

SYLLABI FOR
GL 425: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CONCEPTS
GL 426: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE APPLICATIONS

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course explores topics in environmental science, including ecological concepts and environmental problems. It also introduces students to the interdisciplinary nature of problems related to the environment. The biological, chemical, and physical aspects of these problems will be emphasized. However, the accompanying social, political and economic issues will also be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this course are for students to acquire a better understanding of environmental issues. Specifically:

- To acquire knowledge of ecological concepts as they pertain to environmental problems.
- To gain an awareness and understanding of environmental problems and their causes.
- To learn about the possible solutions to these problems.
- And, to recognize the importance of the interactions of the political, social, and economic aspects of environmental issues.

The first five weeks (GL 425: Environmental Science Concepts) will focus on learning and understanding basic ecological concepts. You will then be able to use these concepts in the next five weeks (GL 426 Environmental Science Applications) to apply to the problem-solving method for issues of environmental concern.

TEXTBOOK

No textbook will be used for this class. However, environmental texts will be put on reserve in the library for reference purposes

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

Classroom instruction will be accomplished primarily by lecture and discussion, supplemented by audio-visual aids. Students may be required to do outside readings of articles of environmental interest.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS AND QUIZZES

One or two short (one page or less) writing assignments will be required for GL 425. Typically, these are responses to questions from a lecture topic or from one of the assigned readings. They are designed to help better understand an ecological concept or environmental issue. These written assignments may be either an in-class response or will be due the next class period. Quizzes may also be given in GL 425.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PAPER AND PRESENTATION

You will also be required to write a short paper (approx. 5-10 pages) on an environmental problem for GL 426. This will be a group project. Your group will identify and select an environmental problem and address possible or actual solutions. The paper should describe the problem in sound ecological terms; present possible solutions in an unbiased fashion; and it must include the social, political and economic interactions that are part of this problem. Your group will also prepare a 15-20 minute presentation to share your findings with classmates. Details on the guidelines and expectations for the paper and presentation will be given in class.

EXAMS AND GRADING

Two to four short exams will be given in GL 425 and consist mostly of multiple choice and fill-in-the blank type questions. One exam will be given in GL 426 and consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay. The course grade will be based on the exams, writing assignments, presentations and class participation. The following *tentative* grading scale will be used:

A	90% or above	D	60-69%
B	80-89%	F	59% or below
C	70-79%		