

# EVSP180

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

---

## Course Summary

**Course :** EVSP180 **Title :** Introduction to Environmental Science

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :** N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

---

## Description

**Course Description:** This course will give students the opportunity to learn and connect with the central issues in environmental science, from ecological to social to economic considerations. The basic concepts of ecology, geography, chemistry, economics, ethics, policy, and many other disciplines will be used to examine the overarching role that humans play in our planetary environmental problems, successes, and solutions. Assignments will allow students to collect and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data regarding the human-environment relationship. Lifestyle examination, ethical considerations, and critical analysis of individual contributions to local and global impacts in regards to environmental sustainability will be emphasized. This is a course primarily for a non-scientist.

### Course Scope:

This course provides students with an overview of the relationship between humans and their environment. Environmental problems, including human population growth, air pollution, water pollution, loss of biological diversity, and energy use, are introduced in this course. In addition, potential solutions to these problems are discussed.

---

## Objectives

- LO-1 Define environmental science and environmental sustainability.
- LO-2 Relate human population size to impacts on the environment and sustainability.
- LO-3 Summarize the steps in the scientific method.
- LO-4 Assess human health risks from environmental hazards.
- LO-5 Highlight the basic concepts of ecology.
- LO-6 Recall the major components of the atmosphere and the types, sources, and effects of air pollution and how to control it.
- LO-7 Explain the importance of water, and discuss resource problems, management, pollution, and improving water quality.
- LO-8 Describe the geologic properties of the lithosphere and the environmental effects of humans on mineral and soil resources.
- LO-9 Identify world food problems, the major types of agriculture, and challenges and solutions to food production problems.

- LO-10 Define biological diversity.
  - LO-11 Distinguish among the various types of solid and hazardous wastes and ways to reduce and manage wastes.
  - LO-12 Compare energy consumption of highly developed and developing countries.
  - LO-13 Evaluate the technological, political, and environmental issues associated with energy production and consumption.
- 

## Outline

### Week 1: Environmental Challenges in a Modern World

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-1 Define environmental science and environmental sustainability.
- LO-2 Relate human population size to impacts on the environment and sustainability.
- LO-3 Summarize the steps in the scientific method.

#### Required Readings and Resources

#### In Lessons

#### Assignments

#### Week 1 Forum

#### Week 1 ESA Ecological Footprint

### Week 2: Environmental History and Health

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-4 Assess human health risks from environmental hazards.
- LO-5 Highlight the basic concepts of ecology.

#### Required Readings and Resources

#### In Lessons

#### Assignments

#### Weeks 2-3 Forum

#### Week 2 ESA Home Chemicals

#### Week 2 Quiz 1 - Lessons 1 & 2

### Week 3: The Ecology of Biomes, Human Populations, and the Atmosphere

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-2 Relate human population size to impacts on the environment and sustainability.
- LO-5 Highlight the basic concepts of ecology.
- LO-6 Recall the major components of the atmosphere and the types, sources, and effects of air pollution and how to control it.

## Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Weeks 2-3 Forum

Week 3 ESA Weather

### **Week 4: Humanity's Global Impacts on the Atmosphere and Water**

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-6 Recall the major components of the atmosphere and the types, sources, and effects of air pollution and how to control it.
- LO-7 Explain the importance of water, and discuss resource problems, management, pollution, and improving water quality.

## Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Weeks 4-5 Forum

Week 4 ESA Water Use

Week 4 Quiz 2 - Lessons 3 & 4

### **Week 5: Human Impact and Management of Earth's Soil and Land**

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-8 Describe the geologic properties of the lithosphere and the environmental effects of humans on mineral and soil resources.
- LO-9 Identify world food problems, the major types of agriculture, and challenges and solutions to food production problems.

## Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Weeks 4-5 Forum

Week 5 PowerPoint Outline

### **Week 6: The Connections Between Biodiversity, Food, and Waste**

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-9 Identify world food problems, the major types of agriculture, and challenges and solutions to food production problems.
- LO-10 Define biological diversity.

- LO-11 Distinguish among the various types of solid and hazardous wastes and ways to reduce and manage wastes.

#### Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Week 6 ESA Personal Impact Analysis - Carbon

Week 6 Quiz 3 - Lessons 5 & 6

### **Week 7: Renewable and Nonrenewable Energy**

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-12 Compare energy consumption of highly developed and developing countries.
- LO-13 Evaluate the technological, political, and environmental issues associated with energy production and consumption.

#### Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Weeks 7-8 Forum

Week 7 PowerPoint Presentation

### **Week 8: Final Review**

---

#### Learning Outcomes

- LO-1 Define environmental science and environmental sustainability.
- LO-2 Relate human population size to impacts on the environment and sustainability.
- LO-13 Evaluate the technological, political, and environmental issues associated with energy production and consumption.

#### Required Readings and Resources

In Lessons

Assignments

Weeks 7-8 Forum

Week 8 ESA Renewable Energy

Week 8 Quiz 4 - Lessons 7 & 8

---

## **Evaluation**

**Grading:**

Name	Grade %
Forums	30.00 %
Week 1 Forum	7.50 %
Weeks 2-3 Forum	7.50 %
Weeks 4-5 Forum	7.50 %
Weeks 7-8 Forum	7.50 %
Lesson Quizzes	20.00 %
Quiz 1 - Lessons 1 & 2	5.00 %
Quiz 2 - Lessons 3 & 4	5.00 %
Quiz 3 - Lessons 5 & 6	5.00 %
Quiz 4 - Lessons 7 & 8	5.00 %
Environmental Science Activities	35.00 %
Week 1 ESA Ecological Footprint	5.83 %
Week 2 ESA Home Chemicals	5.83 %
Week 3 ESA Weather	5.83 %
Week 4 ESA Water Use	5.83 %
Week 6 ESA Personal Impact Analysis - Carbon	5.83 %
Week 8 ESA Renewable Energy - Capstone	5.83 %
Research Project - Outline	5.00 %
Week 5 PowerPoint Outline	5.00 %
Research Project - Final	10.00 %
Week 7 PowerPoint Presentation	10.00 %

---

## Materials

**Book Title:** Various resources from the APUS Library & the Open Web are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/er.php> to locate the course eReserve.\*

**Author:**

**Publication Info:**

**ISBN:** ERESERVE NOTE

---

## Required Readings and Resources

- See the Lessons section of the classroom for readings and weekly lecture notes

**Additional Resources:** Please go to the program guides in the APUS Library for additional resources:

- Environmental Science: [http://apus.libguides.com/environmental\\_science](http://apus.libguides.com/environmental_science)

## Software Requirements

- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint) - American Public University System provides Microsoft Office 365 to AMU/APU students and faculty at no cost
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

---

# Course Guidelines

## Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

## Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours\* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

## Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

## Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified

## Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

## Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the

more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.

- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

### Identity Verification & Live Proctoring

- Faculty may require students to provide proof of identity when submitting assignments or completing assessments in this course. Verification may be in the form of a photograph and/or video of the student's face together with a valid photo ID, depending on the assignment format.
- Faculty may require live proctoring when completing assessments in this course. Proctoring may include identity verification and continuous monitoring of the student by webcam and microphone during testing.

---

## University Policies

### [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.