Course Change Request

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 11/07/17 12:35 pm

Viewing: EVPP 112 : Ecosphere: Introduction to

Environmental Science II-Lecture

Last edit: 11/07/17 12:35 pm

Changes proposed by: ykih

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

In Workflow

- 1. ESP Chair
- 2. SC Curriculum Committee
- 3. SC Associate Dean
- 4. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
- 5. Registrar-Courses
- 6. Banner

Approval Path

- 10/31/17 10:09 pm
 A. Alonso Aguirre

 (aaguirr3):
 Approved for ESP
 Chair
- 2. 11/06/17 12:26 pm Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz): Rollback to Initiator
- 3. 11/07/17 12:55 pmA. Alonso Aguirre(aaguirr3):Approved for ESPChair

Yes

Requestor:

Name		Extension	Email
Kim Largen		3-1048	klargen@gmu.edu
Effective Term: Spring		2018	
Subject Code: EVPP -		Environmental Science & Policy	Course Number: 112

Bundled Courses:

Equivalent Courses:	
Catalog Title:	Ecosphere: Introduction to Environmental Science II-Lecture
Banner Title:	Intro Env Sci II-Lecture
Will section titles vary by semester?	No
Credits:	3
Schedule Type:	Lecture
Hours of Lecture or Se week:	eminar per 3
Repeatable:	May only be taken once for credit (NR)
Default Grade Mode:	Undergraduate Regular
Recommended Prerequisite(s): EVPP 113 (may be ta	ken concurrently)
Recommended Corequisite(s):	

Required Prerequisite(s) / Corequisite(s) (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Required Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s):

And/Or	(Course/Test Code	Min Grade/Score	Academic Level)	Concurrency?	

Registration Restrictions (Updates only):

Registrar's Office Use Only - Registration Restrictions:

Field(s) of Study: Class(es): Level(s): Degree(s): School(s):

Catalog

Description:

Studies components and interactions that make up natural systems of our home planet. Teaches basic concepts in biological, chemical, physical, and Earth sciences in lecture format, focusing on major environmental issues from a scientific perspective.

Justification:

Decoupling of the lecture and lab portions of EVPP 111 so that students seeking a 3-credit hour natural science course may take only the lecture portion of the course.

Does this course cover material which No crosses into another department?

Learning Outcomes:

• Understand how scientific inquiry is based on investigation of evidence from the natural world, and that scientific knowledge and understanding:

🖻 evolves based on new evidence.

differs from personal and cultural belief.

- Recognize the scope and limits of science.
- Recognize and articulate the relationship between the natural sciences and society and the application of science to societal challenges (e.g., health, conservation, sustainability, energy, natural disasters, etc.).

• Evaluate scientific information (e.g., distinguish primary and secondary sources, assess credibility and validity of information).

• Participate in scientific inquiry and communicate the elements of the process, including:

making careful and systematic observations.

- B developing and testing a hypothesis.
- analyzing evidence.

interpreting results.

Attach Syllabus

EVPP 112-Syllabus_Final.pdf

Additional Attachments

Staffing:

Kim Largen

Relationship to

Existing Programs:

EVPP 111 is one of two semesters of environmental science that fulfills the Mason Core natural science requirements for non-science majors.

Relationship to Existing Courses:

EVPP 111: Ecosphere: Introduction to Environmental Science II (4 credits, Lab+Lecture)

Additional Comments:

Reviewer

Comments

Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz) (11/06/17 12:26 pm): Rollback: Dr. Kim, if students may be taking EVPP 113 at the same time, it would be good to write "may be taken concurrently" next to 113 in the prerequisites.

Key: 15671

EVPP 112 - Ecosphere: Introduction to Environmental Science II - Lecture Only

Spring 2018

I. University-level Course Information

A. Course Administrative Details

<u>Title</u>: "The Ecosphere - Introduction to Environmental Science II" <u>Number</u>: EVPP 112 <u>Section</u>: 001 <u>Credits</u>: This lecture course is worth 3 credit-hours <u>Meeting Days and Times</u>: TBD <u>Location</u>: TBD <u>Blackboard</u>: Blackboard will be utilized in this course.

B. Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

C. Course Description

Studies components and interactions that make up natural systems of our home planet. Teaches basic concepts in biological, chemical, physical, and earth sciences in lecture format.

D. Course Goals

EVPP 112 is one of a two course Mason Core natural science sequence (EVPP 110 & EVPP 112). This <u>is</u> an environmental <u>science</u> course, <u>not</u> an environmental <u>studies</u> course. The course will teach basic concepts in <u>biological</u>, <u>chemical</u>, <u>physical</u>, <u>and earth sciences</u> in lecture.

The Mason Core natural sciences courses engage students in scientific exploration; foster their curiosity; enhance their enthusiasm for science; and enable them to apply scientific knowledge and reasoning to personal, professional and public decision-making.

