

Spring 2025: Biology-104- 2 Changing Natural Environment
Readey: Online/ Asynchronous Class
(Tentative Syllabus)

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours: 3

Course Description: A biological approach to understanding the natural environment. This course introduces basic ecological principles, including biogeochemical cycling, energy flow, the origins of biodiversity, and population growth; considers how humans interact with natural systems; examines the origins of contemporary environmental issues, including the role of humans in contributing to environmental changes; and explores potential solutions to environmental issues that are based on biological and ecological principles. Lecture only. *(Does not fulfill major or minor requirements in biology.)*

Course Prerequisites: none

Classroom Zoom Link:

First Day of Class: **Tuesday, Jan 20.** Materials are online starting now.

Final Exam Deadline: You will have until **Wednesday, May 14,** to complete all sections of the final examination. (Examinations are broken into subsections for your convenience.)

FACULTY INFORMATION

Instructor: Marijo Readey

Zoom Room: <https://neiu-edu.zoom.us/j/3038240479>

Meeting ID: 303 824 0479

In-person hours in BBH 352 or BBH 356

Office Hours: M: online Noon to 5 pm.

T, R: 10-noon BBH 352B W: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other office times are also available by appointment.



Check for any changes or location codes and links in the course announcements.

Course Announcements on D2L: Staying informed is critical for both online and in-person classes! Stay in touch with any changes, updates, or bonus materials on the Course Announcements page on D2L.

Phone Extension: Instead of phone calls, please send a request to chat using Nmail or the discussion board so we can set up a meeting in Zoom or Google. You can also check to see if I am active on chat, though this is not a very reliable mode of communication. (773-442-5728)

E-mail: mareadey@neiu.edu. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response from Sunday through Thursday. I also check e-mail on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The quickest way to get an answer to questions about the course is by asking on the discussion boards.

With rare exceptions (such as the final exam date), all materials are due by 11:59 pm on their due date. Due days will vary, but most will be due on Sundays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. You may hand the materials in ahead of time. You do not need to do the work or exams on any specific day, but you need to have it completed and submitted by the due date.

COURSE MATERIALS

List of Required Text Materials:

My slides and review sheets, the readings in the assigned trade books, and the assigned online materials will give you more than sufficient information to pass this class in introductory environmental science.

You have been provided with PowerPoint copies of all lectures and review notes in the "Content" area of D2L.

UNDERSTAND THESE CONCEPTS and read the assigned readings in our books. If you feel more comfortable with a physical text, I recommend Environmental Science by Botkins and Keller. It will cover some, but not all, of the materials for this class.

Keep up with the presentations.

If you feel you need a text to answer some basic questions, a free opensource book can be found at the University of Maryland: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/562>

This book and its associated online learning modules are demanding but provide suitable foundational materials.

Required Books:

We will use five required books throughout the semester. You do not need to read each of them in their entirety. They are more like a buffet, where you can take a little taste. If you like the book, you can return and get more later. All books should be available through the NEIU as a *hard copy (H)* bookstore. Most are also available online as *ebooks (E)* or *audiobooks (A)*. I also noted if a book is available through Hoopla (Chicago Public Library's online system).

Required:

Radium Girls by Kate Moore; formats: H, E, A (available free through Hoopla: E, A)

Used with our environmental justice unit. Start reading it now.

Pandora's Lab by Paul Offit; formats: H, E, A (available free through Hoopla: E, A)

Multiple uses throughout the semester

The Next Pandemic by Ali S. Khan; (H, E, A) (available free on Hoopla: E)

be careful. There are two books with this title. Be sure to get the one by Khan.

We will also use this one as a bonus book report to gain points.

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson; (H, E, A) (available free through Hoopla: E, A)

Used multiple times throughout the semester

Cows, Pigs, Wars, and Witches; by Marvin Harris (H, E) (not available through Hoopla)

Used mainly with our cultural ecology units

Free PDF of Cows Pigs, Wars, and Witches:

[https://monoskop.org/images/5/5b/Harris Marvin Cows Pigs Wars and Witches The Riddles of Culture 1974.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/5/5b/Harris_Marvin_Cows_Pigs_Wars_and_Witches_The_Riddles_of_Culture_1974.pdf)

NB: These last two books are historical and provide background to how we understand environmental science today.

