



American University of Ras Al Khaimah

AURAK Syllabus

Course Title: Sustainability and Human-Environment Relations

Course Code: ENVS 102

Credit Hours: 3

Method of Instruction: This course uses the face-to-face method of instruction.

Prerequisite course(s) and/or co-requisite courses, if applicable: N/A

Faculty Name: Dr. Eka Sediadi

Contact Information and Office Hours: **Office Location:** Building B, Room B 130

Office Hours: MW, 01.30-02.30 pm.

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Course Description:

This course is designed to present the student with an overview of environmental issues. Humans are closely related to their environment and depend upon it to supply all the necessary resources to maintain life and to provide inputs for industrial activities.

Additional Information about the Course: This is not an online course. ENVS 102 can be used to satisfy a General Education Natural Sciences requirement. Different perceptions of the environment will be examined leading to an understanding of the multiple perceptions people have of the environment. A history of environmentalism will be presented as will a discussion of environmental ethics. Resources will be defined, and the student will learn how people use resources to meet their many needs. The harvesting and consumption of resources will be explored to understand how these processes affect the environment. Human impacts on the environment will be discussed describing their origins and possible solutions. Resource management will be presented so that the student will learn how to effectively manage resources in a sustainable fashion. The student will be given an understanding of the social, political and

economic forces that exert pressure on resource management and ways in which to create environmental solutions to these demands. An explanation of various physical systems will be given to provide the student with a deeper understanding of how human activities impact the environment.

Course Textbooks and Materials:

- Tyler Miller, G. & Spoolman, S. E., (2017). *Living in the Environment* (16th ed.). Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

(The above textbook is available to download free of charge from:

http://www.mtcarmelacademy.net/uploads/1/1/7/5/11752808/living_in_the_environment_16th_edition_-_miller.pdf

- **Jeffrey. D. Sachs; The Age of Sustainable Development. Columbia University Press.2015**

Other Resources:

- A college-level English dictionary.
- An AURAK email account. (The professor will communicate by email *only* through this address).
- A notebook that holds the student's class notes and professor-given handouts.
- Access to Blackboard.

Web Resources: N/A

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Course Learning Outcomes At the end of this course, students should be able to:	
CLO 1	Develop comprehensive, specialized knowledge within sustainability, resource management, and the intersection of human-environment relations.
CLO 2	Construct a personal world view about the intersection of human-environment relations, reflecting understanding of the social, political, and economic forces that exert pressure on resource management.
CLO 3	Propose a water budget utilizing appropriate research tools and strategies associated with resource management that reflects the social, political, and economic forces that exert pressure human-environment relations.
CLO 4	Create a collaborative presentation, using advanced communication and information technology skills to present, explain and/or critique the interdependent and complex matters related to environmental phenomena.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Mapping Course to Program Learning Outcomes

Please see the APPENDIX for the Course to Program Learning Outcomes Mapping.

Assessment Activities

The dates for quizzes, exams, and submission of assignments are specified in the schedule. You will be graded in this class based on the number of points you earn for quizzes, exams written assignments, or other activities, including your class participation. Keep track of your scores in Blackboard.

Assessment Activities and Grading Weight	Group Project 10%	Water Budget 15%	Quizzes 25%	Written Assignments 10%	Mid-term 20%	Final Exam 20%
CLO 1	X		X	X	X	X
CLO 2		X	X		X	X
CLO 3	X					X
CLO 4			X	X	X	X

Grading Scale:

The grading system and scale for AURAK, as established by the Board of Trustees, is as follows:

AURAK Grading System and Scale		
Grade	Percentage Scores	Grade Points
A	95-100	4
A-	90-94	3.7
B+	86-89	3.3
B	83-85	3
B-	80-82	2.7
C+	76-79	2.3
C	73-75	2
C-	70-72	1.7
D+	66-69	1.3
D	60-65	1
F	0-59	0