To achieve these goals, students will:

- Understand how scientific inquiry is based on investigation of evidence from the natural world, and that scientific knowledge and understanding:
 - evolves based on new evidence.
 - differs from personal and cultural belief.
- Recognize the scope and limits of science.
- Recognize and articulate the relationship between the natural sciences and society and the application of science to societal challenges (e.g., health, conservation, sustainability, energy, natural disasters, etc.).
- Evaluate scientific information (e.g., distinguish primary and secondary sources, assess credibility and validity of information).
- Participate in scientific inquiry and communicate the elements of the process, including:

- making careful and systematic observations.
- developing and testing a hypothesis.
- analyzing evidence.
- interpreting results.

E. Mason Core Learning Objectives Fulfilled by the Course

EVPP 112 is one of two semesters of environmental science that fulfills the Mason Core natural science requirements for non-science majors.

II. Course Materials

A. Required

1. Lecture

The following items are **<u>required</u>** for the lecture portion of this course:

- a. **Top Hat® student response system** software license <u>and</u> a web-enabled device of your choice (laptop, netbook, tablet, cell phone) which must be brought to each lecture class.
- b. Mastering Environmental Science with Pearson EText Standalone Access Card

 for Environment: The Science Behind the Stories (ISBN-13: 978-0-13-451701-8)
 for the 6th edition of the textbook Environment: Science Behind the Stories by Withgott and Laposata.

III. Course Structure

A. Lecture Class Format

1. Partially Flipped Classroom

This class will operate under a "partially flipped" structure. This means that students will be required to view some recorded lectures outside of the regular class period so that more of the lecture class time may be devoted to active learning.

2. Powerpoint Presentations

Some lecture class periods will be devoted to covering material in the traditional format of the instructor delivering Powerpoint-based lectures. When a Powerpoint-based lecture is delivered in class, the Powerpoint presentation itself will be available on Blackboard.

Some Powerpoint lectures will be recorded in a voice-over/screen-capture format. It will be the student's responsibility to view these outside of the regular lecture class period and students will be responsible for the material in the recorded presentations. These recorded presentations will be available on Blackboard.

This distribution of in-class live lectures versus out-of-class recorded lectures is not determined in advance. The instructor will post an announcement in Blackboard at least one day in advance when students are expected to view a recorded lecture.

3. Class Work

The lectures will be interspersed with various types of class work. The class work will be executed via the Top Hat ® student response system <u>and</u> in-class activities in other formats, such as:

- Answering questions (multiple choice, matching, ordering, short answer, discussion) about lecture material.
- Doing an assigned reading in-class and then answering questions about the reading.
- Completing worksheets.
- Labeling diagrams.
- Preparing graphs from provided data.
- Participating is class discussions about lecture material, current topics, assigned readings.

B. Lecture Class Period

Lecture classes meeting a total of 2.5 hours per week.

C. Lecture Schedule

The lecture schedule can be found at the end of this syllabus. This schedule indicates the lecture topics planned for each lecture class as well as the exam dates. Time may not permit the coverage of all listed topics but the order of coverage will generally proceed as listed even if some topics are skipped over.

IV. Grading and Coursework

A. Course Workload

During a regular semester, a general rule of thumb for the amount of time that will be required outside of class time for a course is 1 to 3 hours per credit hour (1 hour/credit hour for "easy" courses, 3 hours/credit hour for "difficult" course). Whether or not this course is "easy", "moderate" or "difficult" depends on each student's background, interest, aptitude, study skills, etc. Depending on where you fall within that spectrum, you should expect to spend between 4 and 12 hours each week on this course outside of the time you spend in the lecture and lab classes.

B. Course Grading Scale

The final course grade will be assigned based on the final total number of combined points received in lecture and lab relative to the grading scale shown in the table below.

<u>Final Course Points</u>	<u>Final Course</u>	<u>Final Course</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>
960 - 1000	96% - 100%	A+	4.00
900 - 959	90% - 95.9%	A	4.00
880 - 899	88% - 89.9%	A-	3.67
860 - 879	86% - 87.9%	B+	3.33
800 - 859	80% - 85.9%	В	3.00
780 - 799	78% - 79.9%	В-	2.67
760 - 779	76% - 77.9%	C+	2.33
700 - 759	70% - 75.9%	С	2.00

680 - 699	68% - 69.9%	С-	1.67
600 - 679	60% - 67.9%	D	1.00
≤ 599	≤ 59.9%	F	0

C. Lecture Work and Grade Components

The lecture grade will be based on the exams, Top Hat questions, in-class activities, and Mastering Environmental Science assignments. Explanations of each of these components can be found in the sections of that follow. The table below summarizes what portion of the lecture grade will be determined by each of the components of the lecture work.