Do not wait until the end of the semester to read the books! Read a little each week, AND ASK QUESTIONS! There are review sheets for all materials online, including the books.

All required online materials are provided as links within the PowerPoint lectures or as links within D2L.

Bonus Work: In addition, you can earn **up to 30 extra credit points** by reading additional books from the list given on D2L in the “assignments” section. Book reports should not exceed two to three pages, double-spaced 12 pt type, and in that space, you must convince me that you actually read the book, not just skimmed a review or gave up after the first few pages.

Additionally, you will be most successful in this course if you have **regular access to a computer and a reliable internet connection** capable of **streaming video and downloading files**. It's also encouraged, though not required, that you acquire a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone (earbuds are fine) and/or a webcam to communicate effectively over the net with your instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

(Logic of the schedule): CNE is a general curriculum class for non-biology majors. We will spend less time on mathematics and scientific investigation and more on practical and applied ecology. The course is organized into four major portions and six subsections. By the end of the semester, you should have a basic knowledge of each of the major issues discussed in class.

By the end of this course, you should be able to...

PART I: (First Weeks) History and Philosophy of Science, emphasizing the environment, what constitutes a science, and how scientific understanding helps us tackle problems beyond the classroom. *I consider this preliminary material to be among the most crucial information of the semester because it explains how scientists think.*

PART II: Basic concepts in environmental science. During this phase of the class, you will become familiar with the various biomes (life regions) and principles that determine the complexity and health of ecosystems. *These data will form the foundation for the remainder of the class.*

PART III: The effects of the Environment on Human Culture. In this portion of the class, we will explore *how the environment has shaped various aspects of human cultural life, including religion, diet, politics, and values*. This material focuses on social and economic sciences, disciplines outside biology that are still part of environmental science. This section also includes material on agricultural practices and development.

Part IV: Human impact on the environment. *Here, you will expand your knowledge of chemistry, pollution, wildlife management, and radiation*. This phase will also show the relationship between environmental changes, evolution, and extinctions. You will be given a choice of focus areas as we approach this point in the class.



RELATED LEARNING OUTCOMES (subsumed into each of the above units):

By the end of this class, you should be able to:

Understand the nature of science

Understand how energy moves through an environment and how energy resources impact organisms.

Understand how chemical resources like nitrogen, oxygen, and phosphorous cycle through systems.

Describe the major terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) biomes

Explain concepts of water quality and availability

Explain the hierarchical organization of ecosystems, and explain how elements of an ecosystem interact

Explain the idea of a food web

Explain the principles of natural selection, artificial selection, kin selection, and sexual selection

Explain the concept of evolutionary time and why we are not likely to “evolve” our way out of environmental problems.



Have a basic understanding of biodiversity, including the three major domains of life

Understand the basic principles of population dynamics, and explain how patterns of population growth can impact the survival of a species and its ability to compete

Explain how soil, water, and air are interconnected, interdependent resources for life.

Describe agroecosystems and how food systems function.

Discuss energy resources used by humans, and explain how our dependence on energy impacts both our

lifestyles and our long-term ability to survive.

Explain the difference between renewable, semi-renewable, and non-renewable resources

Understand the links between air quality, climate, and climate change.

Discuss why culture is considered to be humankind’s primary adaptation to the environment

Explain the difference between a generalist and a specialist adaptation; why humans are considered generalists, and why our propensity for culture has allowed us to survive in many habitats.

Give concrete examples of culture as

Discuss the history and principles of resource management, conservation, and preservation in the light of the concept of sustainability and of extinction.

Explain the concepts of “poison” and “pollution” and why they are complex, multifaceted ideas rather than a single construct.

Understand waste management through the case examples of water various pollution, and understand how this fluid system is similar and different from air and soil pollution.

Explain the concept of environmental justice and environmental discrimination as a planet-wide issue.

Question the ethical basis and biases of resource use and resource preservation.

Understand the concept of externalization (Cost externalizing) and how externalization serves to reward companies, countries, and individuals who pollute.

Understand the introductory psychology of consumption and resource conservation.

Explore strategies to reduce our personal environmental footprints while improving our lifestyles or minimizing the negative impact on our lifestyles and the basic psychology of consumption and resource conservation.



