



Intro to Environmental Science
ENSC 1000 Section 05 (80039)
2025 Fall

Instructor Information

Christine Mutiti (She/her)

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Office Number: Russell library 317

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Office/Student Hours

Tue, Wed, & Thu - 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Course Description

Corequisite: ENSC 1000L. Course uses basic principles of biology and earth science as a context for understanding environmental policies and resource management practices.

Course Information

Meeting time: Tuesdays/Thursdays 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Meeting location: Arts & Sciences 270

Required Materials

Introduction to Environmental Science (2018)

Notes:

<https://libguides.gcsu.edu/ensc1000>

Course Outline/Schedule

Course outline schedule

Course topic	Chapter	Date
Introduction	1	08/18 - 09/05
Population ecology	2	
Exam #1 09/09/2025		
Non-renewable energy	3	09/08 - 10/03
Alternative energy	4	
Exam #2 10/07/2025		
Air pollution	5	10/06 - 11/07
Carbon cycle and climate change	6	
Exam #3 11/06/2025		
Water resources	7	11/10 - 12/08
Water quality	8	
Final exam - Tuesday Dec 9th @ 6:00 pm - 8:15 pm		

Grading Policy

Assessment criteria

Assessment item	Points	Percent of course grade
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Assessment item	Points	Percent of course grade
Chapter reading quizzes x8	25 each (total 200)	40
ENSC in the media assignment	50	10
Exam 1	50	10
Exam 2	50	10
Exam 3	50	10
Final exam	100	20
Total	500	100

I. Chapter reading quizzes:

- Reading the textbook chapters exposes you to content that we may not have the time to cover in lecture. In order to have students actually read the textbook, each chapter has a reading quiz setup in GeorgiaVIEW.
- The goal is for you to learn to READ and COMPREHEND (understand) information of a scientific nature. All reading quiz grades go into the gradebook and impact your course grade so use your textbook and lecture notes to maximize your score.
- The reading quizzes have no time limit. You can exit and return to continue the quiz. You can ask me for assistance or clarification at any time before final quiz submission.
- Things that may not help your performance on these quizzes include multitasking, googling answers, attempting the quiz on your cellphone, and attempting the quiz at the last minute among others.
- The quizzes are usually available to be attempted for at least two weeks so THERE ARE NO EXTENSIONS – this is not negotiable!
- One lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester before final grade determination.

II. Environmental science in the media assignment: **Due Nov 22nd**

- Environmental issues affect our everyday lives, but the way we learn about them often depends on news coverage, personal experience, and public

dialogue. This assignment gives you the opportunity to explore a current environmental topic and examine how it is understood, communicated, and experienced by different audiences.

- By engaging with real-world content and choosing the format that fits your interests, such as writing, visual design, or personal connection, you will:
 - Strengthen your ability to evaluate and communicate complex environmental topics
 - Practice applying course concepts to issues you care about
 - Develop your voice as an informed student and citizen
 - Whether you're analyzing a media message, expressing an opinion, or translating science for others, this assignment helps you connect environmental science with the world beyond the classroom.

III. Exams:

- There are four exams which together make up 50% of your final course grade.
- Exams 1, 2, and 3 are non-cumulative, they are based on the content covered during the period before the exam.
- The final exam is cumulative, it covers content from all the chapters covered during the semester.
- All exams are mandatory and are all to be taken in person in the classroom. Bring a computer to class to take the exam. If you don't have a computer, you can check out one from the library
- Students with special accommodations should make an appointment to take their exams at the testing center

Academic Performance Feedback

Prior to mid-semester, you will receive feedback on your academic performance in this course.

Attendance Policy

This course has no assigned grade for attendance. However, students who attend lectures, take notes, and ask questions generally perform very well in this course. Lecture PowerPoints provided on D2L are only an outline of the content discussed in lectures, they do not contain detailed notes. Taking notes during lectures will make studying for exams more efficient (less time consuming) so make sure your notes are coherent and accurate. If not sure, ask for clarification during class or come to my office during the student drop-in hours (no appointment needed) or use the textbook for confirmation.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Evaluate the diverse responses of peoples, groups, and cultures to environmental issues, themes and topics.
- Use critical observation and analysis to predict outcomes associated with environmental modifications.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the causes & consequences of climate change.
- Apply quantitative skills to solve environmental science problems.
- Demonstrate knowledge of environmental law and policy.
- Interpret data in figures and graphs.

Core IMPACTS

IMPACTS Domain: Technology, Mathematics, and Sciences (STEM)

Orienting Question(s): How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?

Career-Ready Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis, Problem-Solving, Teamwork

USG Core Learning Outcome(s): Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

GCSU Core Learning Outcome(s): Students will be able to use technology to facilitate problem-solving. Students will be able to use critical observation and analysis to model

and/or predict natural phenomena. Students will be able to evaluate mathematical and/or quantitatively based arguments.