Lecture Grade Component	# Points	% of Lecture	Comment
Exam #1	167	23.855%	The score on either exam #1 or exam #2
Exam #2	167	23.855%	can be replaced by the score on optional portion of the final exam (part 2)
Exam #3	166	23.71%	The score on this exam cannot be
Classwork (including in-class activities and Top Hat ® questions)	100	14.29%	A minimum of 130 points worth of in-class activities will be administered but only 100 points will be counted.
Mastering Environmental Science ®	100	14.29%	130 points worth of assignments have been made but only 100 points will be counted.
Total	700	100%	

1. Exams (500 of the 700 possible points, or 71.42%)

There will be **three** exams, the first two each worth 167 points (23.855% each) of the total possible 700 points for lecture. The 3rd exam is worth 166 points of the total possible of 700 for the course (23.71%) and will be administered during the scheduled "final exam" period. The exam administered during the "final exam" period will consist of two parts. Part 1 will consist of questions on the new material covered since exam **2**. **Part 1 is NOT OPTIONAL**, it will be graded separately from part 2 and the grade will be recorded as the grade for exam 3, and the grade on part 1 cannot be replaced. **Part 2 is OPTIONAL**, consists of questions from exams 1 and 2, and will be graded separately from part 1. If a student does better on part 2 of the final exam than on either the 1st or 2nd regular exam, the grade received for part 1 cannot be dropped, nor can it be improved upon based on the grade received on part 2 of the final exam.

Students must provide their own scantron form for each exam.

<u>No make-up exams will be administered</u>. If a student misses a class during which the 1st or 2nd exam is administered, the student will receive a <u>zero</u> for that exam and will then be <u>required</u> to take both parts of the final exam. If a student knows <u>in</u> <u>advance</u> that he/she will miss a class during which the 1st or 2nd exam is administered, it <u>might</u> be possible to make arrangements to take the exam in <u>advance</u>. The dates of the exams can be found in the "lecture schedule" at the end of this document. 2. Classwork (100 of the 700 possible points, or 14.29%)

Classwork will take the form of activities such as:

- Answering questions using the Top Hat ® student response system.
- Doing an assigned reading in-class and then answering questions about the reading.
- Completing worksheets or graphs.
- Labeling diagrams.
- Participating is class discussions about lecture material, current topics, assigned readings.

A minimum of 130 points worth of in-class activities will be conducted.

Classwork <u>cannot be made-up if missed due to absence</u> from lecture, <u>regardless of</u> <u>the validity of the reason for the absence</u>, or due to arriving late or leaving early from class. See the "attendance" section later in this syllabus for additional information. In recognition that students might miss an occasional lecture class, when calculating the final lecture grade, only 100 of the 130 points will be counted such that missing a small number of lecture classes will not negatively impact the grade for this component. **PLEASE NOTE:** The purpose of this policy is to enable <u>ANY absence to be absorbed</u> <u>under a single policy</u>. It is not structured in this manner so that frivolous absences can be absorbed but then when unavoidable absences (such as but not limited to illnesses, traffic delays, doctor's appointments, sick children, court appointments, car trouble, religious holiday observations, participation in school sanctioned activities such as athletics) occur, students seek out waivers and exceptions to the policy.

Some classwork will be graded based on completion and others will be graded based on accuracy. Most days that an classwork is administered, the attendance function of Top Hat ® will be utilized at the beginning and end of class to document students' presence.

Some classwork will consist only of a session of Top Hat ® questions. Others will consist only of a paper-based in-class activity. And some may consist of a combination of a paper-based in-class activity along with related Top Hat ® questions.

Students will receive a single grade for each classwork session. It is possible that more than one activity will be conducted in a single class period such that missing that class will result in missing two activities, while missing a separate class may result in missing a single activity. Classwork point values will vary. Most in-class activities will be worth 5 points (out of the 700 possible) but some may be worth as much as 10 points (out of the 700 possible)

Most Top Hat @ questions will be graded in such a way that students will receive 9/10ths of the possible credit for participating and 1/10th of the possible credit if the answer is correct.

Classwork <u>cannot be made-up if missed due to absence</u> from lecture, <u>regardless of</u> <u>the validity of the reason for the absence</u>, <u>or due to arriving late or leaving early</u> from class. See the "attendance" section later in this syllabus for additional information. In recognition that students might miss an occasional lecture class, when calculating the final lecture grade, only 100 of the 130 points will be counted such that missing a small number of lecture classes will not negatively impact the grade for this component. <u>PLEASE NOTE</u>: The purpose of this policy is to enable **ANY** absences to be absorbed under a single policy. It is not structured in this manner so that frivolous absences can be absorbed but then when unavoidable absences (such as but not limited to illnesses, traffic delays, doctor's appointments, sick children, court appointments, car trouble, religious holiday observations, participation in school sanctioned activities such as athletics) occur, students seek out waivers and exceptions to the policy.