STUDENT TASKS / ASSIGNMENTS / REQUIREMENTS

Exams and quizzes will include questions on the book materials as well as the lecture materials. There are multiple ways to garner points throughout the semester.

Grading Summary:

Total Quiz Points: 154 points (16 quizzes, some divided into sub-sections with an average of 6-16 pts per quiz. You may skip or miss one or do them all to gain bonus points)

Exams: 205 points (5 parts scattered throughout the semester; all parts must be completed.)

Assignments: 50 points

= 409 points (There are bonus points on the exams too.) Plus:

Participation (up to 20 bonus pts. See below)

Bonus books: up to 30 points

Total number of regular points through the semester: 409

Grading Standards: The following grade standards will be applied.

90%-100% = A (over 360 pts) 80%-89.9% = B (320- 359pts)

70%-79.9% = C (280-319 pts) 60%-69.9% = D (240-279pts)

0-59.9% = F (below 239 points)

Points: It is always a good idea to record your tests and assignments in case of a question concerning your grade in the course. *Because some disreputable people try to cheat by changing their exam answers or by sharing their exams with others, I no longer return exams. I ask that you maintain the integrity of the quizzes and examinations by not sharing questions with others. It only harms you!* However, you may visit my online office during hours to review your test with me. Upon request, I am also willing to schedule a group post-test review of the exams for any interested parties.

The number of questions on an exam does not necessarily match the exam's value. Grades are scaled.

Participation Points: To gain all 20 participation points, you must log onto the discussion board an average of once a unit and participate on the discussion board. If you complete the materials early, don't worry. You will still get the points. Try to post at least one constructive comment or thread to the discussion board twice weekly. Saying that the book was dope or you hated it is not constructive. You must tell us why it's dope or why you hated it.

Exam and Quiz Formats: The quizzes and the exams will be online and are objective, with multiple choices or matching given on D2L. For matching questions, answers may be used once, more than once, or not at all (unless otherwise specified). Most questions will include the option of "e, none of the above." This option helps eliminate some of the benefits of guessing, and yes, I use it.

Online Quizzes will be given in association with each unit of material. After you complete a unit, pre-test yourself by answering the review questions. You will have approximately one minute per question. *These mini-quizzes add to the point values, so take them seriously.* You can also gain a few extra points on the quizzes through their bonus questions. Quiz scores also make great personal markers for how well you are likely to do on the exams.

Homework Assignments (50 pts): To garner these points, you will write five one-page papers on five topics we have covered throughout the semester. (I don't believe I need to say this, but some people have handed in papers that have nothing to do with this class. They received a zero.)

Write a **half-page in formal English** that explains a concept from a current class topic to an adult. On the second half of the page, show me how you would **explain that concept to a young child (eight years or earlier)**. They should not be identical. The first one is formal and addressed to an adult; the second should reflect how you would explain it to someone with more limited abilities, a more limited vocabulary, and less abstract thought.

You don't have to be 100% correct to get the points, but you DO have to use your own words. Plagiarism, including copying and pasting from the net or giving an AI-generated answer, is the cardinal offense in this class. (Such papers don't let you hone your writing and they are abusive to those students who work to polish their skills.) I encourage you to tackle a subject that challenges you. I am tolerant of errors; you don't have to get it exactly right. If you're way off base in your understanding, this is an excellent way to catch it. I might give feedback that helps, or I may provide feedback and ask for a rewrite, which is a lot easier the second time around and less painful than a bad exam grade.

Our examination format does not require you to do any examination on a particular day. However, they do have due dates. If you know that a holy day, wedding, or feast day is coming, or your work schedule will be hectic, you can complete that unit and take that test a day (or anytime) before the due date. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are due (with the submit button punched) before 11:59 on the due date. The computer is unforgiving, so you must hit that submit button before this deadline!

The Submit Button! Ensure you hit the submit button when you finish a test, quiz, or assignment. If you don't, you will receive a ZERO for that evaluation.

Given the pandemic events of 2020-2024, I am more concerned with personal and family crises than ever before. I can be a little flexible in the due dates for materials in case of a verifiable emergency, but I cannot move the final exam date. That is set by the school, and all materials must be in by that date!

