

BIOL 103
Topics in Environmental Science/Biology

NOTE: This course requires that students complete a pre-course assignment before the instructor arrives from the United States.

The assignment should be written and submitted on the first day of class.

Assignment:

1. Write a 2-page reflection on what the environment was like in the community where you grew up and how it has changed today.
2. Read Chapters 1 through 7: (Miller text): *Sustaining the Earth: An Integrated Approach*

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE/CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The professional education program at Western Carolina University fulfills its mission by creating and nourishing a community of learners guided by knowledge, values, and experiences. The guiding principles of this community include the belief that the best educational decisions are made after adequate reflection and with careful consideration of the interests, experiences, and welfare of the persons affected by the decisions; appreciation of and respect for diversity, and the fostering of the responsible use of technology. This course focuses on the integration of knowledge, skills and attitudes within environmental science/biology as they are related globally and to Jamaica.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Major topics in Environmental Science/Biology using an integrated approach to sustainable living.

PREQ: Full admission to professional education sequence.

TEXTS

1. Miller, Jr., G. Tyler (2009) *Sustaining the Earth: An Integrated Approach*. Brooks/Cole, Thomson Learning, Inc.
ISBN: 0-495-556874
2. *Project Food, Land & People: Resources for Learning*. Second printing 2005

COURSE TOPICS

- Day 1 Chapter 1
Humans and Sustainability: An Overview
- Day 2 Chapters 2 and 3
Science, Ecological Principles, and Sustainability
- Day 3 Chapters 4 and 5
Science, Ecological Principles, and Sustainability
- Day 4 Chapters 6 and 7
Sustaining Biodiversity
- Day 5 Chapter 8, 9 and 10
Sustaining Natural Resources
Review for midterm quiz
- Day 6 **Midterm Quiz (chapters 1-10)** (First hour of class)
Chapters 11, 12 and 13
Sustaining Environmental Quality
Work in groups for preparation of Project Food, Land & People presentations
- Day 7 Chapter 14
Human Tools for Sustainability
- Day 8 Field Trip to a natural area to observe Jamaican flora and fauna
- Day 9 **Presentations:** Project Food, Land & People
- Day 10 **Presentations:** Project Food, Land & People

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain and discuss major ecological concepts.
2. Understand the importance of both global and Jamaican biodiversity.
3. Identify at least 10 species of endemic Jamaican bird species.
4. Use critical thinking skills as it relates to global and Jamaican environmental issues.
5. Integrate environmental knowledge and commitment into personal and professional teaching life.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Active participation and regular attendance are necessary for completion of the requirements of this course. In addition, much of the course is active learning, and many core understandings will be achieved by participation in class activities, discussions, and group assignments.

EACH ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN A LOSS OF 3 POINTS FROM THE FINAL COURSE AVERAGE.

Late work results in the loss of 5 points per academic day work is late.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS		Points	DUE DATES
1.	Reflection Paper	20	First day of class
2.	Daily Reading/Class Activities/Bird Journal	30	See daily schedule
3.	Mid Term Quiz	15	Day 6
4.	Presentations	15	Day 9&10
5.	Final Project	20	Submitted by scheduled date

GRADING SCALE

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90- 92	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-67
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62

POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The use in any way of the work of other students to fulfill the requirements of this course is academically dishonest and grounds for removal from this class, the program, and possibly the university.