**INSTRUCTOR**

**Mark Meade, PhD.**

Office: SSC-020

Office Hours: open or by appointment

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**LECTURE AND LAB TIMES**

**UES 150-B-SM Lecture**: M-F, 10:00am – 12:00pm, SSC G023

**UES 150L-1 Lab**: T/Th, 12:30 – 4:30pm, SSC G023

**Note**: Labs will meet in a variety of locations on and off campus. Some lectures and labs will be combined when traveling off campus. I will post location changes or weather cancellations on Moodle. It will be your responsibility to check your email and Moodle for updates.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

* Raven, Peter and Linda Berg, Environment, **10th Edition**, John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 2018.
* Materials for lab will be posted on the lab page in Moodle. Additional readings for class will be posted on the course page in Moodle.

**OVERVIEW OF COURSE**

*Introduction to Urban Environmental Studies (*UES 150) is an interdisciplinary introduction to the complexities of environmental problems confronting us, our community, and the world. The course provides an overview of scientific knowledge on ecology and environmental management and examines political, economic, and ethical issues involved in the attainment of a sustainable future. We will look at several issues meant to explore our relationship with the environment and to discover ways of reducing anthropogenic impacts on the world.

In UES 150, you will gain the basic knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to understand the complex environmental and ecological problems that you will encounter in your personal and professional lives. Through many types of activities including textbook and out of class readings, case studies, lab exercises, and written and/or oral presentations, you will become better informed about how you and those around you can help create a sustainable world.

UES 150 is a required core course in the **Urban Environmental Studies major and minor. The faculty UES Program Director is Dr. William Holt, Harbert 203C (**[**wholt@bsc.edu**](mailto:wholt@bsc.edu)**).**  More information on both can be found on the **Urban Environmental Studies Webpage** at the following URL***:*** <http://www.bsc.edu/academics/env-studies/index.cfm>

**COURSE GOALS**

1. To gain an understanding of ecology and environmental science.
2. To recognize the complexities and interconnectedness of environmental problems.
3. To evaluate the political, governmental, and economic perspectives that influence urban environmental decisions.
4. To develop an understanding of one’s potential for helping to create a sustainable future.
5. To improve critical reading, writing, computer, and analytical skills.

**This course is a designated Scientific Methodologies course in the Explorations curriculum. Therefore, by the end of this course, you should be able to**

1. Clearly define a problem/question and state an appropriate rationale for investigation.
2. Develop a testable hypothesis.
3. Test the hypothesis using the appropriate design, and correctly interpret the results.
4. Communicate the findings in oral or written form.

**These outcomes should greatly enhance your critical thinking and quantitative analysis skills. You will gain most of these outcomes through your work in laboratory exercises and/or case studies.**

**EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

1. Complete reading assignments and exercises on time.
2. Always arrive for class and lab on time.
3. Participate actively in regular class meetings, group discussions, and lab activities.
4. Treat everyone in the class with respect, regardless of their viewpoints.
5. Gain an understanding of environmental topics through lectures, discussions, and active learning.

**EXAMS**

There will be five (5) non-cumulative examinations. You may be able to take the exam early but only if your reason for missing the exam is exceptional (e.g., planned sports event). Discuss this option with me if necessary. Exams will be multiple choice in format. Exams will be worth 50pts each and will account for 200 pts of the total grade.

**QUIZZES**

Weekly quizzes (2/week; 8 total) will be given to keep students alert and “on-top” of class topics. Quizzes will be multiple choice in format. Quizzes will be worth 10 pts each for and will account for 80 pts of the total grade.

**END OF CHAPTER QUESTIONS**

End of chapter study questions will be assigned each week as homework. Each weekly homework assignment (4 total) will be worth 25 pts and will account for 100 pts of the total grade.

**LAB ASSIGNMENTS/CASE STUDIES**

Labs will either be virtual or “own-time” activities and are meant to complement course topics. Field labs will involve group activities. Online labs are designed to give you a problem and solve it. Each weeks lab activity (2/week; 8 total) will include some form of written assignment worth 15 pts and will account for 120 pts of the total grade.

**CLASS and LAB ATTENDANCE**

Class participation and interaction with instructors and students is one of the hallmarks of liberal arts education. Participation will be judged on the quality and depth of your contribution and not just on how often you speak. If you miss class, your understanding of the topics will greatly suffer. Unexcused absences cut into your class participation score. In the case of serious illness or other emergencies, please let me know ASAP. Excused absences are granted for illness, family emergencies, and school-associated sporting events in which you participate, however **written documentation of excused absence is always required.** You are responsible for working with the instructor to make sure your absences are marked as excused. Quizzes or assignments missed for an excused reason can be made up.

Unexcused absences: These will result in a loss of participation points and there can be no make up of quizzes or other assignments missed as a consequence of the absence.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignments may be turned in late for partial credit. Work is considered late if not turned in by the due date. If an acceptable excuse is provided, you may earn full credit for the late assignment provided it is turned in by a date specified by the instructor. **Unexcused late assignments will lose 10% of the total point value of the assignment per day for a maximum loss of 50% (5 days)**.

