ENVRN 7 / GEOG 7*

Introduction to Environmental Studies

Section Numbers: 4201 / 4245 (W 6:00 – 9:05p) Rm 21 / Malibu Campus

Course Description: This introductory course will use an interdisciplinary approach to provide students with a broad perspective on environmental problems and solutions. Students will be introduced to the strategies used by scientists, economists, political analysts, and other writers and researchers to investigate and analyze environmental and urban issues, human/nature relationships, natural and built environments, and environmental citizenship.

Prerequisites: None **Transfer credit:** CSU; UC **(3 Units)**

**Environmental Studies 7 is the same course as Geography 7. Students may earn credit for one, but not both.*

Instructor: Meredith Leonard **Office Hours:** I am available immediately before and after class.
Email: leonarml@lavc.edu **Instructor web resource:** http://leonardlavc.weebly.com

Tentative Schedule *(subject to change—it is your responsibility to keep current on exam dates, etc.)*

Week:	Dates:	Topic / Assignment / Readings:
01	Sep 01	Course Introduction; Atmospheric Science & Air Pollution / Ch 13
02	Sep 08	Global Climate Change / Ch 14
03	Sep 15	Global Climate Change / Ch 14
04	Sep 22	Nonrenewable Energy Sources / Ch 15
05	Sep 29	Renewable Energy Alternatives / Ch 16; Group Presentations*
06	Oct **06**	**Exam #1** (Chapters 13-16) – **Wed. Oct. 6th**
07	Oct 13	Waste Management / Ch 17; "Story of Stuff"*; Human Population / Ch 6
08	Oct 20	Soil, Agriculture & Future of Food / Ch 7
09	Oct 27	Environmental Health & Toxicology / Ch 10
10	Nov 03	Fresh Water, Oceans & Coasts / Ch 12
11	Nov **10**	**Exam #2** (Chs 17, 6, 7, 10, 12) – **Wed. Nov. 10th**
12	Nov 17	An Introduction to Environmental Science / Ch 1
13	Nov 24	Environmental Economics & Environmental Policy / Ch 2
14	Dec 01	Environmental Systems / Ch 3; Geology, Minerals & Mining / Ch 11
15	Dec 08	Evolution / Ch 4; Biomes / Ch 5
16	**Dec 15**	**Wed. Dec. 15th Final – Exam #3 (Chapters 1-5, 11 & Epilogue) 6:00p – 8:00p**

Text: Withgott, Jay H. & Scott Brennan (2009) *Essential Environment: the Science Behind the Stories*, 3rd Ed. San Francisco: Pearson/Benjamin Cummings (ISBN: 0-13-604531-6). *"A la carte"* edition (unbound) also available (ISBN: 0-32-162575-7).

Publisher's textbook companion website: www.myenvironmentplace.com (register for this site using the access code provided in your new textbook).

Grading: Your grade for this course will be determined by number of points earned this term.

Exams: **300 points** (3 exams; 100 points each)
There will be **three exams** (equally weighted) for this class. The exams are not cumulative; each one will cover approximately one third of the class material (including material from lecture, videos, field trips & the text). The exams (100 points each) will consist of multiple choice, true-false, short answer, fill-in and one essay question on the final. You will be required to bring a Scantron form (882 or 882-ES) for each of the exams.

Quizzes: **75 points** (3 quizzes; 25 points each)
These quizzes will be similar in format to the exams. On these quizzes, you will be encouraged to work in groups. Think of these as study aides for the exams.

Participation, Discussions, In-class & Take-home Assignments: **75 points** (varied, therefore, it is extremely important that you attend class!)

Letter Grades will be determined based on the number of points you earn as a percentage of the total points possible for the course (450):

A	90 – 100% (405 points or above)	**D**	60 – 69% (270-314 points)
B	80 – 89% (360-404 points)	**F**	< 60% (≤ 269 points)
C	70 – 79% (315-359 points)		

Extra Credit / "Enrichment Activities": max 35 points
Ask me about the "Sustainable Works" Program at SMC or the "research option" (with a limit of **five** per student; one per month). Details will be discussed in class.

Class Policies: I expect students to come to class prepared, & to treat me & fellow students with courtesy & respect. **Academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, cheating / plagiarism) will not be tolerated!** Anyone found to be plagiarizing or cheating on an assignment will receive a zero (fail) on that assignment or exam, & be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for further disciplinary action (per "Standards of Student Conduct", schedule of classes).

Regular **attendance** is encouraged. If you stop attending class (or wish to drop) for Fall Semester 2010, ***you*** must drop the class yourself – officially – by telephone, internet or Office of Admissions & Records. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 'F' in this class. (See Schedule of Classes for dates)

Make sure to exchange **contact information** (phone & email) with *several* of your classmates. Just in case circumstances force you to miss a class, you will want to contact one of your classmates to find out what you missed. *Without prior approval / a doctor's note*, **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** will be given; **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS** will be accepted. Communication is key!

If you are a student with a disability & require classroom accommodations, please let me know & be sure to contact the appropriate office on campus.

Consult my website for further explanation of some items (http://leonardlavc.weebly.com)

What you should expect to get out of this course:

Course Objectives: Upon completion of the course students will be able to: Use critical thinking and the scientific method to understand environmental issues and problems. Use basic concepts in physical and life sciences to understand the processes and cycles shaping our planet. Identify basic aspects of human behavior that impact our environment. Analyze local and global environmental politics and policies. Apply basic concepts to make businesses and economies more efficient and sustainable. Compare and contrast literature concerning the environment and human/environment interaction. Apply service learning and other real-world experiences in practical ways that improve our environment.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will gain a scientific understanding of Earth's natural systems and cycles.
Students will analyze human activity and its impact on Earth's natural environments.
Students will build conceptual foundations of our environmental attitudes, values, and challenges from a variety of cultural perspectives.

TEAR HERE

Please sign in the space below to indicate that you have read & understand the syllabus for this course:

Student Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student ID Number: _____ Course Name:_____ Section No.:_____

Instructor's Contact Information – *do you know how to find me???*

Instructor Name: _____

Email Address: _____