Time limits for exams will be strictly enforced. A diagnosis of a *learning disability* may entitle you to additional time or other accommodations. However, to receive an accommodation, you must provide a learning disability form from the HELP office early in the semester. This information will be strictly confidential. To ensure fairness, college policy prevents the provision of a special accommodation to anyone who does not submit the required forms in a timely fashion. Please talk with me if you anticipate any difficulties with meeting course requirements. (If you recall the 2019 college admissions scandal in which several celebrities conspired to influence top colleges to admit their undeserving children, one of the scams they used was to claim illegitimate accommodations. Their bad behavior has harmed many people.)

Time limits for quizzes and exams will also be strictly enforced. Quizzes and exams will be on D2L. If prepared for the exam, most people need about 20-30 seconds to answer a question. Individual questions are not timed. The entire exam section or quiz will be presented at once. You can choose how to use your time to answer the questions.

NOTE: You are welcome to come and review exams with me in my office *within three weeks of an examination*. This offer is essential if you are not doing well in the class. These reviews can be done *during scheduled office hours or by appointment*. *Make sure you have at least 1/2 hour to review the exam*. In other words, do not come to see it right before the end of office hours.

Grading Policies and Formulae:

One Free Late-Pass Policy: Because of the semi-independent nature of this course, late work is highly discouraged. You may take **one** quiz or exam (other than the final) late without an excuse or a penalty. Beyond that, you must have a verifiable reason for missing the exam. (See below). Discussions cannot be made up.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Beyond the one-free pass, there will be NO make-ups for missed exams without an *excellent, verifiable excuse*. In the case of crises and emergencies (that you can document and that are considered a valid excuse by your instructor), *talk to me before the exam*, and more flexible arrangements might be scheduled at the instructor's discretion. Acceptable reasons for missing an exam include verifiable family deaths and hospitalizations. Less critical problems, such as shuffled work schedules, can be addressed by taking the test early.

Please note: If you do poorly on the quizzes, it is improbable that you will compensate by doing well on the final exam. For most people, the idea that you do better under pressure is a myth. That usually only happens to pros, such as professional sports players, who play better in front of an audience. It does not apply to areas in which you are not an expert.

Recall that C = an average grade for college level. In a large class, such as Biology 104, the class average (both the mean and the mode) is either in the C range (if everyone studies) or is a double humped curve, with large numbers of A's and B's, and large numbers of D's and F's with few C's (= large numbers of people who either choose not or cannot put in sufficient study time). ***The best predictors of a good grade are regular study habits of 3-4 hr or more per week per credit hour beyond class time and self-testing with the use of the study guides.*** Remember: Success is not just about the memorization of facts. It's about **understanding** the concepts, learning to integrate materials in new ways, and practicing recall. Remember: tests require recall and the application of ideas. If you do not practice recall and application, you cannot do well on a test!

AGAIN, THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA EXTRA CREDIT GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS.

I do not grant test extensions due to lack of preparation, academic overloads, or work schedules.

You are responsible for managing your time and your studies.

Emergencies happen, but you need

a verifiable, unavoidable, good excuse to qualify for any extension.

There can be no extensions on the final.


Tentative Schedule: The following schedule is subject to revision to allow for more or less time on various topics as needed or because of potential school closures.


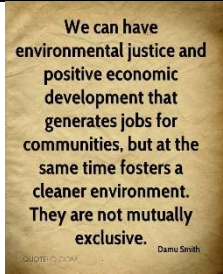



Finally, never ask me what unit "number" we are on. I do not have the numbers memorized. Instead, ask *about the content of the material*.

To help you pace yourself, the work for each week is given in two rows in the following chart.