**EVALUATION**

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the course based on the number of possible points that you can earn. This scale will be adjusted based on any changes in assignments.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **No.** | **Total Points** |
| Exams (50pts each) | 4 | 200 |
| Lecture Quizzes (10 pts each) | 8 | 80 |
| End of chapter questions (25 pts/week) | 4 | 100 |
| Lab assignments/Case studies | 8 | 120 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **500** |

**BSC GRADING SCALE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 670 – 623 points | 100% - 93% | C | 514 – 489 points | 76%-73% |
| A- | 622 – 603 points | 92% - 90% | C- | 488 – 469 points | 72%-70% |
| B+ | 602 – 583 points | 89% - 87% | D+ | 468 – 449 points | 69%-67% |
| B | 582 – 556 points | 86% - 83% | D | 448 – 402 points | 66%-60% |
| B- | 555 – 536 points | 82% - 80% | F | 401 – 0 | 59%-0% |
| C+ | 535 – 515 points | 79% - 77% |  |  |  |

**OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE COURSE**

**Moodle**

It will be important for you to become familiar with the Moodle page for this course as soon as possible. We will be using Moodle throughout the semester in numerous ways, including posting labs, readings, reading guides, important announcements, discussion questions and answers, and grades. I will also use Moodle to communicate with you through email. **It is your responsibility to keep up with assignments and class changes on Moodle.**

**BSC Honor Code**

You are expected to follow the BSC Honor Code in every aspect of this course. Instances of plagiarism, cheating, or other thefts of intellectual property will likely bring you before the BSC Honor Council. Penalties imposed by the Honor Council can include academic probation, suspension, and even expulsion. Instance of cheating on exams or other assignments will result in a zero for that assignment/exam, and depending on the extent of the infraction, a failing grade for the whole course.

**Title IX**

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to the creation and maintenance of a safe learning environment for students and the campus community. The College forbids any type of sexual or gender-based misconduct among its students, faculty, and staff. The College encourages all members of the academic community to report suspected sexual and gender-based misconduct to the appropriate authorities so that it can be investigated, remedied, and eliminated. Such misconduct is prohibited whether the actor is a student, faculty member, staff member, contractor, visitor, or another member of the College community. BSC forbids retaliation against any person who has opposed, reported or participated in an investigation concerning sexual or gender-based misconduct.

In accordance with federal policy, all College employees are required to report information related to discrimination and harassment which includes, but is not limited to, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual harassment. For this reason, if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the Title IX coordinator. As a student, you can report allegations of sexual misconduct to officials in Student Development (Assistant Dean of Students, Dana Bekurs; Associate Dean of Students, W. David Miller; Vice President for Student Development, David Eberhardt), Campus Police, or confidential resources in Counseling Services, Health Services, and Religious Life. Please refer to the Title IX section of the BSC website for more information on filing a report and available resources.

**Accommodations**

If you have completed the process to receive academic accommodations with the Office of Accessibility, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss these accommodations. If you have a disability but have not contacted the Office of Accessibility, please contact them as soon as possible at one of the following email addresses: [**awsmith @bsc.edu**](about:blank) or [**accessibility@bsc.edu**](mailto:accessibility@bsc.edu). If you prefer to call the office, the numbers are (205) 226-7909.

**Labs**

The lab section is an integral part of this course. We will frequently be outside in hot weather and sometimes treacherous terrain. You will be responsible for dressing appropriately (closed toed shoes, pants, long sleeve shirts recommended) and bringing adequate water and snacks. Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

**BSC Resources for Writers and Readers**

The Writing Center, located in the Humanities Center (Room 102), offers one-on-one assistance for student writers. We serve all writers, in any BSC course, at all levels and at all points in the writing process. Two graduate student coordinators will be on site at all times. The Writing Center is open to supervise peer tutors and to conduct tutorials themselves, as needed. We will be open Sunday-Thursday late afternoon and evenings, and students do not need an appointment. Tutorials are about 30 minutes long, free of charge, and available on a drop-in basis. Tutors will not proofread or "fix" student papers. They will provide one-on-one consultations about writing issues--small and large--for any student from any major at any point in the writing process. There is no limit to how many tutorials a student may attend. We are here to help! Any questions or concerns, please email writingcenter@bsc.edu to make an appointment.

**COVID and other illnesses**

BSC is an on-campus, in person school. Any accommodations regarding COVID related or other illnesses will be considered based on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact their professors or advisors immediately if such conditions occur.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – Stay up to date on Moodle**

**Week Chapters Outcomes**

**5/30-6/2 Ch. 1-6 Each week: read chapters, quizzes, lab/case studies**

**6/5-6/9 Ch. 7-12 Exam #1 (6/5), EOCQ, quizzes, lab/case studies**

**6/12-6/16 Ch. 13-18 Exam #2 (6/12), EOCQ, quizzes, lab/case studies**

**6/20-6/23 Ch. 19-24 Exam #3 (6/20), EOCQ, quizzes, lab/case studies**

**6/26-6/28 Exam #4 (6/26), EOCQ**

**NOTE: 6/19 is a holiday**