Students are responsible for resolving any technical difficulties they have with the Top Hat system. If students cannot connect to the WiFi in the classroom, there are two alternatives to still receive credit for a question:

- Submit your answer by sending a text message from your phone.
- Use the offline mode. As long as a student is using the latest iOS or Android version of the Top Hat application, Top Hat will be able to detect when the internet connection is weak and will provide a message to that effect. At that point, the student can switch to offline mode (by clicking on "go offline") and continue making submissions that are saved locally and the next time you open Top Hat and an internet connection is available, your saved answers will be submitted and your grades will be updated automatically.

Students must work directly with the Top Hat company to resolve all technical issues. There are three ways to get help:

- Email Top Hat at support@tophat.com by clicking on "create a support ticket" within the "contact support" page
- Call directly to 1-888-663-5491 and follow the prompts
- Click on "live chat" within the "contact support" page

If Top Hat is notified of a technical issue before 6pm eastern time, they attempt to resolve it the same day. If they are informed of a technical issue after 6pm eastern time, they attempt to resolve it no later than the following day.

Students must inform the instructor of technical difficulties <u>during class</u> <u>immediately following the question</u> during which the technical difficulty occurred. Students will receive full credit for the Top Hat grade for only the first instance of technical difficulties. Students will receive only the participation portion of the Top Hat grade for the 2nd through 4th instances of technical difficulties. Students will not receive any credit for the Top Hat grade for instances of technical difficulties beyond the 4th instance. The purpose of this policy is to provide an incentive for students to resolve the technical difficulty quickly. The only exception to this policy will occur if students can provide documentation that they have been working with the Top Hat company to resolve the technical difficulty but resolution has not occurred due to issues at the Top Hat end. In that event, students will continue to receive full credit for the Top Hat grades until the Top Hat company resolves the issue.

3. Mastering Environmental Science (100 of the 700 possible points, or 14%)

Students <u>must</u> have access to the *Mastering Environmental Science* website. Please see section IV. A. 1 above for information about required materials for the lecture portion of the course.

Ten assignments from Mastering Environmental Science (referred to in this document from this point as MES) have been made and are due on most Wednesdays of the semester. The first MES assignment is due Wednesday, 1/31/18, by 11:59pm. All MES due dates will be posted on Blackboard and in the MES program.

Students are responsible for the correct registration in the MES course associated with this class. The information for this class is:

- Course ID: EVPP112SPRING2018
- Course Name: EVPP 112 Spring 2018

When registering for MES, it is important that you enter your first and last names exactly as they appear in the GMU records and that you use your GMU email. MOST IMPORTANTLY, students must use their <u>GMU user name</u> when prompted to enter their "student ID" when registering for MES. Your GMU user name is everything in front of the @ sign in your GMU email address. For example, my GMU email address is <u>klargen@gmu.edu</u> and my GMU user name is klargen. In order to receive credit for your MES work, you must follow these instructions.

It is the student's responsibility to resolve all technical difficulties with the technical support department of MES.

Late MES assignments are penalized at the rate of 2% per hour <u>regardless of</u> <u>the reason for them being late</u>, including technical difficulties. This penalty results in the assignment having rapidly diminishing point value after the due date and time, and no point value by the time the assignment is 50 hours late. Additional aspects of the grading of the MES assignments are as follows:

- There is no time limit for completing an MES assignment except within the context of its due date.
- Students have 3 attempts to answer MES questions but there is a 25% penalty applied to a question answered incorrectly before the last attempt.
- There is a 2% bonus applied to a question answered without opening a hint.
- There is a 3% deduction applied to a question for which a hint was opened.

The total point value of the 10 assignments is 130 points. The point value assigned to each assignment varies, as shown in the "Mastering Environmental Science Assignments" document posted on Blackboard. When calculating the final lecture grade, only 100 of those points will be counted. PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this policy is to enable MES assignments missed for any reason (valid or not) to be absorbed under a single policy. It is not structured in this manner so that frivolous reasons for missed MES assignments can be absorbed but then when unavoidable missed assignments occur (such as but not limited to illnesses, computer crashes, forgetfulness, religious holiday observances, participation in school sanctioned activities such as athletics, MES technical difficulties), students seek out waivers and exceptions to the policy.

All MES assignments for the entire semester are available the first day of the semester and all of the due dates are noted in the "Mastering Environmental Science Assignments" document posted in Blackboard as well as on the MES website. It is the student's responsibility to keep abreast of assignments and their due dates.

The topics covered in a given MES assignment may or may not have been discussed in lecture before the assignment is due. Since the MES assignments are "open book", students are expected to complete the assignments by the due dates <u>even if the</u> <u>material has not yet been covered in lecture</u>. Students are encouraged to seek assistance from the course instructor or an undergraduate learning assistant if they are having difficulty with an MES assignment.