Course Outline:

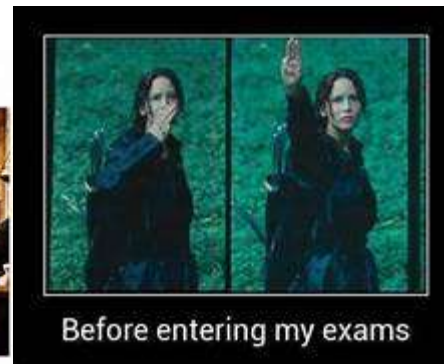
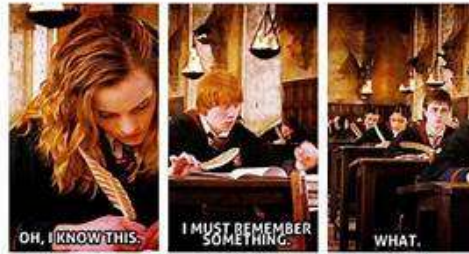
Dates and due dates	Materials <i>NB: Due dates are final due dates. You may take quizzes and exams or hand in assignments prior to those days if you wish.</i>	Materials 
Week 0 Preliminaries no evals	Orientation and Syllabus <i>Begin Reading Radium Girls. (We will work through this book for our environmental justice unit.)</i>	For next time (IB), start reading <i>Silent Spring</i> by Rachel Carson: A Fable for Tomorrow through <i>The Earth's Green Mantel</i> (85 pgs)
Jan 19 	Unit 1: Preliminaries: History and Philosophy of Science and Basic Concepts In Environmental Science. Homework video: Greenwashing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nys5TaGGkRk	History and Philosophy of Science and Basic Concepts in Environmental Science <i>And Pandora's Lab: The Great Margarine Mistake; and Learning from the Past</i> <i>Discussion of readings from Silent Spring</i> <i>Prep video for next unit:</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5r4loXPx8 
Jan 26 Quiz 1A and 1B: Su Jan 26 <i>The first-day attendance assignment is due by Jan 26</i>	Key themes in Ecology: What is Ecology? Habitat, Niche & Biomes 1 <i>Pandora's Lab: Start reading it now</i> <i>Recommended: The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar. Listen to it on Hoopla for free. Focus on the idea of adaptation.</i>	Key Themes II: Populations and Growth Curves <i>Begin The Next Pandemic: first four chapters for next week.</i> <i>Consider picking your books or films for bonus points now.</i> <i>first-day attendance assignment due by Mon Jan 26</i>
Feb 2 Quiz 2: Sun Feb 2 Assignment 1 Wed Feb 9	Key Themes, Continued. Biodiversity introduced. Discussion of The Next Pandemic <i>NB: All discussion boards from Section 1 will close next week</i>	Biodiversity and Introduction to Ecosystems Unit <i>Recommended by not required: Read The Wasp that Brainwashed the Caterpillar, first three or four chapters 1,5, 7 for a grand tour of adaptation and the principles we've discussed.</i> <i>Assignment 1: Due Wed , Feb 9</i>
Feb 9 Quiz 3: Sun Feb 9 EXAM 1 Wed Feb 12	Biomes I <i>Continue reading Rachel Carson for next week</i>  <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	Biomes Start Biological Productivity EXAM 1 Wed February 12 (History & Philosophy of Science through Populations)

Dates and due dates	Materials <i>NB: Due dates are final due dates. You may take quizzes and exams or hand in assignments prior to those days if you wish.</i>	Materials 
Feb 16 Quiz 4ab, 4cd Sun, Feb 16 	Biological Productivity Homework video: https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/ecology/intro-to-ecosystems/a/energy-flow-primary-productivity (11 min) https://www.ted.com/talks/penny_chisholm_the_tiny_creature_that_secretly_powers_the_planet	Energy Basics I \ Homework: Reading in Environmental Cultural Literacy: (Be prepared for a discussion.) https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/hawaii-rainforest-crunch-land-people-and-geothermal https://www.tpl.org/magazine/protecting-peles-forest-landpeople <i>Feb 12: Darwin's Birthday (= Lincoln's Birthday; campus closed.)</i>
Feb 23 Quiz 5, 6: Sun Feb 23	Energy Basics 2 	Animal Behaviour and the Environment: <i>Read for Next week: Cows, Pigs, Wars, and Witches, Sections: Mother Cow, Pig Lovers and Pig Haters, and the Great Witch Craze</i>
Mar 2 Quiz 7: Sun Mar 2 Assignment 2 Due Thur, March 6	Ecology of Culture I <i>Exam 2 is next week!</i>	Ecology of Culture II <i>Assignment 2 Due: Thursday, March 6</i> 
Mar 9 Quiz 8: Sun Mar 9 Exam 2: Wed Mar 12 Quiz 9a-d, 9b& c: Sat Mar 15	Ecology of Culture II <i>Exam 2 Wed, March 12: (Biodiversity through Energy Basics)</i> <i>Note that Quiz 9 is officially due on Saturday, March 15, rather than on Sunday due to Spring Break.</i>	Ecology of Culture III- <i>Read for next week: Silent Spring. Chapters Needless Havoc (review), And No Birds Sing, Through Beyond the Dreams of the Borgias</i>
Mar 16	 Spring Break March 16-22	 Spring Break March 16-22
March 23 <i>No Quizzes are due this week! Instead, watch the video.</i>	Agroecosystems I-II <i>This is a light week. Why not pick a bonus book that sounds interesting and read it?</i>	<i>Read in Pandora's Lab: The Mosquito Liberation Front.</i> Global Food Issues: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tq6ZoBE2mkA&t=131s

