

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (EPCT 1311_6A1)

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face; Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; MPC 109

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

Passed the writing portion of TSI or other accepted testing instrument.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of environmental science and current global concerns and a brief history of environmental ethics, resource use and conservation. Discussion of fundamental principles of resource economics and environmental health.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain the historical impact of the environmental movement.
- Describe the environmental interrelationship between social, political, and natural processes.
- Describe the environmental regulatory agencies and their mission at federal, state, and local levels.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Daniel Paulus, CSP
Email:	depaulus@lit.edu
Office Phone:	409-937-5876
Office Location:	MPC 239
Office Hours:	Monday, 4:00-5:00 p.m.; via cellphone

Approved:



REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Environmental Science Systems and Solutions, 6th Edition

McKinney and Schoch

ISBN: 978-1-28409-170-0

USB flash drive

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are required to log on weekly to Blackboard and review the week's course material.

Additionally, you are required to check your LIT emails weekly.

Each student will be required to give a 1-2 minute safety meeting at the beginning of every class. This will be used to take attendance, as well as a daily grade.

If you miss the safety meeting, it cannot be made up. If you are late, you miss the meeting. If you miss the meeting because you are tardy, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know you are present. If not, you will be counted absent.

According to campus policy, students must be in attendance for 80% of class days. Following is the policy for absences in all 16 week process technology classes and labs:

Miss 3 classes or less	Receive calculated grade
Miss 4 classes	10 points dropped from calculated grade
Miss 5 classes	20 points dropped from calculated grade
Miss 6 classes	30 points dropped from calculated grade
Miss 7 or more classes	Student receives an F

A student is absent if they are not physically in the classroom. An excused absence simply means that the student can make up any missed work. I allow make-up work, but YOU must request it.

Three student tardies will be considered one absence. A student is considered to be tardy once the instructor has completed taking roll.

An excused absence will only be granted if the student provides a written justification (for example, by email) which is vetted and approved by the instructor (such as a sickness/injury, or job related requirement). If the student is applying for a job related excused absence documentation must be provided from their employer, including their supervisor's contact information. A sick note from a Doctor or hospital is required for long term sickness/injury.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified date as listed in the College Calendar on the [Student Success](#) web page. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week 1 8/24/26	Introductions; Introduction to Environmental Science	Week 1 PowerPoint	
Week 2 8/31/26	The Environment as an Integrated System and the Biosphere	Week 3 PowerPoint	
Week 3 9/7/26	Labor Day Holiday - Campus Closed		Campus Closed
Week 4 9/14/26	Biological Resources; Environmental Ethics; Environmental Regulatory Agencies	Week 4 PowerPoint	Presentation proposal outline due
Week 5 9/21/26	EXAM 1: Weeks 1-4	Week 5 PowerPoint; Review Weeks 1-4	EXAM 1
Week 6 9/28/26	Demography - Feeding the World	Week 6 PowerPoint	
Week 7 10/5/26	Fundamentals of Energy, Fossil Fuels, and Hydroelectric Power	Week 7 PowerPoint	
Week 8 10/12/26	Nuclear Energy; Alternative Energy Sources; Energy Conservation	Week 8 PowerPoint	Class presentations
Week 9 10/19/26	EXAM 2: Weeks 5-8	Week 9 PowerPoint; Review Weeks 5-8	EXAM 2
Week 10 10/26/26	Water Resources - Water Pollution	Week 10 PowerPoint	Class presentations
Week 11 11/2/26	Principles of Pollution Control; Toxicology, Pesticides, and Risk	Week 11 PowerPoint	Class presentations
Week 12 11/9/26	Air Pollution: Local, Regional, and Global; Global Warming	Week 12 PowerPoint	Class presentations
Week 13 11/16/26	Municipal Solid Waste and Hazardous Wastes	Week 13 PowerPoint	
Week 14 11/23/26	Class Presentations of Selected Topics		Class presentations
Week 15 11/30/26	EXAM 3: Weeks 9-13	Review Weeks 9-13	EXAM 3
Week 16 12/7/26	FINAL EXAM - Comprehensive	Comprehensive review	FINAL EXAM

The instructor may adjust topics, readings, activities, or due dates when needed. Changes will be announced in class and through Blackboard.

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Class attendance and participation 10%
- Three class tests (3 x 20%) 60%
- Class presentation 10%
- Comprehensive final exam 20%

GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the [LIT Online Experience](#) page. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

STARFISH

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For this 3-credit-hour course, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students should review the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy in the current LIT Catalog and Student Handbook.

INSTRUCTOR REVIEW REQUIRED

No additional course policies verified for Daniel Paulus were supplied. The source's remaining additional policies are labeled for another instructor and were not transferred.