4. Extra Credit (maximum of 50 points)

A limited number of extra credit opportunities will be made available, at the instructor's discretion. The intent of extra credit is not to enable a student who is failing the course due to overall poor academic performance to pass the course. The purpose of extra credit is to provide an incentive for students to partake of opportunities that cannot otherwise be provided in the context of the course and to experience the viewpoints of professionals others than the regular course instructors.

It is NOT possible to provide a selection of extra credit opportunities that will satisfy the scheduling requirements of every student in the class. Therefore, it is expected that there will be extra credit opportunities made available that some students will not be able to take advantage of due to their own work or class schedules. Some opportunities will be unavailable to some students because it is necessary for students to provide their own transportation. At least four extra credit opportunities will be on-line assignments, meaning that they are accessible to all students in the course.

The actions necessary in order to receive the extra credit will vary by opportunity. In some cases the only requirement is to attend an event and sign in and out on a sign up sheet. In other cases, a brief written assignment will be required. In the case of the on-line opportunities, an on-line quiz will be the basis for the number of extra credit points received.

The extra credit opportunities will be listed on Blackboard in a file in the folder titled "extra credit opportunities and assessments". It is the student's responsibility to check this list often. Sometimes opportunities become available on short notice.

Students may accrue a maximum of 50 extra credit points which will be applied to their lecture grade. There is no guarantee made in advance that 50 points worth of extra credit opportunities will be made available during the semester.

Students attending extra credit opportunities are expected to participate <u>fully</u>. Failing to participate fully will result in the student NOT receiving the full number of extra credit points possible for that opportunity. For example, showing up to a presentation and sleeping through it will result in the student not receiving the extra credit points. Please note that there will be no "pro-rating" of points for attending only part of an event. To do so would encourage the practice of arriving late to or leaving early from a presentation which is disrespectful and rude.

Students are expected to <u>exhibit exemplary behavior</u> when attending any extra credit event!! Plan to arrive on time and stay until the end of the event. Give the presenter your full and <u>respectful</u> attention (no chatting, no use of electronic devices,

etc.). Any reports to Dr. Largen of inappropriate behavior by EVPP 112 students in attendance at an event will result in 1) revocation of the extra credit points awarded to the offending student(s), and 2) the possible cancellation all remaining extra credit opportunities for all students in all classes.

All provisions pertaining to the GMU Honor Code and academic integrity apply to all extra credit opportunities and falsifying information about attendance at an extra credit opportunity will result in the student being reported to the Honor Committee.

Due to the varied times during which lab sections are scheduled, it is possible that an extra credit opportunity might be made available even though it conflicts with the class time of a lab section. The appearance of an extra credit opportunity on the list does not imply that a student will be excused from attending lab or lecture in order to attend the extra credit event.

Students may not receive extra credit for activities or projects that are not on the official course list. In other words, please do not approach your lab or lecture instructor to ask that some event that you attended be counted as extra credit. You are welcomed to bring to Dr. Largen's attention <u>in advance</u> any event that you become aware of that might make an appropriate extra credit opportunity and it is possible that it will be added to the list so that all students in the course have the theoretical possibility of taking advantage of it.

V. Course Policies

A. Attendance

1. Expectations

Attendance to lecture classes is expected and required.

2. Impact of Absences on Class Work Grades

Attendance is not directly a component of the course grade. However, classwork is a component of the lecture grade and students cannot complete these components when they arrive late, leave early, or are absent form lecture class.

Missed classwork cannot be made up, <u>regardless of the validity of the reason</u> for the absence. To rephrase: Even if the absence is unavoidable, the result of a valid reason, and/or not your fault, being absent will result in a zero for that day's classwork. There is a minor exception to the above paragraph. Absences caused by religious observance and participation in university-sponsored activities, are governed by academic policy (AP) 1.6.1 which states that students must provide their instructor <u>within the first two weeks</u> of the semester a list of "the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent, and the dates for which they are requesting an excused absence for participation in any university-sponsored activity scheduled prior to the start of the semester, and as soon as possible otherwise."

Students who miss a lecture class due to a religious observation or participation in a university-sponsored activity AND notified their lecture instructor in advance, per AP 1.6.1, <u>will</u> be permitted the following "**reasonable**" opportunities to reduce the impact on their grade of those lecture absences:

- Students who have notified the instructor in advance of an anticipated lecture class absence (for a reason governed by AP 1.6.1) during which an exam is scheduled may make arrangements to take the exam <u>early</u>. No make-up exams will be administered after the exam has been given to the full class.
- Students who have notified the instructor in advance of an anticipated lecture class absence during which classwork is subsequently administered (these are not scheduled in advance) will be given the opportunity to complete the classwork individually <u>only if</u> the classwork was in the form of a paper-based inclass activity.

