

Environmental Science Senior Seminar

ENV 4730 Course Outline and Syllabus – Spring 2014

Instructor: Leslie Kanat, Ph.D.

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Course web page: <http://kanat.jsc.vsc.edu/>

Office hours: Scheduled office hours are from 8:30 to 9:30, Tuesday through Thursday; otherwise, stop in anytime or schedule an appointment. Office location: 332 Bentley.

Class Meeting: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:15, WLLC 216

Course Description and Objectives

Environmental Science incorporates ideas and concepts gleaned from the following areas of study: geology, chemistry, biology, physics, economics, and social science. It must, by its very nature, focus on the interrelationship of several disciplines. In this course you will have the opportunity to apply and present what you have learned in previous classes at Johnson State College.

Principal Activity

The first week of this course will be devoted to identifying individual, literature-based, research projects. Each person must find an environmental problem with the following characteristics:

- long-term data is available
- has not been addressed by previous students (see <http://kanat.jsc.vsc.edu/student/>)

Each person will select one problem and develop i) a poster and ii) an Internet site that:

- defines a problem and states a thesis
- presents the data
- presents President Obama's policy
- presents evidence and interpretations that both supports and refutes the thesis
- provides a lot of long-term data
- provides appropriate and adequate reference material
- provides form letters and addresses
- provides links to appropriate Internet sites

Further details of this project, and related assignments, will be posted on the course web page. It is your responsibility to figure out what is necessary to make your web pages functional and user-friendly (not just user-tolerant). I will always be available for assistance (by phone, e-mail, or office visits).

Assessment and Guidelines

- The final exam for this course is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, 15 May 2014; materials submitted for a grade will not be accepted after this date.
- Deadlines for aspects of the course project will be assigned as the term progresses and will be posted on the course web page.
- No grades (for any assignment) are dropped.
- Assignments are due at the start of the class period – otherwise they are late. For each calendar day (24-hour period) an assignment is late it will be down-graded by 10%. Please note that I recognize extraordinary circumstances may arise that would mitigate the late fee.
- All material submitted for a grade must be professionally presented.
- All material must be extremely well-written, succinct, and enjoyable to read.
- Graded assignments and short quizzes will be offered, during class, on an irregular basis.
- Your class average, and the algorithm used to compute your average, will be made available to you throughout the semester.
- Assessment of your abilities will be based on:
 - Participation in each class period
 - asking good questions
 - content, style, and usefulness of your web pages
 - appropriateness and usefulness of your poster
 - providing assistance to others
 - interim reports and consultations
 - class presentations
 - suggesting options and ideas to others
 - miscellaneous materials submitted for evaluation
 - participation in the course – be prepared to present something everyday
 - class presentations throughout the semester
 - final presentation to the class (also an open invitation to the public)
 - grading rubrics will be developed for some projects

Comments

The course is structured as a three-credit lecture course, but some of the class periods may be devoted to hands-on activities, lab projects, out-of-class experiences, or anything else we think of doing.

Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who require accommodations should acquire an Academic Accommodations Form from Academic Support Services (Dewey 123, phone 635-1264).

Plagiarism

Students at Johnson State College are expected to be honest in all their academic work. You are responsible for knowing what specific acts constitute plagiarism. If you are unsure, then consult me, or read the Undergraduate Catalogue. Academic dishonesty in any form is prohibited and unacceptable.