Dates and due dates	Materials <i>NB: Due dates are final due dates. You may take quizzes and exams or hand in assignments prior to those days if you wish.</i>	Materials
Mar 30 Quiz 9 d&e, Mon Mar 31	Agroecosystems II- III 	Continue reading Silent Spring (assigned chapters, and Radium Girls (Part One, Knowledge)
Apr 6 Assignment 3 Thur April 10	Agroecosystems III-	Agroecosystems III- Discussion & Discussion Board for Silent Spring/ Silent Spring Assignment <i>Assignment 3 is due Thursday, April 10</i>
Apr 13 Quiz 10 abc 1, Mon, Apr 14 Quiz 10a-b-c 2 (reinforcement) Tue April 15 Exam 3 Thr April 17	Risk Assessment & Environmental Justice I & II Exam #3 Thr April 17 <i>(Animal Behaviour and Ecology of Culture, Agroecosystems)</i>	Risk Assessment & Environmental Justice I & II 
Apr 20 Bonus Quiz Mon Apr 21 Quiz 11a-b & 11 c-d Thr Apr 24 Assignment 4, Thr April 24	What is a Poison? What is Pollution? <i>The Next Pandemic by Ali S. Khan (Chapters 1-4, First Blush, Sin Nombre & the Face of the Devil; Chapter 6, Migrations, and 10 Je Suis le Monde.</i>	What is a Poison? What is Pollution? Read Radium Girls: Part II, Power) <i>Homework Videos: Hazel Johnson and Environmental justice:</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkmMX4XPA8c https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNXJcQFovbE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e13Sibxqk8 <i>Assignment 4 is due Thursday, April 24.</i>
Apr 27 Sun Apr 27 Quiz 12a-b, 12c,	Population Curves Revisited: Parasites and The Spread of Diseases 	Population Curves Revisited: Parasites and The Spread of Diseases 
May 4 Quiz 13 May 4 Exam 4: May 7 Assignment 5 Mon May 5	Water Pollution <i>(Finals are next week. May the 4th be with you!)</i> 	Exam 4 (final, part 1): Wed May 7 Environmental Justice, Poisons, and Radium Girls Assignment 5, Monday, May 5 https://www.ted.com/talks/david_sedlak_4_ways_we_can_avoid_a_catastrophic_drought



Three types of students during finals



<p>May 11</p> <p>Quiz 14, 15: Sun May 11</p> <p>Final Exam Due Wed, May 15</p>	<p>https://www.ted.com/talks/janine_benyus_biomimicry_s_surprising_lessons_from_natures_engineers#t-87696</p> <p>The remaining Q & A boards close for new questions after Monday. Review periods during online office hours on Monday.</p>	<p><i>Exam #5 (Final, Part 2) Due on Thur, May 15. <u>This Deadline is Firm.</u> It is set by the university and cannot be extended! (Silent Spring, Pandora's Lab, Diseases and Pandemics, plus review and Bonus questions on water pollution)</i></p>
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COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Absence Policy:

The university absence policy states you must be present and signed in during the first week of classes or notify me if you will not be there due to extenuating circumstances. Because this is an asynchronous online course, there are no set times or days when you must be “present” online. You may register your attendance by logging into D2L and submitting a blank document to the “First Day Attendance” unit under assignments. Beyond that, attendance is not measured in the traditional sense. *Ideally, you should log into our course most days during the week to check for announcements, participate in discussions, read instructor feedback, and stay on top of readings and assignments. At a minimum, you will need to be “present” in our course (login and do something) and complete at least to complete quizzes, essays, exams, or discussions to meet the participation requirements needed to confirm attendance*

ADA Statement:

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. To request accommodations, students with special needs should make arrangements with the Student Disability Services (SDS) office on the main campus in room D104. Contact SDS via (773) 442-4595 or <http://www.neiu.edu/university-life/student-disability-services>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Where and when does this course meet?

