Sp2016 ENVS 1350 Introduction to Environmental Science
A Breadth Life Science (BLS) and Service Learning Course

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Office: CNR 346
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 PM or by appointment
Preferred methods of contact:
1st choice: send me a message via the course Canvas website
2nd choice: send an e-mail to nat.frazer@usu.edu [Put “ENVS 1350” in the Subject Line]
3rd choice: text me at (435) 232-7834 (for short messages requiring only a short reply)
4th choice: phone my office at (435) 797-0523 (leave a voice message)

Teaching Assistant: Michelle (Shelley) Arnold, a Ph.D. student in Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management, Department of Environment and Society, Quinney College of Natural Resources, Utah State University
Office: Biology and Natural Resources (BNR) 285
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Phone: (315) 480-0882
E-mail: greenbioeconomics@yahoo.com [Put “ENVS 1350” in Subject Line] or through Canvas

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow: Mara Braddy, a junior in the College of Science majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Plant Biology. After graduation, she plans on going to graduate school in Astrobiology.
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm in the CNR Atrium
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E-mail: mara.b@aggiemail.usu.edu [Put “ENVS 2340” in the Subject Line!] or through Canvas

Course Description: ENVS 1350 is an integrated science course emphasizing life sciences in addressing 21st Century environmental challenges affecting human and ecosystem health. Using sustainability and systems thinking as integrating themes, we will explore environmental, economic, and social frameworks within which humans contribute both to environmental problems and to their solutions locally, nationally and globally.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

• Explain how the nature, history, theories and methods of the life sciences contribute to our understanding of both positive and negative environmental impacts on human and ecosystem health;
• Evaluate debates about the relational, political, economic, cultural, historical, and natural contexts that shape the anthropogenic impacts on human and ecosystem health;
• Compare and evaluate differences among people's attitudes toward and understanding of environmental impacts on human and ecosystem health.

Course Resources:

1. Canvas – Canvas is the Learning Management System that we will use for our course. You can login to Canvas through the MyUSU website. Login with your A-Number and strong password (the same credentials you use for Access or AggieMail). You will find a number of Student Tutorials on the Canvas Home Page.
and other course information. **Be sure that your Canvas notifications are set to deliver Announcements to your preferred email address or text cell phone number.** To check and/or change your setting, look at the bar on the upper right hand side of the Canvas page and click on “Settings.” On the right hand side of the page that comes up you will see a box under Ways to Contact that shows your preferred e-mail address and options for “other contacts.” You can change your email address or switch to text messaging.

3. **Technical Support** – For any technical problems with your computer related to accessing Canvas, contact the IT Service Desk at 435.797.HELP (4357). There is a “Live Chat” feature, hours of availability, and email information on [http://online.usu.edu](http://online.usu.edu).

4. **Software** –
   a) Some documents in this course will be presented in PDF format. You will need Adobe Reader to view these files, which you can get for free at [http://get.adobe.com/reader/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/).
   b) Some Assignments will require you to submit a formatted word document. These files must be in .doc or .docx format created with Microsoft Word, or with Open Office Writer (free download for Mac or PC at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)).

**Required Textbook & Reading Materials:**
You are expected to read all assignments and view assigned videos **before** coming to class. You should keep up to date on these assignments to be able to perform well on surveys, quizzes and class participation activities. If you come to class unprepared, your other group members will be at a disadvantage. Please make sure you come to class prepared to engage with your fellow group members productively!


The book is available from the USU Bookstore, but there typically are only about 40 copies there for 190 students in the class. You can order an additional copy once their supply runs out, but if you have to do that, do it SOON! The book also can be purchased (with free shipping for students) or rented through Amazon. In addition, *Our Global Environment* is available as an e-book from several providers. Check the following Waveland Press website for links to those providers: [Note: I downloaded Our Global Environment to my iPad using the Kno app and it works well.]

I may also assign some additional readings. If so, they will be accessed through Canvas as pdf files.

**REEF Polling by i>clicker**
We will be using REEF Polling by i>clicker in class this term. REEF Polling helps me to understand what you know, gives everyone a chance to participate in class, and allows you to review the material after class. Participation with REEF Polling will account for part of Class Participation in your final grade.
You will need to create a REEF Polling account to vote in class using your laptop, smart phone, or tablet connected to the university’s Wi-Fi. You may also use your i>clicker remote in combination with your REEF Polling account.

Creating Your REEF Polling Account
Go to [http://reef-education.com](http://reef-education.com) or download the REEF Polling app for iPhone/iPad to sign up for a REEF Polling account. You should use your university email address and A-number in the Student ID.
not create more than one REEF Polling account as you will only receive credit from a single account.

Unless you will exclusively be using an i>clicker remote, you will need to purchase a subscription to use REEF Polling. You can use a credit card to purchase online, in-app purchase, or buy an access code from the bookstore. Creating a REEF Polling account automatically starts a free 14-day trial subscription. After 14 days, your trial subscription will be shut down unless you purchase a full subscription.

Add a Clicker to Your REEF Polling Account
If you want to use your i>clicker + or i>clicker 2 remote, you must register it with your REEF account. Register your clicker by logging into REEF Polling, navigate to your profile, and then enter your 8-character clicker ID. You may use either your smart device or registered clicker to vote in classroom polls throughout the term and will be able to review your session history no matter which device you use.