Academic policy 1.6.1 requires that "reasonable" opportunities be provided to reduce the impact on a student's grade caused by missing a lecture class due to a religious observance or participation in a university-sponsored event. Since the purpose of the Top Hat questions is to measure the collective grasp of material at a particular point in the lecture, the scoring of answers is done automatically, and the correct answers are made available immediately after the class performance on the questions is analyzed and discussed, there is **NO** "reasonable", fair opportunity to minimize the impact on the student's grade of missing Top Hat questions. Therefore, students who miss Top Hat questions due to absence from lecture class due to religious observance or participation in university-sponsored activities will <u>not</u> receive credit for the missed Top Hat questions. However, please note that the general policy pertaining to the class work grade component of lecture will allow for a small number of missed lecture classes without negative impact on the student's grade. A minimum of 130 points worth of class work will be administered but only 100 of those points will be counted in the calculation of the final lecture grade.

B. Email Expectations

Students <u>must</u> use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class (see also "student privacy" above). See <u>http://masonlive.gmu.edu</u> for more information. The instructor will <u>not</u> open emails if the sender is not identifiable/recognizable. The instructor will attempt to respond to emails within 48 hours but students must recognize that the instructor is not on-line 24/7. Clearly stating the purpose of the email in the subject line and the lecture section you are in will help the instructor provide a faster response to emails. The instructor will not give priority to emails requesting information that is clearly available in the syllabus or on Blackboard, and the response to such emails will be "see syllabus."

C. Instructional Continuity in the Event of University Closings

In the even the that this class is cancelled due to the university closing all day or opening late for any reason, students <u>may</u> be directed by the instructor to view and listen to lectures recorded in Kaltura and posted in Blackboard as a way to make up for some number of the missed lecture classes. In the event that it becomes necessary to do so,

the instructor will inform students of the necessity and provide instructions for accessing the Kaltura presentations.

D. Grades in Blackboard

Lecture grades will be <u>recorded</u> in Blackboard. It is the student's responsibility to compare the lecture grades recorded in Blackboard with the grades noted on lecture work that is returned to students or is posted in the Mastering Environmental Science website and to inform the lab instructor in a timely manner of any discrepancies between the those grades and the grades in Blackboard. The following information and grades will be recorded for lecture in Blackboard:

• Individual columns:

- <u>Classwork</u>: A grade column will be created for each piece of classwork that is conducted. Each of these columns will begin with "CW," following by date, point value, and possibly additional identifying information. These grades will be recorded as a point value. For example, if the activity was worth 5 points and you received a grade of 4 points, the value recorded in this column will be 4. It will not be recorded as a percent grade.
- <u>Mastering Environmental Science</u>: A grade column will be created for each of the 10 mastering Environmental Science assignment grades. Each of the columns will begin with "MES" followed by the assignment number and the point value. Students will also be able to see their MES grades in the MES program. Periodically, these grades will be transferred to Blackboard. These grades will be recorded as a point value. For example, if the activity was worth 15 points and you received a grade of 13 points, the value recorded in this column will be 13. It will not be recorded as a percent grade.
- <u>Exams</u>: For each exam, three grade columns will be created one for the raw score (which is the number of questions correctly answered out of the total number of questions on the exam, for example 44/50), one for the percent score (which is your raw score converted to a percent score, for example 44/50 is 88%), and the point score (which is the number of points out of the 170 points each exam is worth, for example a percent score of 88 produces a point score of 149.6).
- <u>Total columns</u>: The following columns, headed as shown below, will update automatically throughout the semester:
 - <u>"CW Total (max of 100)"</u>: This column will show a running total of all points accrued to date on <u>classwork</u>. Since Blackboard cannot "drop" any of the scores it is important to note that this column <u>could</u> show a total higher than the maximum 100 points from this grade component than will count toward the final lab grade.
 - <u>"MES Total (max of 100)"</u>: This column will show a running total of all points accrued to date on the <u>mastering Environmental Science assignments</u>. Since Blackboard cannot "drop" any of the scores it is important to note that this

column <u>could</u> show a total higher than the maximum 100 points from this grade component than will count toward the final lab grade.

<u>"Exam Total (max of 510)"</u>: This column will show a running total of all <u>points</u> accrued to date on the <u>exams</u>. Since Blackboard cannot "drop" one of the scores it is important to note that this column <u>could</u> show a total higher than the maximum 510 points from this grade component than will count toward the final lab grade.

<u>It is important to note that Blackboard is NOT set up to calculate student's overall</u> <u>lecture or course grade at any point during the semester.</u> Blackboard creates its own "total" column to which everything entered into Blackboard is added, regardless of the purpose of the values entered. For example, the "MES Total" column would be added to the total that Blackboard automatically creates, along with all of the individual MES assignment grades that have been recorded. <u>IGNORE THE BLACKBOARD-CREATED</u> "TOTAL" COLUMN.

It is the student's responsibility to understand the preceding paragraph. Failing to understand the preceding paragraph could result in a student mistakenly concluding that their lecture grade (or course grade) is much higher than it actually is.

