Biology 6 Syllabus

Course Description

My name is Mark Cooper and I will be the instructor for this course. Your study of Humans and their interaction with the environment will be an exciting and rewarding experience. This course is designed for non-science majors but it is still a science course which will require you to put in a lot of work. My teaching philosophy is to make the class entertaining and fun. However, do not make the mistake of taking your studying lightly. Although this class is an introductory course into the biological sciences, it is not easy. For you to succeed in this course, you must attend class regularly, study often and effectively, and live a life that is conducive to learning (for example, you need to sleep, eat, work, etc. within your means!). Failure to meet these basic requirements will make success difficult for most. Again, Humans and the Environment is an exciting but challenging class. DO NOT just memorize your notes. I expect you to understand the concepts we discuss in this class. To understand these topics, you need to ask questions, think, and analyze the material I give you. I suggest you read ahead in the textbook. I will be lecturing daily on what I feel is important, but having an awareness of the topic before lecture is extremely helpful. This class will expect you to do some reading of topics from the textbook which won’t be covered specifically in class but you will be tested on them. Also, reviewing your notes before class will also be very helpful. I am here to help you succeed. Do not hesitate to ask about topics you don’t understand. Some of the best help can actually come from other students. Forming study groups is often a beneficial method of study as long as the group is really serious about studying.

Supplies Needed

Required Textbook:
Environmental Science 14th ed.  
Authors: G. Tyler Miller & Scott E. Spoolman

Required Textbook: A Primer of Ecological Principles  
(2014 edition – Brown Cover) 
Author: Richard J. Vogl

Required Extras:  
4 - Form # 882 Scantrons  
6 - Form # 815 Scantrons  
60 Notecards — 4 X 6

The scantrons are to be brought in by 9/09/15. Failure to do so will result in you not being able to take quizzes and tests until they are received.

Pencils and pens for notes, tests and quizzes  
Paper for notes  
Enthusiasm  
Thirst for Knowledge
Lecture Schedule (Miller/Spoolman)

1) Aug. 26th (W) - Introduction / Environmental History / Supplement 3 (pp. S6-S9)
2) Sept. 2nd (W) - What Problems?? / Tapped!!!! / Chap. 1 & Supplement 6 (pp. S24-S25)
3) Sept. 9th (W) - Water is the Medium of Life / Strange Days: Troubled Waters / Ch. 11 & pp. 50-52, 145-148
4) Sept. 16th (W) - Our Health and Hazards?????? / Read Pages: 40-50, 61-69, 72-76, 133 (Fig. 7-13), 136 (Fig. 7-16), 138, 348-352, 357-360, 363 (Fig.14-2) and 366-370
5) Sept. 23rd (W) - Exam 1 / Shall the Meek Inherit the Earth? / Ch. 8
6) Sept. 30th (W) - Does Energy Matter?? War!!!!!!! / Ch. 2 & Supplement 4 pages S10-S17 (just skim Supplement 4 - (Don’t PANIC)
7) Oct. 7th (W) - The World’s Exhaust / The Inconvenient Truth / Ch. 15 (pp. 122-126)
8) Oct. 14th (W) - Hazardous Waste / Throwaway Society / What is Your Human Footprint? / Letter Writing Assignment / Ch. 16
9) Oct. 21st (W) - Too Many People???? ZPG???? / World Population Growth / Ch. 6, pp. 55-58, Supplement 7 (p. S39)
10) Oct 28th (W) - Exam 2 / Food Inc., Ch. 10
11) Nov 4th (W) - The Ultimate Weapon: Food??? Mist of Death: Pesticides / Ch. 10 (cont.)
12) Nov. 11th (W) - Holiday: Veteran’s Day
13) Nov. 18th (W) - Here Today - Here Tomorrow? / Do you have NDD? Wildlife Sanctuary / Ch. 9
14) Nov. 25th (W) - Exam 3 / The 11th Hour
15) Dec. 2nd (W) - What are you going to do?? / Ch. 17
16) Dec. 9th (W) Lecture Final (4:30 pm - 7:00 pm)

