

Essential minimum information required by STC

South Texas College
Biology Department
Section Outline
Biology 2406.V01 (Online class)
Environmental Biology
Spring 2012

Instructor Information:

1. Dr. Jan A. Nilsson

2. Office: Room 142 / Building M / North Campus (Pecan). Note that the instructor is not teaching any classes at the Pecan Campus this semester. For practical reasons it is best to bring up "office-hour" questions immediately after class (face-to-face students), or online (online students and face-to-face students).

3. Office Telephone Number: (956) 872-2334

4. FAX Number: (956) 872-2117

5. E-mail Address: Blackboard e-mail for your class (student e-mail sent to the STC email box nilsson@souttexascollege.edu will not be answered unless it is an emergency)

6. Office Hours for the *online classes*: M, W, and F, 6-8pm (online in the Class Help Desk in the Blackboard course shell). For the face-to-face web-enhanced class ("traditional"), in addition to the online hours also the following times: M and W 5:50-5:20pm (Starr County Faculty Lounge), T 3:50 - 4:20pm (Mid-Valley Campus) and R (Mid-Valley Campus).

For all practical purposes the instructor will, when possible, answer questions in the Blackboard help desk 24/7 (all hours of the day seven days of the week).

However, keep in mind that the instructor teaches three online courses, plus one web-enhanced face-to-face ("traditional") General Biology I

course in Rio Grande City on Monday and Wednesday, and one web-enhanced face-to-face (“traditional”) General Biology II course in McAllen on Tuesday and Thursday. (The traditional classes have additional office hours following the class meetings.) For a face-to-face meeting with an online student at the STC office you must make an appointment (*such a meeting will only take place after exhausting all possible online communication*). Please be aware that the Pecan office is located on the opposite side of the campus from most of the classrooms, and I don't have an office at the Starr County Campus and Mid-Valley Campus -- for this reason there is a 30 minute office hour immediately following each classroom meeting. Again, for practical reasons it is best to bring up "office-hour" questions immediately after class (face-to-face students), or online (online students and face-to-face students).

Course Information:

Students read this: *This is a long document required by STC. For all practical purposed the two documents below (i, ii and iii.) is what you need to read and study at the beginning of the semester, also familiarize yourself with the textbook (textbook information http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_TextBook.html and navigate the online class pages on **Blackboard Plaza** (login to Blackboard) and the **Environmental Biology Class Hub** (login to Blackboard or navigate directly to http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/2_EnvironmentalBiology.html to become familiar with the course.*

- i. **Semester Calendar** http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_Calendar_ES.html
 - ii. **Grading Criteria** http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_GradeRecorder_ES.html
 - iii. **Grade Recorder**, http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_GradeRec_only_ES.html
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1. Course Name: Environmental Biology (Online)
2. Course Number and Section Number: Biology 2406 -- sections V01 (ONLINE)
3. Classroom Location: Online in Dr. Nilsson's CyberClassroom.

4. Days and Time Class Meets: Biology 2406.V01 (online class): Online at the students convenience (there is a minimum rule of thumb for study time).

5. Catalog Course Description: This is a study of human interaction and the effect upon plant and animal communities. Conservation, pollution, energy and other contemporary ecological problems will be discussed. Prerequisites: None. (From South Texas College Course Catalog.)

6. Program Learning Outcomes:

- All laboratory science courses include aspects of the scientific method, analysis, and research. All students have laboratory experience.
- All courses involve research and understanding of the scientific literature and students are able to communicate and analyze these findings.
- The student will be a literate student of science with a basic understanding of the biological disciplines.
- The student will be able to participate in civic activities that are concerned with health, wellness of the community and environment, and to improve knowledge and appreciate the basic biological concepts.
- The student will be able to participate and/or lead in civic activities &/or critical issues affecting the community and environment.

7. Course Learning Outcomes:

- To differentiate among science, ecology, and environmentalism;
- To demonstrate the multidisciplinary nature of environmental biology; for example, the roles of economics, technology, history, culture, values, and science;
- To demonstrate the functioning of ecosystems, communities, and populations;
- To analyze the human population and its demography;
- To evaluate aspects of sustainability.
- To evaluate environmental education, curricula, standards, resources, and organizations.

8. Exemplary Educational Objectives: (limited part of the class objectives; only a requirement in Core Courses)

- Relate and apply method and appropriate technology to the study of natural sciences;
- Identify scientific and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing;

- Identify and recognize the differences among competing scientific theories;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing modern science, including issues that touch upon ethics and values and public policies;
- Demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of science and technology and their influence on, and contribution to modern culture.

9. Intellectual Competencies:

- Reading: Students will read, analyze and interpret the chapters in the text and lab manual covered in class as well as assigned journal articles and master both general methods of analyzing printed materials and specific methods for analyzing the subject matter of individual disciplines.
- Writing: Students will produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience. Students will discover a topic and develop and organize it and phrase it effectively for their audience through practice and reflection.
- Computer Literacy: Students will use computer based technology in communicating, solving problems, and acquiring information. Students should have an understanding of the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of technology, and should have the tools necessary to evaluate and learn new technologies as they become available.
- Speaking: Students will use clear, coherent, and persuasive language when speaking, using language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience. Students will acquire pose and develop control of the language through experience in making presentations to small groups, to large groups, and through the media.
- Listening: Students will analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication.
- Critical Thinking: Students will embrace methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternatives strategies. Students will do problem solving as one of the applications of critical thinking, used to address an identified task.

10. Perspectives:

- Recognize the importance of maintaining health and wellness.
- Develop personal values for ethical behavior.
- Integrate knowledge and understand the interrelationships of the scholarly disciplines.

11. Course Requirements, Evaluation Methods, and Grading Criteria:

Grading Criteria, (http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_GradeRecorder_ES.html)

12. Required **Textbook**: 2011, 2009. Cunningham and Cunningham. Principles of Environmental Science, 6/e. ISBN: 0073383198 (used copies of editions 5 [2009] and 4 [2008] also be acceptable).

13. Each Major Assignment and Examination:

Grading Criteria, (http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_GradeRecorder_ES.html)

14. General description of each lecture or discussion:

*The course follows the textbook chapters as close as possible in the order given below, and the **students work at their own preferred speed at their convenience -- as long as finished by the due date at the end of the semester, before taking the final exam.***

1. Introduction
2. Environmental Systems
3. Evolution and Ecology
4. Human Populations
5. Biomes and Biodiversity
6. Environmental Conservation
7. Food and Agriculture
8. Health and Toxicology
9. SPRING BREAK
10. Air / Water
11. Geology
12. Energy

13. Waste
14. Economics and Urbanization
15. Environmental Policy and Sustainability
16. Endterm Exam
17. Final week. Learning Self-Assessment

The online calendar is dynamic and much more detailed when complete:

Semester Calendar http://www.southtexascollege.edu/nilsson/1_Calendar_ES.html

Developmental Studies Policy Statement:

The College's Developmental Education Plan requires students who have not met the college-level placement standard on an approved assessment instrument in reading, writing, and/or mathematics to enroll in Developmental Studies courses including College Success. Failure to attend these required classes may result in the student's withdrawal from ALL college courses.

Statement of Equal Opportunity: No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by South Texas College on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status or disability.

Alternative Format Statement: This document is available in an alternative format upon request by calling the Biology Department secretary, Ms. Elizondo, (956) 872-2023.

ADA Statement: Individuals with disabilities requiring assistance or access to receive services should contact disABILITY Support Services at (956) 872-2173.