VI. University Policies

A. Academic Integrity

EVPP 112 lecture is governed by the GMU Honor Code. Please refer to the Office of Academic Integrity website at <u>http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/</u> for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. All course work is expected to be completed INDIVIDUALLY. Copying classmates' work on any assignment or exam (except for the sharing of raw data) is considered **cheating** and a violation of the Honor Code. The formal lab report must be the independent work of each student. If an instructor discovers that two or more students have submitted work (especially lab reports) that are partially or entirely identical, all students involved will be reported to the Honor Code will not be tolerated.

Students suspected of cheating during exams will, at a minimum, asked to changed seats and may be asked to leave and forfeit the exam.

Another aspect of academic integrity is the free exchange of ideas. It is expected that all aspects of this class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt about any aspect of academic integrity as it pertains to this course, please ask for clarification.

B. Disability Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you qualify for accommodation, the ODS staff will give you a form that details your accommodations and you must provide your instructor with a copy of that form. In addition to providing your instructor with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss your accommodations with your instructor at the beginning of the course, and as needed during the semester. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please inform your instructor. For more information on disability accommodations, visit the Office of Disability website at http://ods.gmu.edu.

C. Diversity

The following is George Mason University's "Diversity Statement", verbatim from http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/.

"George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed."

D. Student Privacy

Student Privacy is governed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Students must use their MasonLive email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class (see also "email expectations" below). See http://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/student-privacy/ for more information.

E. Student Support Resources

There are a number of resources available to students at George Mason University to help facilitate student success. Some of those resources and links to the associated websites are provided below:

- University Catalog at <u>http://catalog.gmu.edu/</u>
- University Policies at <u>http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/</u>
- Counseling and Psychological Services at <u>http://caps.gmu.edu/</u>
- INTO George Mason (program for international students) at

http://www.intohigher.com/us/en-us/the-universities/into-mason.aspx

- Learning Services at <u>http://caps.gmu.edu/learning-services/</u>
- University Career Services at <u>http://careers.gmu.edu/?_ga=1.173099747.1501406856.1441291419</u>
- University Writing Center at <u>http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/</u>

F. Emergency Preparedness

George Mason University is committed to maintaining a safe learning environment. All members of the academic community should be familiar with the basic emergency procedures for a variety of situations including severe weather, medical emergencies, and workplace and campus violence. Students are strongly encouraged to register their mobile phone to receive emergency notifications from Mason Alert (qo to http://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/?_ga=1.102828992.1501406856.1441291419 to register) in the event of a campus emergency. Please review the Emergency Preparedness Guides at http://ehs.gmu.edu/emergencymanagement/plansquides/?_ga=1.102878912.1501406856.1441291419

VII. Lecture Schedule

The topics will be covered in the order show below but the exact dates on which the topics end up being discussed may be earlier or later than shown below. The exam dates show below will remain the same regardless of where we are in the material. If we are moving faster or slower through the topics, then the content of the exam will be adjusted but the exam dates will stay the same. More detailed ranges of pages for text readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments, Exam Schedule:			Reading Assignments	
Date	Day	Торіс	Text	Internet (optional)
Unit:	Huma	n Population Issues	-	-
1/22	Mon	Administrative Introduction	NA	
1/24	Wed	Human Population Issues		
1/26	Fri	Human Population Issues - continued	Ch. 1,	• " <u>Perceiving the Population</u>
1/29	Mon	Human Population Issues - continued	Ch. 8	• "The Population Surprise"
1/31	Wed	Human Population Issues - continued		<u> </u>
Unit:	Energ	gy: Sources and Consumption		-
2/2	Fri	Energy: Patterns of consumption		No estational la Consentit in Chinas
2/5	Mon	Energy: Fossil fuels - coal, oil, natural gas		 <u>Sustainable Growth In China:</u> Spotlight on Energy"
2/7	Wed	Energy: Fossil fuels – coal, oil, natural gas – <i>continued</i>	Ch. 19, Ch. 23	• "European Power is Slipping Away From King Coal""
2/9	Fri	Energy: Fossil fuels – coal, oil, natural gas – <i>continued</i>		• " <u>US Announces Moratorium on New</u> <u>Coal Leases on Federal Lands</u> "
2/12	Mon	Energy: Fossil fuels - coal, oil, natural gas - continued	Ch. 19,	• " <u>Oil Company Wants to Drill in</u> <u>Utah's Popular Uinta Mountains</u> "
2/14	Wed	Energy: Fossil fuels - coal, oil, natural gas - <i>continued</i>	Ch. 23	• " <u>King Coal Versus Shale Gas: A</u> <u>Battle to Tread Water</u> "

2/16	Fri	Energy: Fossil fuels - coal, oil, natural gas - <i>continued</i>		 "<u>Regulators Investigate New</u> <u>Health Concerns Caused by</u> <u>Natural Gas Leak at Porter Ranch;</u> <u>Fears of Blowout Reported</u>"
2/19	Mon	Energy: Nuclear energy	Ch. 20, Ch. 23	 "<u>Should You Be Afraid of Cyberattacks</u> <u>on Nuclear Power Plants</u>?" "<u>How Not to Debate Nuclear Energy</u> <u>and Climate Change</u>"

Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments, Exam Schedule:			Reading Assignments				
Date	Day	Торіс	Text Internet (optional)				
2/21	Wed	ed EXAM #1 (Human Population Issues, Energy – Fossil Fuels & Nuclear)					
2/23	Fri	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy		• "US Fails to Harness Hydro Power			
2/26	Mon	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy - <i>con't</i>		<u>Potential</u> "			
2/28	Wed	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy - <i>con't</i>	Ch. 20, Ch. 21	• "EPA Fines Puna Geothermal for Clean Air Act Violations"			
3/2	Fri	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy - <i>con't</i>		• " <u>Denmark Just Set a Wind Power</u> <u>RecordAgain</u> "			
3/5	Mon	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy - <i>continued</i>	Ch. 20,	• " <u>Biomass, Biofuel, Biopwer, and</u> <u>Bioenergy Sound Cool But Wreck</u> the Climete and Dip Us Off"			
3/7	Wed	Energy: Renewable/alternative energy - <i>continued</i>	Ch. 21	" <u>Hawaii First to Harness Deep-</u> <u>Ocean Temperatures for Power</u> "			
3/9	Fri	Energy: Energy conservation	Ch. 19	 "<u>Behaviour: Seeing Heat Saves</u> <u>Energy</u>" "<u>Surprise (Or Not): Saving Energy</u> <u>Saves Energy</u>" 			
3/12	Mon	NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK					
3/13	Wed	NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK					
3/15	Fri	NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK					
Unit:	Addr	essing Environmental Issues					
3/19	Mon	Addressing Environmental Issues: Ethics, economics					
3/21	Wed	Addressing Environmental Issues: Ethics, economics - <i>continued</i>	Ch. 1,	• " <u>Economics of Sustainable</u> Development"			
3/23	Fri	Addressing Environmental Issues: Ethics, economics - <i>continued</i>	Ch. 6	• " <u>Putting an Environmental Price</u> <u>Tag on Coal</u> "			
3/26	Mon	Addressing Environmental Issues: Ethics, economics - <i>continued</i>					
3/28	Wed	Addressing Environmental Issues: Environmental policy	Ch 7	• "Climate Policies in the EU and US: Different Approaches, Convergent			
3/30	Fri	Addressing Environmental Issues: Environmental policy - <i>continued</i>		Outcomes?"			
4/2	Mon	Addressing Environmental Issues: Conservation					
4/4	Wed	EXAM #2 (Energy (remainder), Resources, A	ddressin	g Environmental Issues)			
Unit:	Envir	onmental Issues					

4/6	Fri	Air Quality - Outdoor Air Pollution		"Outdoor Air Pollution Kills 3.3 Million People in Cities"
4/9	Mon	Air Quality - Indoor Air Pollution	Ch. 17	• "Poor Indoor Air Quality Linked to Workers' Low Cognitive Function"
4/11	Wed	Air Quality - Acid Deposition		• " <u>Soils Start Comeback After Acid</u> Rain Damage"
4/13	Fri	Water Quality	Ch. 15	" <u>Snyder Declares Emergency as</u> Feds Probe Flint Water"
4/16	Mon	Water Quality - <i>continued</i>		" <u>Harmful Algal Blooms and Water</u> Quality"

Lecture Topics, Reading Assignments, Exam Schedule:			Reading Assignments		
Date	Day	Торіс	Text	Internet (optional)	
4/18	Wed	Environmental Issues: Ozone Depletion			
4/20	Fri	Environmental Issues: Ozone Depletion <i>continued</i>	Ch. 17	• " <u>Antarctica's Ozone Hole in 2015</u> "	
4/23	Mon	Environmental Issues: Climate Change		 "Why Climate Change is an Ethical Problem" 	
4/25	Wed	Environmental Issues: Climate Change <i>continued</i>	Ch. 18	 "Paris Climate Agreement: Success or Failure" "In Pitiful Animal Die-offs Across the Globe - From Antelopes to Bees to Seabirds - Climate Change May Be Culprit" 	
4/27	Fri	Environmental Issues: Climate Change <i>continued</i>			
4/30	Mon	Environmental Issues: Waste Management		 "<u>Impact of Solid Waste</u> <u>Management on Health and the</u> <u>Environment</u>" "Making Things Last: Reinventing 	
5/2	Wed	Environmental Issues: Waste Management <i>continued</i>	Ch. 22		
5/4	Fri	Environmental Issues: Waste Management <i>continued</i>		Our Material Culture"	
5/??	5/?? ?? FINAL EXAM 7:30am-10:15am (Part 1=Required regular exam #3, Part 2=Optional)				