Weekly Course Information

Schedule of Course Topics, Required Reading, and Assignments and Assessments (Including scheduling of laboratory, studio, external visit, and other non-classroom meeting sessions, s appropriate)				
Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assignment, Assessment (with grade weighting) & Due Date	Mapping of CLO's to Assessments
1	Introduction of Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Worldviews, Ethics and Sustainability 	- Broadbent/ Markus Matrix - UAE Climate - Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 24	Intro Homework	CLO 1 CLO 2
2	Perceptions, Worldviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philosophy, Religion, Ethics and Nature 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 25	Homework 1 “Your Worldview”	CLO 4
3	History of Environmentalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental History 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 1	Debate (in Class)	CLO 2
4	The Enlightenment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental History Review for Quiz 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 1	Quiz #1 (Covers material from week 2 through 4)	CLO 2 CLO 4
5	Environmental Disasters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Hazards and Human Health 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 17		
6	Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems: What Are They And How Do They Work? 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 3	In Class Work Homework 2 Water budget	CLO 4
7	Population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Human Population And Its Impact 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 6		

Schedule of Course Topics, Required Reading, and Assignments and Assessments (Including scheduling of laboratory, studio, external visit, and other non-classroom meeting sessions, s appropriate)				
Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assignment, Assessment (with grade weighting) & Due Date	Mapping of CLO's to Assessments
8	Review		Mid Term Exam (covers material from week 1 to week 7)	CLO 2
9	Managing Ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity: The Ecosystem Approach 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 7		
10	Geology and Non-renewable Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology and Non-renewable Resources 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 14		
11	Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency and Renewable Energy 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 16		
12	Review		Quiz #2 (Covers material from week 9 to week 11)	CLO 2 CLO 4
13	Air Pollution, Climate Change & the Ozone Layer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change And Ozone Depletion 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 18		
14	Water Pollution, Pest Control, & Waste Management	Water Pollution & Solid and Hazardous Waste	Paper Due	CLO 1 CLO 2 CLO 3

Schedule of Course Topics, Required Reading, and Assignments and Assessments (Including scheduling of laboratory, studio, external visit, and other non-classroom meeting sessions, s appropriate)				
Week	Topic	Required Readings	Assignment, Assessment (with grade weighting) & Due Date	Mapping of CLO's to Assessments
15	Sustainable Cities, Economics & Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Cities & Economics Environment • Environment & Sustainability • Politics, Environment and Sustainability 	Miller & Spoolman (2009) Ch. 22, 24, & 25	Oral Presentations	CLO 2 & 3
16	Final Exam			CLO 2

Attendance Policy

University policy is that students are to attend all classes and to arrive on time. Students are required to:

- Attend all learning and teaching sessions associated with their program of study.
- Notify their course instructors in advance (in person, by phone or e-mail) that they will be absent from time-tabled class sessions.
- Obtain prior permission from their instructor or course manager, for planned absences of two or more consecutive class sessions during the semester.
- Provide a medical certificate or other corroborating evidence to explain their absence, if required by the University.

Unsatisfactory student attendance includes failure to regularly attend learning and teaching sessions without providing a satisfactory reason to instructors for absence and/or persistent late

arrival at, or early departure from, learning and teaching sessions. Where a student fails to attend classes for **four or more weeks cumulatively**, or where a recurring pattern of non-attendance is observed over the course of the semester, the instructor has the option of deeming that the student has failed the course, in which case that student may receive an "F (Fail)" or "U (Unsatisfactory)" grade, as appropriate. At this point, and at the instructor's recommendation, the dean also has the authority to instruct the registrar to remove or withdraw the student from the course.

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities may find they require additional support, services, or considerations. AURAK will endeavor to support students with disabilities or special needs where resources are available. Accommodations will be provided, for students with verified needs, allowing equal access to educational facilities, programs, services, and activities at AURAK. Disability Accommodations are never applied retroactively – only students who have previously requested and have been approved for supporting accommodations can have them apply to a given academic semester/course. Students needing support must make the request from the Department of Counseling, Testing, and Disability Services located in Building H.

Other Relevant Policies

A. Academic Integrity

The Honor Code

The American University of Ras Al Khaimah strongly supports the concept of academic integrity and expects students and all other members of the AURAK community to be honest in all academic endeavors. The AURAK Honor Code can be found in the AURAK Student Handbook.

The role of the Honor Code and associated Academic Integrity Policy is to protect the academic integrity of the university, encourage consistent ethical behavior among students, and foster a climate of honorable academic achievement. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life and students are responsible, therefore, for understanding and abiding by the code's provisions. While a student's commitment to honesty and personal integrity is assumed and expected, this Code and associated policy and procedures provides clarity of expectations.