In cyberspace, whenever you want! Well, almost. Because this is an asynchronous, online class, we don't have specific meeting times and will never meet in person. **There will still be hard deadlines by which you must complete specific tasks**, all laid out in the course schedule of dates. **But it's up to you to decide when, where, and how to complete your readings and assignments by that date. You are always welcome to submit work early.**



Science, like music, takes regular effort, not binging. Online courses require a lot of self-starting and discipline to stay on top of things, and it's very easy to fall behind (for a student and professor!). A few undergrads have told me that online courses can feel "out of sight, out of mind," so it's a good idea to make use of things like course schedules, checklists, announcements, embedded due dates in D2L, and other small reminders to keep your students engaged.

How much time will I spend on this course?

You should set aside 10-14 hours per week to work on any 3-credit hour course, including this one. This time estimate includes checking announcements, watching and reading instructional materials, taking quizzes & exams, participating in discussion boards, and working on individual assignments. You can no more learn biology by cramming than you can learn the violin in one session.

What is the course's late-work policy?

Because of the semi-independent nature of this course, **late work is highly discouraged**. Discussions, quizzes, and exams cannot be made up except for the one free pass (discussed earlier) or extenuating circumstances. I am a bit more flexible on written assignments, but all written assignments must be turned in at least one full week before finals.



How do I submit work for this course?

All work for this course will be submitted online via the D2L system. **Work will NOT be accepted via e-mail or any other medium.** If you have trouble submitting work, e-mail your instructor or see her during office hours. Doing so will reduce your frustration and work.

How will my instructor communicate with me?

Course information will be shared via announcements in D2L. Log into the online course space **daily** to receive crucial updates and instructions.

How can I communicate with my instructor?



I will be online for scheduled Brain-storm hours (a.k.a. office hours). In addition, I will schedule private meetings if requested. If you want to meet with me outside regular office hours, please suggest three times that work for you, and I'll try to pick one or suggest another.

You can also contribute to the discussion topics so the whole class can benefit from learning the answer to your question. Please make good use of it! I'll do my best to get to your questions. If you have a question, the odds are you are not alone.

If you have questions about your grade rather than specific materials, you can also ask individual questions via e-mail. I check my e-mail several times daily, so expect me to reply within 24 hours. However, I do not always check my e-mail on weekends, so please do not expect a weekend e-mail to be answered before Monday.

When will I receive feedback on my work?

You will receive a grade and constructive feedback on your writing, where applicable before the next major assignment is due. I have about 100 students per semester, so, please be patient. I want to give everyone some of my time.

What are you looking for in discussion posts?

Above all, courtesy. Keep your posts polite and constructive. I am not looking for a repetition of what is in a lecture. In discussions, I will look for your originality, thoughtfulness, and ability to link ideas together to form your own constructions. Science does not move forward by parroting old ideas. It moves forward by testing old ideas and exploring new applications and interpretations. Simple statements about how cool something is or a repeated response may be deleted.

What are you looking for in the written assignments?

First and foremost, *it must be your work*, not something taken from another source or just a parroting of what I said. Second, I want you to show me that you understand the concepts and have put thought and creativity into the materials. Finally, I look for your ability to communicate to the specified audience, whether in a professional setting or to a child.



My Spring 2024 Schedule: Contact Hours

My Scheduled Hours Spring 2025

Hours	Monday (online)	Tuesday	Wednesday (online)	Thursday
8				
9			Independent Study	
10		Office Hours BBH-352B	Office Hours	Office Hours BBH-352B
11		Office Hours BBH-352B	Office Hours	Office Hours BBH-352B
12	Office Hours	Parasitology (12:15)	Office Hours	Parasitology (12:15)
1	Office Hours	Parasitology	Office Hours	Parasitology
2	Office Hours	Parasitology (2:55)	Office Hours	Parasitology (2:55)
3	Office Hours		Office Hours	
4	Office Hours			
Additional hours by appointment only. There are no scheduled office hours during examination week.				

