #1</i>		
<u>Understanding Human Populations Impact on the Environment</u>		
9/27	Human Population	CH 8
10/4	Human Population	CH 9
10/11	Energy Resources	CH 11-13
<i>Take-home quiz #2</i>		
<u>Environmental Resources: Protecting Biospheric Components</u>		
10/18	Biodiversity	CH 17
10/25	Water Resources	CH 15
11/1	Air Resources	CH 14
11/8	Mineral Resources	CH 18
11/15	Public lands & Wilderness	CH 22
11/22	No Class	
<u>Shaping Human Impacts on the Biosphere</u>		
11/29	Waste	CH 21
12/6	Cultural	CH 25 CH 27
12/13	Environmental Education	CH 28
<i>Take-home quiz #3</i>		
12/21	Final: Action Group Presentations	

Evaluation

Quizzes: You will be given three quizzes involving the discussion/lecture and text material. The quizzes will be short answer in nature. The first two quizzes are worth 30 pts and the last quiz is worth 40 totaling 100p pts. Quizzes will be given following each major unit studied in class and are commonly take-home tests.

Portfolio: **You** will be asked to develop a portfolio for class which involves the creation of lessons plans that you could use as an elementary teacher involving the content in the course. Each entry in the portfolio will include a description of the lesson plan and a reflection on why you chose the lesson plan and how it fits into a theme you have chosen for all entries. The portfolio will be worth 100 pts. Further details on the requirements for the portfolio will be given in class.

Community Service Project: During the last third of class you will be involved in a community service project that involves a local environmental issue. This is a group project and you will share our work with the rest of the class during the class final time in December. This project is worth 50 pts.

Your final grade is based on 250 points and graded using the following scale.

225-250 = A

200-224 = B

175-199 = C

150-174 = 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.