Attitude and Success

This is a college level biology course and it is a difficult course. The study of biology, even at a general level, is very complex. I teach this class at a college level and I expect that you will study and prepare at a college level. I will not lower my standards just to make the class easy for you. If you have the attitude that this class (or the professor) is “not fair” or it is “too hard” then your negative attitude will probably prevent you from passing this class. I also believe, if you always work hard, show up every day, come to my office hours if you need help, etc., you will pass this class without much of a problem. Remember, if nobody is passing the class, then it is probably my fault. But if YOU are not passing (but a lot of other people are) then it is probably your fault!
## Lecture Schedule (Vogl)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26th</td>
<td>Preface pp. vii - ix, 46 # 3, 94 # 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2nd</td>
<td>- 86 # 20, 20a, 20b, 20c</td>
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<td>Sept. 9th</td>
<td>- 86 # 20d, 88 # 20e, 20f</td>
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<td>Sept. 16th</td>
<td>- 38 # 2, 40 # 2b, 48 # 6, 68 # 23,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23rd</td>
<td>- Exam 1 - 56 # 10, 74 # 1, 98 # 6</td>
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<td>Sept. 30th</td>
<td>- 104 # 15, 111 # 28, 118 # 4</td>
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<td>Oct. 7th</td>
<td>- 66 # 18, 84 # 18, 86 # 19</td>
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<td>Oct. 14th</td>
<td>- 76 # 5, 74 # 2, 74 # 3, 78 # 7, 124 # 12, 124 # 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21st</td>
<td>- 62 # 13, 76 # 4, 106 # 19, 108 # 20, 108 # 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 28th</td>
<td>- Exam 2 - 58 # 10G, 80 # 10, 80 # 12, 98 # 7, 116 # 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 4th</td>
<td>- 66 # 20, 122 # 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 11th</td>
<td>- None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 18th</td>
<td>- 84 # 17, 94 # 1, 96 # 5, 106 # 17, 110 # 23, 140 # 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 25th</td>
<td>- Exam 3 - 102 # 12, 104 # 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 2nd</td>
<td>- 34 # 1, 50 # 7,</td>
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## Important Due Dates

**Test Dates:**
- Sept. 23rd — Exam 1
- Oct. 28th — Exam 2
- Nov. 25th — Exam 3
- Dec 9th — Lecture Final (4:30-7:00 pm)

**Letter Writing Assignment Due Date:**
- Nov. 18th

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### Letter Writing Assignment

This assignment consists of a letter or letters concerning the environmental topic of your choice. This assignment is worth 100 pts. The letters should be centered on a question, complaint, or compliment. They may be written to a person at the local, state, federal, or international level. (It does not have to be an elected official). It can be addressed to more than one person or organization. (Multiple letters i.e. copies sent to :)

On or before the above due dates, your letter (s) should be turned in to your instructor during class addressed, stamped, but not sealed!!!!!!!!! (Remember to envelope your return address and to sign your letter.) This is a real assignment dealing with real letters and real environmental concerns. The letters will be read by your instructor, graded, sealed and mailed. (Please post-date your letters a week after your due date and submit all your letters together.)

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### ZITS

**By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**
Policy on Attendance

Since many of the questions on the quizzes and tests come directly from the lecture material, it is critical that you attend all class meetings. We will have quizzes or assignments due everyday and you will lose points if you are late or absent. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class and points will be taken off for late work. (See last page) If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a fellow student. If your number of absences exceeds the number of hours the class meets in 3 weeks, you will be dropped from the class. Poor attendance in lecture will lower your grade. After Oct. 30th, you cannot officially be dropped from the course. This is the last day you can receive a "W" (Withdrawal). After this date, you must be given a grade in the course and there are enough points left in the semester, it would be impossible to get a passing grade. Walking into class late is disruptive to me and other students. I know there are times when things happen that are beyond your control. However, if you are habitually late I will ask you to drop this class and take a class at a time that works better with your schedule. Once class begins, it is also disruptive to me and other students when an individual wanders in and out of the classroom. This is a classroom not a movie theater. If you have to leave class while it is in session leave permanently for that class period. I will not allow you to reenter the room. If you know you will have to leave, notify me ahead of time.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Cheating and Plagiarism are violations of the college’s policy and are considered serious offenses. The Department of Biological Sciences takes all incidences of academic dishonesty seriously and acts accordingly. I reserve the right to give an "F" for the assignment, test and/or class and the matter will be brought up to the Director of Student Affairs as stated in the school’s current College Catalog. This policy states:

1. No dictionaries, reference materials, or notes, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
2. No electronic devices, of any type, may be used during any exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor.
3. No talking, signaling, sharing of note cards, calculators or other materials is allowed during any exam or quiz, unless authorized by the professor.
4. Only the materials required or authorized for an exam or quiz should be out. All other materials should be put away as instructed.
5. Students may not leave the classroom during an exam or quiz unless authorized by the professor. If a student leaves the room without permission, the test or quiz will be forfeited at that time.

