

BIO 105: ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Fall 2011; CRN 11492 (MW 8:40-11:20)

SYLLABUS (subject to change)

Instructor: Dr. Brad Fiero

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Office Hours: M-Th 11:45 am – 1:00 pm. Also by appointment.

Dept. Office: Tortolita E-255; Phone: 206-6031

Texts: Environment, 4th ed. 2011. Withgott/Brennan [optional]
Environmental Biology Lecture/Lab Packet [required] Get from class homepage or bookstore.
Home Page Web Site: <http://wc.pima.edu/~bfiero/bio105/>.

The website contains much of the syllabus including scoring rubrics, information on plagiarism and how to cite sources, my “fail-safe study technique,” tips for PowerPoint presentations, assignments (and samples), and a lot more.
MyPima: some material may be available from MyPima.

Description: Fundamentals of ecology and their relevance to human impact on natural ecosystems. Includes ecosystem structure and function, population dynamics, and human impacts on air, water, land, and biodiversity.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Synthesize ecological principles into an understanding of how the Earth functions.
2. Apply ecological principles to understand human impact on the environment.
3. Evaluate scientific basis of environmental issues.
4. Describe possible causes and analyze potential solutions to current environmental issues.
5. Demonstrate skills necessary for life-long learning, critical examination, and personal decisions relative to environmental biology.

Philosophy of Class: I want this course to be interesting, applicable, and challenging for you. I hope each of you is successful in this class, and I will enjoy meeting you outside of class to help you in your progress toward success. But learning is something you do and requires active participation and effort.

Grading System: Based on percentage of total accumulated points from both lecture and lab.

Evaluation:	Points:	Percent of Total Points:
Quizzes	425 pts (17 @ 25 pts)	42.5%
Reviews	125 pts (5 @ 25 pts)	12.5%
Labs and activities	450 pts (see schedule)	45.0%
Optional Comprehensive Final Exam	(100 pts used to replace lowest 4 quiz grades)	
Total Points:	1000 pts	100%

Final Grade:

A	=	90 - 100%	=	900 – 1000 points
B	=	80 - 89%	=	800 – 899 points
C	=	70 - 79%	=	700 – 799 points
D	=	60 - 69%	=	600 – 699 points
F	=	Below 60%	=	000 – 599 points

POLICIES

Attendance Policy: You are expected to arrive to class on time and actively participate each class period. Quizzes are given out at the beginning of class time and must be completed in the time allotted (usually 10-20 minutes but may be more or less). If you miss all or a portion of a class, then you are solely responsible for obtaining missed class materials. Complete attendance is mandatory during all group meetings and presentations; otherwise points will be forfeited. Because of insurance limitations, non-registered visitors are not allowed at class sessions or on field trips.

Late Work: Work is due at or before the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. I suggest emailing your work to me early enough to receive a confirmation email from me. Email problems are not an acceptable excuse; turn work in early and get confirmation.

Make-up Policy: No make-up quizzes, labs, or presentations allowed; in some cases they may be turned in early if a class will be missed. Note: the Final Exam replaces your lowest 4 quiz grades. There is also one make up assignment. Unless otherwise stated (see Rubrics), late assignments are penalized 20% of the grade. If you are going to miss or have missed a class, please see instructor as soon as possible.

Group Projects: It is important that clear communication occurs between group members, and that expectations of each member are clear to all, and that all members fulfill what is expected of them on time. Each member of a group will be graded independently. Each in-class group meeting missed may result in one or more points missed.

Rebuttal System: If you think you were graded unfairly (or erroneously) on an assignment or quiz, please turn in a written explanation (rebuttal) with your graded assignment/quiz to me within two weeks. I will write a response and return it to you. An appointment can be set up if you disagree with the resolution.

Scholastic Ethic: You are expected to abide by the College's Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.pima.edu/studenterv/studentcode/index.shtml>). Breaches in scholastic ethic (e.g. cheating and plagiarism [see <http://wc.pima.edu/~bfiero/plagrsm.htm>]) will be dealt with severely.

Be Courteous: No use of cell phones, ipods, laptops, or other electronics in class except with instructor permission (points may be lost for infractions). No talking while the instructor or another student is talking to the class. In general, please be respectful of other students and the educational process.

Withdrawal (W): Students who fail to attend the first class or fail to attend 3 consecutive classes without notifying the instructor may be withdrawn. If you decide you cannot continue in class, then officially withdraw by the official deadline. If you wish to receive a grade of "W" after the withdrawal date, please request this in writing to the instructor by the first day of final exam week; however, granting a grade of "W" is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Incomplete (I): Given only when a student has missed 20% or less of the course material for a reason acceptable to the instructor. Eligibility for an incomplete requires earned grades that average "C" or above at the time of request.

Posting of Grades: Grades will be posted anonymously using a "secret code" supplied by the student. In addition, grades may be sent by email. If you do not wish your grades to be posted or emailed, please inform the instructor.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Pima Community College is committed to providing accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities in a timely and effective manner. To request a reasonable accommodation, students must be registered with the campus Disabled Student Resources (DSR) office. Accommodations will be made based on eligibility determined by Disabled Student Resources. Services can be requested at any time during the semester. Requesting services well in advance will help to ensure that resources are available when needed. Please contact a DSR office at 206-4500 or DSRhelp@pima.edu.