Add This Course to Your REEF Polling Account
Search the i>clicker or REEF website with the following information to find this course and add it to your REEF Polling account:

**Institution: Utah State University**
**Course: Sp16 EVNS1350**

Cheating
I consider submitting votes for a fellow student to be cheating and a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught voting for another student or have votes in a class that you did not attend, you will forfeit all REEF Polling points and may face additional disciplinary action.

**Videos:** From time to time I may show videos in class or assign them to be viewed on-line through Canvas. Most of the videos should have closed captioning. It’s not always possible for me to include them in the course schedule, because new ones may become available after I publish the schedule. Check the class Canvas website frequently and watch for Announcements to make sure you view any upcoming video assignments before coming to class to perform well on surveys, quizzes and class participation activities.

**Course Activities:**

**Class Participation.** Class Participation activities may include surveys, opinion polls, practice questions for the tests and final exam, short individual or group in-class discussion or writing assignments, or other activities intended to help you focus and think about the subjects being covered. *It is NOT acceptable to have another student sign your name to group activity reports when you are not present in class!* Be sure to bring your i>clicker or REEF device to class **every day**, as these activities may require you to provide input using your i>clicker or REEF account. Oh, and it’s a good idea to keep a spare set of batteries with you in case you i>clicker goes dead and/or make sure your phone/laptop is charged. [Note: sometimes “class participation” credit will be given for homework assignments.]

As part of your Class Participation activities, I will occasionally give UNGRADED Quizzes to determine if students understand the topic being covered. I also may take class surveys. Be sure to bring your i>clicker/REEF device to class every day. Even though these quizzes and surveys won’t be graded, the fact that you were present and participated will be validated through the records kept by the i>clicker/REEF system and count towards your Class Participation grade.
NOTE: Although I don’t take attendance by calling names or having students sign a roll, you obviously have to be present to participate in Class Participation Activities and in-class Group Work. Because the system maintains a record each time we use it, I will have an electronic record of how often you were absent on a day when we used i>clicker/REEF in Class Participation activities.

If you give me at least 24 hours advanced notice that you will be missing a class, I may (at my discretion) excuse your absence and not count your lack of participation against you for that day. Some absences for University activities (e.g., athletic team events or Ambassadors events, etc.) will be excused when I receive a written requestor email from an appropriate University official.

**If you miss class due to illness, legal problems, funerals, weddings, etc., you must provide me with written documentation from your health care provider, a legal professional, other appropriate official wedding invitation, funeral program, or obituary. Otherwise, to be fair to other students, I won’t excuse your absence.**

No-Pressure Quizzes (NPQs). These are *open-book* quizzes taken outside of class on Canvas. Each NPQ is due BEFORE class starts on the day it is assigned. You may take them as many times as you want before the due dates; only your highest score will be recorded.

Tests and Final Exam. There will be two tests during the course (each worth 100 points) and a final exam (worth 200 points). All of them will be submitted on Scantrons. We will provide the Scantrons (you do not need to purchase any for this course). We also will provide #2 pencils. Each student may bring a 3” X 5” index card to each test and a larger 4” X 6” index card to the final exam. You may write anything on the card that you think will help you on the test. [Yes, you can write on both sides! But you can’t share cards during the tests or final exam.]

Extra Credit. We occasionally will offer extra credit activities for the entire class. These will be listed as assignments in the course modules. Your first extra credit opportunity is a choice between participating in a short (15 question) survey on the New Environmental Paradigm or researching an issue and writing a letter to Congress. More details on this opportunity are presented on the Canvas page for Jan. 12.

**Note:** I do NOT create special extra credit opportunities for individual students who want to improve their grades. My philosophy is that if you can’t keep up with the workload in the course, it would be cruel of me to give you even more work to do! I may occasionally provide extra credit work for the entire class.

**Required and Optional Course Activities:**

All students must complete the following:

- **Class Participation** 200 points
- **No-Pressure Quizzes** 200 points
- **Test 1** 100 points
- **Test 2** 100 points
- **Final Exam** 200 points
In addition, each student must choose one (and only one) of the following 200-point course activities [see Canvas page for Jan. 12 for complete descriptions].

- In-class graded Pop Quizzes (10 @ 20 points each) 200 points
- Salt Lake Tribune article analysis (10 @ 20 points each) 200 points
- Book Analysis (from list of approved books) 200 points
- Service Learning Project (limited to 25 students) 200 points

You may not earn credit for more than one of the four activities.

**Total Course Points:** To clarify, you may accumulate up to 1000 points, 800 of which are based on activities required of all students and 200 of which you may choose from among the four options above. Note that if you do not make a choice before the due date, I will make a choice for you.

**Grades:** Your final grade in the class will be based on your total points earned, reflected as a % of 1000. Letter grades will be based on the standard USU grade assignments. [Decimal fractions of 0.5 or greater will be rounded up to the next percentage (i.e., 79.7% = 80%, but 79.4% = 79%).

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>(90 - 92%)</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>F</td>
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**University Policies:**

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities (Faculty Code)

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. Faculty Code Policy #403 further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities: USU Policies Section 403

Academic Integrity - "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.
Integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Grievance Process (Student Code)

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII Grievances

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged used of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4)}