Expectations

Cheating, plagiarism, and all other forms of academic fraud are unacceptable; they are serious violations of university policy. AURAK expects all students to be familiar with university

policies on academic integrity. The university will not accept a claim of ignorance – either of the policy itself or of what constitutes academic fraud – as a valid defense against such a charge.

Violations of Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity constitute academic fraud. Academic fraud consists of any actions that serves to undermine the integrity of the academic process or that gives the student an unfair advantage, including:

- Inspecting, duplicating or distributing test materials without authorization.
- Cheating, attempting to cheat, or assisting others to cheat – relevant here is the prohibition on being in possession of a mobile telephone or similar electronic device during a test or examination. In case such devices are found with a student, the student will be deemed to have attempted to cheat and will be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Academic Integrity Policy.
- Altering work after it has been submitted for a grade.
- Plagiarizing.
- Using or attempting to use anything that constitutes unauthorized assistance.
- Fabricating, falsifying, distorting, or inventing any information, documentation, or citation.

Plagiarism

One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and thus will bring the same penalties.

Plagiarism – submitting the work of others as one's own - is a serious offense. In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources – whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized – must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient. The citation style should be appropriate for the discipline and should clearly indicate the beginning and ending of the referenced material. All sources used in the preparation of an academic paper must also be listed with full bibliographic details at the end of the paper, as appropriate in the discipline.

Faculty and Student Expectations

- Every student, faculty member, and administrator is responsible for upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. Every member of the AURAK community shall honor the spirit of this policy by refusing to tolerate academic fraud.
- It is the responsibility of the instructor to provide students with additional guidelines for what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance.
- It is the responsibility of every student to see clarification if in doubt about what constitutes “authorized” and “unauthorized” assistance. In cases involving collaborative work, all students within the collaborative group may be help responsible for violating the code if any member of the group receives, accepts, or utilizes "unauthorized" assistance.
- Students are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.

A student who suspects that a violation of academic integrity has occurred should report the violation to the dean or to the Office of the Provost. In this report, the student should describe any action taken, such as talking with the person involved or with a faculty or staff member. Every effort will be made to preserve the anonymity of the student reporting the incident;

Possible penalties for academic fraud include: Formal warning, Reduction in grade for the assignment, Reduction in the grade for the course, A failing grade for the assignment, A failing grade (F) in the course, and/or Dismissal or Expulsion from the University.

Please refer to the relevant section in the *Student Handbook* and ensure a clear understanding of the provisions of the University Honor Code and the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

B. Concerns about Grades or Other Course Matters

Students are responsible for their learning experiences. If you are concerned about a class matter, first discuss it with the instructor. If the matter is not resolved, the next step is to meet with the Chair of the department in which the course is taught. If you still have a concern, meet with the Dean of the school in which the course is taught. The matter is likely to be resolved before it reaches that point, but if it is not, then visit the Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs. Students who decide to “jump to the top” will be referred “back” to the appropriate next step.

C. Assignments

University policy is that assignments are due on the date assigned. Instructors may refuse to accept late assignments or lower the grade that would be otherwise given.

D. Mobile Phones

All mobile phones, pagers and/or other communication devices should be turned off before entering the classroom. Students may NOT have mobile telephone or other electronic devices in their possession while completing examinations. Any violation will be deemed as having attempted to cheat.

E. Diversity and the Use of English

English is the common language of the AURAK campus for everyone. It is the only language to be used in the classroom. AURAK brings together students and faculty from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, which is one of the strengths of the university. This diversity provides an opportunity to share our different experiences and enlarge our understanding of the world.

APPENDIX

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Program Learning Outcomes / General Education At the completion of the program, students should be able to:	
PLO 1	Solve abstract, familiar and non-routine problems without assistance using appropriate information drawn from relevant fields of work or disciplines.
PLO 2	Present collaborative group analyses of topics that include complex ideas and integrate multiple points of view.
PLO 3	Analyze empirical data using appropriate information retrieval and analysis methods, tools and techniques to arrive at informed, verifiable solutions to abstract, familiar and non-routine problems.
PLO 4	Articulate the ethical and moral aspects of possible courses of action in particular situations and explain the consequences which might follow with reference to intercultural issues at regional, national and global levels.

Mapping Course Learning Outcomes to Program Learning Outcomes

	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4
CLO 1	Medium		High	
CLO 2			Medium	High
CLO 3	High		High	Medium
CLO 4	Medium	High	Medium	High