Mandatory Reporting Statement. Please be advised that, as a faculty member of Pima Community College, I am required by law (A.R.S. §13-3620), to report, upon reasonable belief, any situation that may indicate that a minor (defined as someone under the age of 18) has been the victim of child abuse (including physical injury and/or sexual conduct). This duty also includes the obligation to report any previous abuse of a minor, regardless of the current age of the victim to the College's Department of Public Safety (DPS).

REVIEWS

OBJECTIVE: To foster current environmental awareness and to use critical thinking when applying environmental information personally and globally.

ASSIGNMENT: Reviews may be turned in 2 or more weekdays ahead of due time for feedback. Turn in before class on Monday for Wednesday due date; turn in before class on Thursday for Monday due date.

I. Article Reviews: See assignment and sample online.

Format of Article Review: Use the **headings** in capital letters below in your entry.

YOUR NAME

TITLE OF ARTICLE

AUTHOR

DATE PUBLISHED

LINK TO ARTICLE

SUMMARY: summarize the author's main ideas in your own words (50-200 words).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE: why should each person in the world care? Do your own thinking here and use your own words (do not add more summary material from the article) (50-200 words).

Rules of Article Review:

- The article must be on a topic we cover in class (e.g., not just health-related).
- Your article must be from an article published since the previous article review due date (within last 3 weeks for article review 1).
- I recommend using www.enn.com as a source for articles.
- Your summary and global relevance sections must be within word limit (50-200 words).

II. Website Review (and Presentation): See sample online.

Format of Website Review: Use the **headings** in capital letters below in your entry.

TOPIC: specify content area (see list below)

TITLE OF SITE: give title of website (found at the very top of the browser screen)

WEBSITE ADDRESS: **complete and accurate** (I recommend copying/pasting it in)(cannot be Wikipedia).

AUTHOR/AFFILIATION: give author **and** author's affiliation (if individual author is not given, give only the affiliation (i.e., the agency or organization.). Spell out all acronyms (no abbreviations).

ANNOTATION: indicate information obtainable from site and relevance to class (50-200 words long).

Rules of Website Review

Find **the best** website on the subject (the site **cannot** contain only links; it must contain significant, relevant info).

E-mail your website review to me to post it at <http://wc.pima.edu/~bfiero/bio105/105sites.htm>.

Give a short (less than 3 minutes) oral presentation on your assigned website to persuade your classmates to go to the website.

Web Topics presented on these dates: please circle your topic so you remember later.
Sept 19: Environmental News, Environmental Organizations (non-gov), Environmental Agencies (gov), Tucson Environmental Info., Science, Plate Tectonics, Ecology, Desert Ecology, Evolution, Human Population Growth and Control
Sept 21: Environmental Economics, Biological Diversity, Endangered Species, Introduced Species, Soil, World Food Resources, Water Use, Freshwater Pollution, Marine Pollution, Central Arizona Project
Sept 26: Air Pollution, Ozone Depletion, Acid Deposition, Global Climate Change, Energy Use/Conservation, Alternative Energy Sources, Solid Waste, Recycling

III. Easter's End Review: See assignment online.

Bio 105 Environmental Biology Grade Tracking Sheet

Quizzes (425 pts): 17 @ 25 pts each = 42.5% of final grade

Quiz 1 _____ Quiz 6 _____ Quiz 11 _____ Quiz 16 _____
 Quiz 2 _____ Quiz 7 _____ Quiz 12 _____ Quiz 17 _____
 Quiz 3 _____ Quiz 8 _____ Quiz 13 _____
 Quiz 4 _____ Quiz 9 _____ Quiz 14 _____
 Quiz 5 _____ Quiz 10 _____ Quiz 15 _____

Total Quizzes 1-17 _____

Final Exam (100 pts) _____ - Sum Lowest 4 Quizzes _____ = Amt Final Adds _____

Reviews = 125 pts. = 12.5% of final grade

Article Review 1 (25) _____
 Article Review 2 (25) _____
 Article Review 3 (25) _____
 Website Review (25) _____
 Easter's End (25) _____

Total Reviews _____

Laboratories and Activities = 450 pts. = 45% of final grade

Desert Ecology Lab (125 total)

- Proposal (25) _____
- Data Collection (50) _____
- Presentation (50) _____

Website Presentation (10) _____

Ecological Footprint (25) _____

Fish Banks Lab (25) _____

Water Public Hearing (65) _____

Waste Water Treatment Plant (25) _____

Landfill Field Trip (25) _____

Home Ecosystem Lab (125 total)

- Home Data (50) _____
- Group Outline (10) _____
- Individual Outline (15) _____
- Presentation (50) _____

Land Use Simulation Lab (25) _____

Total Labs _____

Makeup Credit (+25) _____

Makeup Credit _____

Total Points:

Grand Total _____

Grade Percent = Grand Total _____ / 1000 total points possible = _____ X 100 = _____ %

FINAL GRADE: **A** = 90 - 100% = 900 - 1000 points
B = 80 - 89% = 800 - 899 points
C = 70 - 79% = 700 - 799 points
D = 60 - 69% = 600 - 699 points
F = Below 60% = 000 - 599 points