Biology Cheating Policy

WHAT IS CHEATING?
Some examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

a. Plagiarism, which is the use of materials authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source or the use of passages without proper acknowledgment.
b. Having or using unauthorized materials during any exam or quiz.
c. Notes concealed in or written on clothing, hats, or skin (as examples).
d. Looking at another student’s work during any exam or quiz.
e. Changing answers on a returned exam in order to claim there had been a grading error.
f. Sharing any content of exams or quizzes with individuals who have not yet taken it.
g. Removing an exam or quiz from the classroom without the professor’s approval.
h. Taking photos of exams, quizzes, completed ScanTrons®, or exam keys.
i. Turning in work that was generated by other individuals or by the same individual but in a prior semester, including but not limited to: lab report data, lab report or homework questions, homework assignments, and extra credit assignments.
Policy on Cell Phone Use

Cell phones and cell phone etiquette has become a problem in the last several years. I am aware of different policies by different professors at this college, but I am informing you now that this is one policy in class I am adamant about. Ringing or vibrating cell phones in class have become a major distraction to your fellow students and to me. Texting or using apps in class is also a distraction and shows a lack of respect for me and your fellow students. I am now imposing a policy where if your cell phone goes off, you are found texting, or using apps during class, you will be asked to leave the room and will not be allowed to return until the next class break. If you must leave it on for emergency situations, you need to inform me before class. I will give you breaks during class. You may use your phone at that time. I expect your cell phones to be in your pocket, purse, or backpack at all other times. You are not allowed to have your cell phone out on the desk especially during a test. You must put in your backpack, purse, or on my front desk. If I see you with a cell phone on you during a test you will receive an F on that test.

TURN OFF YOUR PHONES!!!!

Grading

Final Grades:

A = 675 points and above (90-100%)
B = 600 - 674 points (80-89%)
C = 525 – 599 points (70-79%)
D = 450 - 524 points (60-69%)
F = 449 points and below (0-59%)

Grades will be determined by a straight percentage of your final score. The point totals are a combination of both your lecture and lab scores.

GRADING: The semester grade will be determined by several factors: Midterm exams, quizzes, homework, article assignments and a comprehensive final exam. There will be one grade for both lecture and laboratory.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES OR EXAMS! Students who miss an exam will have that exam score replaced by the score on the final. Students who fail to take two exams will be dropped from the course.

Education seems to be in America the only commodity of which the customer tries to get as little as he can for his money

Max Forman

Point Values

Lecture Portion

- 3 Exams = 300 pts (100 pts each)
- 1 Final Exam. = 150 pts
- Letter Writing Assignment = 100 pts
- Lecture Quizzes (20 pts each) = 120 pts
- Homework = 80 pts

Total Class Points = 750 pts*

*The total is approximate and can be changed if necessary.

You will be taking 3 lecture exams. The lowest exam can be replaced by the final. If you miss an exam that will be the grade replaced. The final is a comprehensive final and must be taken. I will drop the two lowest class quizzes Any missed quizzes will be among the dropped scores.

“I got in trouble at school today. I got an “A” on my test and they said it was unfair to the kids who didn’t study as hard”
IMPORTANT DROP DATES AND HOLIDAYS

- Sept 7th—Labor Day
- Sept 4th - Last day to add the course
- Sept 4th—Last day to drop with a refund
- Sept 6th—Last day to drop without a W
- Oct 30th—Last day to drop with a W

Accommodations

If you feel that you have a disability that may prevent you from succeeding in this class please contact the DSP&S office. The office is located in the Student Services Building (9B). http://www.mtsac.edu/dsps/

SLO Information

- http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/outcomes/sloinfo.html

Late Assignments

I have been having an issue with students coming to class late and students turning in late work. I have found a need to develop a policy that is consistent and fair to all my students including those that get to class on time and those who turn in their work on time. A nonfunctioning printer is not an excuse. Work on your assignment early enough so if problems arise, you have time to deal with them. See the table to the right for my policy on assignments that are turned in after the beginning of the class the assignment is due.

On Time: Turned in at the beginning of class
100% - any missed questions

Turned in 5 minutes after class starts 80% - any missed questions

Turned in the day due but after class ends 70% - any missed questions

Turned in next class meeting 50% - any missed questions