Spring 2025 - Final Exam Schedule



Examination Periods	Tuesday, May 13, 2025	Wednesday, May 14, 2025	Thursday, May 15, 2025
	Class Time During the Term	Class Time During the Term	Class Time During the Term
8:00-9:50 a.m.	9:25-10:40 a.m. TR	8:30-9:20 a.m. MWF 8:30-9:45 a.m. MW	8:00-9:15 a.m. TR
10:00-11:50 a.m.	12:15-1:30 p.m. TR	9:30-10:20 a.m. MWF	10:50-12:05 p.m. TR
12:00-1:50 p.m.	12:55-2:10 p.m. MW	10:30-11:20 a.m. MWF 10:00-11:15 a.m. MW	8:00-9:15 a.m. MW
2:00-3:50 p.m.	1:40-2:55 p.m. TR	11:30-12:20 a.m. MWF 11:30-12:45 p.m. MW	2:20-3:35 p.m. MW
4:00-5:50 p.m.	4:15-5:30 p.m. TR 4:15-6:55 p.m. T	4:15-5:30 p.m. MW 4:15-6:55 p.m. M	4:15-6:55 p.m. R
6:00-7:50 p.m.	5:40-6:55 p.m. TR	5:40-6:55 p.m. MW 4:15-6:55 p.m. W	7:05-8:20 p.m. MW 7:05-9:45 p.m. W
8:00-9:50 p.m.	7:05-9:45 p.m. T 8:30-9:45 p.m. TR	8:30-9:45 p.m. MW 7:05-9:45 p.m. M	7:05-8:20 p.m. TR 7:05-9:45 p.m. R

Final examinations for **Saturday** classes: **Saturday, May 17, 2025** at the same time and place as class meetings during the term.

Final examinations for **Friday** only classes: **Friday, May 16, 2025** at the same time and place as class meetings during the term.

If the University is officially closed or not conducting business during the scheduled examination period, examinations will be at the same time and in the same location as follows:

Original date	Adjusted date
Tuesday, May 13, 2025 Exams	Monday, May 19, 2025
Wednesday, May 14, 2025 Exams	Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Thursday, May 15, 2025 Exams	Wednesday, May 21, 2025

If a student identifies a schedule conflict affecting a formal examination, (s)he should contact the professor within two weeks of the beginning of class to make alternative arrangements for taking the examination. Reasonable accommodations will be made if: a) the conflict arises because of a religious belief, or b) the conflict is created by the examination pattern.

Note: Other campuses maintain different final examination schedules. Please contact each campus' administrative office to determine when a final examination will be given.

Please note: The university does use these alternative dates. I can remember one time in the past 10 years or so when we had terrible weather during the semester, and NEIU had to use the alternative exam times to make up the lost days. However, since then, we have instituted Zoom classes, and we will meet online as a class should we need to miss a day due to weather.

A Note From Counseling Services:

Do you require additional emotional support this semester? Feeling stressed out or needing support for your mental health? Please know that NEIU Student Counseling Services are here to help with a range of emotional and personal concerns. NEIU Student Counseling Services is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. All enrolled students are eligible. NEIU Student Counseling Services can be reached at 773-442-4650 by phone or counsect@neiu.edu via e-mail. They are located in B-119. You can find additional information on their website via:

<https://www.neiu.edu/university-life/student-counseling-services>.

A Note About Tutoring

Tutoring is a potent educational tool. Some countries restrict the amount of tutoring people can get, perceiving it as an unfair advantage for the wealthy. Commercial tutoring can cost over \$100 per hour. NEIU offers free tutoring. Using a tutor to get an edge is not a sign of weakness. If anything, accessing all the tools available to make your studies easier is a mark of intelligence and dedication. The best students take advantage of the service more than those who score lower. I urge you to use our tutors to help you in this and other gen-ed classes. You wouldn't pass a \$5 on the street just because you have \$20 in your pocket. Don't pass up tutoring just because you're doing ok. Everyone benefits from one more tool in their tool chest.

Tutoring services are available in the library and through the STEM office.