Religious Observance Policy

GCSU values the religious diversity of our students. Major religious holidays that will be observed on class days are included on the [academic calendar](#) for each term.

Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Observance is limited to the date(s) of the holiday; supplemental time (e.g., travel time to go home to observe the holiday with family) is not eligible for accommodation. Exercising one's rights under this policy is subject to the GCSU Honor Code.

Students who will miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to notify each instructor in writing within the first week of class of the semester in which the observance occurs and to make up the coursework missed as a result of the absence. The [Religious Observance Faculty Notification Form](#) may be used to facilitate this notification. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Given the time limitations inherent in completing end-of-semester assignments and final exams, this policy does not apply during finals week. Students are expected to take final exams at the scheduled times and complete end-of-semester work by the deadlines set by each instructor.

Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy. Students may appeal actions taken by an instructor under this policy through the GCSU [academic grievance process](#).

Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability

If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. The Student Disability Resource Center can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GC

programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact the Student Disability Resource Center located in Russell Library 109 at 478-445-5931.

Student Mental Health

In order to best meet the needs of students and their mental health, GCSU provides on-campus Counseling Services (478-445-5331). Additionally, the GCSU 24/7 Emotional Support Line (833-855-0085) is available for students to speak to a counselor for in-the-moment support for large or small concerns. Online counseling is available through the University System of Georgia (USG) at [LiveHealth Online](https://usg.startlivehealthonline.com) (<https://usg.startlivehealthonline.com>) by using the service key GCSUSTUDENT and selecting the "University System of Georgia LiveHealth Online StudentTeletherapy" tile.

Student Opinion Surveys Statement

Given the technological sophistication of GCSU students, the student opinion survey is delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at GCSU. All responses are completely confidential, and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.

Student Academic Dishonesty

Georgia College acknowledges the need to preserve an orderly process with regard to teaching, research, and public service, as well as the need to preserve and monitor students' academic rights and responsibilities. Since the primary goal of education is to increase one's own knowledge, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at Georgia College. Possible consequences of academic dishonesty, depending on the seriousness of the offense, may range from a revision of assignment, an oral reprimand, a written

reprimand, an F or a zero for grade work, removal from the course with a grade of F, to suspension or exclusion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes the following examples, as well as similar conduct aimed at knowingly making false representation with respect to academic performance:

- a. Cheating on an examination;
- b. Collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course;
- c. Using artificial intelligence technologies in completing coursework or assignments contrary to the stated rules of the course and/or without the prior explicit written approval or positive assent of the applicable instructor.
- d. Plagiarism. For the purposes of this document, plagiarism is considered the act of representing ideas, writings, artistic designs, or any other creative endeavors that were created by someone or something else as one's own. This includes, but is not limited to, materials created by artificial intelligence. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated; and when the ideas of another are incorporated in any submission, they must be acknowledged, according to a style of documentation appropriate to the discipline.
- e. Stealing examination or course materials;
- f. Falsifying records, laboratory results, or other data;
- g. Submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course;
- h. Knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination, or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.
- i. Students accused of academic dishonesty may appeal through the student academic dishonesty procedures in effect at Georgia College.

AI Statement

Generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Bard, or others) can be helpful for brainstorming, organizing thoughts, and exploring environmental topics. However, in this course, your original thinking, personal voice, and academic honesty are essential.

You **may use** AI tools for:

- Exploring background information on environmental topics (as you would with a search engine)
- Checking your grammar or clarity in writing (with care)
- Brainstorming ideas or prompts during the early stages of an assignment

You **may not use** AI tools to:

- Generate full or partial assignments, such as summaries, reflections, opinion pieces, or responses presented as your own
- Fabricate data, quotes, or sources
- Replace personal engagement activities (e.g., interviews or reflections based on lived experience)

If you use AI at any stage of your work, you must include a brief note at the end of your assignment that explains how you used it. For example:

“I used ChatGPT to help brainstorm topic ideas for this assignment but wrote the final content myself.”

Failure to follow these guidelines may be considered academic dishonesty and will be addressed according to the Georgia College Honor Code.

If you're unsure whether AI use is appropriate for an assignment, just ask, I'm happy to clarify.

Academic Grievances or Appeals

An academic grievance or appeal is an allegation by a student of substantial and/or unjustified deviation, to the student's detriment, from policies, procedures and/or requirements regarding admission, grading policies, special agreements, instructor's requirements and academic requirements of the University. Students shall have the right

to file academic grievances or appeals according to the procedures approved by the University and outlined in the [University Catalog](#).

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area.

Syllabus URL

<https://www.gcsu.edu/registrar/required-syllabus-statements>