

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS AND INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Environmental Science I**

**ENVR - 1301 - 88**

**Kathryn S. Hopkins**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week online course.**

### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

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### **Course Description:**

A survey of the forces, including humans, that shape our physical and biologic environment, and how they affect life on Earth. Introduction to the science and policy of global and regional environmental issues, including pollution, climate change, and sustainability of land, water, and energy resources.

Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture)

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

None

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Every student needs to regularly (at least twice daily) check *Brightspace* for new assignments, announcements, and/or messages. Every student needs to be able to access PDF files and videos without a problem. This course requires students to be able to access WileyPLUS online because all of the content and reading are on that website. It is your only textbook. You must login to *Brightspace* to know what your assignments and due dates for the week are. All quizzes and assessments may require the use of *Respondus* Lockdown Browser or another digital browser. The Midterm and Final Exam must be taken in a proctored environment.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Kathryn S. Hopkins

MCC Email: [khopkins@mclennan.edu](mailto:khopkins@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 254-717-5029

Office Location: Science Building

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: By appointment only

Other Instruction Information: If you need to reach me, leave me a detailed message about your question and **identify your name** with your message or by email. I will return your call or email within 28 hours. Feel free to email me to ask questions.

### **Required eText & Materials:**

Title: Environment

Author: Hassenzahl et al

Edition: 10th

Publisher: Wiley

ISBN: 13 978-1119-39341-2

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources, we encourage you to contact a success coach by calling (254) 299-8226. Students can visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. to meet with a success coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) is open 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, without an appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found [here](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf) ([https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf)).

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be contacted/notified through your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor. If Bright-space is down, I will email you with instructions. Also, call the MCC technology help line for information to make sure it is an MCC website problem not your personal Internet connection. Waiting until the last minute is not accepted as an excuse!

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L/Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Students may use McLennan email or texting to contact me. I expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

*Examples: Lecture, exams, quizzes, written class discussions, simulations, opinion papers, tutorial software, and/or other assessment strategies.*

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Recognize, describe, and quantitatively evaluate earth systems, including the land, water, sea, and atmosphere, and how these function as interconnected ecological systems.
2. Assess environmental challenges facing humans caused by their interaction with the physical and biological environment (e.g., population growth, energy resources, food production, pollution, water and resource use).
3. Acquire a scientific vocabulary and critical thinking skills related to environmental science.
4. Assess the effectiveness and feasibility of environmental policy and its impact.

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## **Other specific Student Learning Outcomes and Core Objectives Include:**

- A. Critical thinking assignments that focus on scientific knowledge related to problems involving energy and the environment;
- B. Assessing communication skills through Quizzes and assignments that are largely written, while lectures gravitate toward visual components, and class discussions guarantee students' oral interactions when introducing the physical sciences at a collegiate level;
- C. Empirical/quantitative assessments through lectures that allow students to see examples of specific case studies, research, and current events that pertain to data collection, analysis, and the scientific method as they pertain to energy problems and solutions; among other environmental topics like sustainability and resource management.

## **Course Schedule:**

*The official class schedule is posted and updated on Brightspace, as adjustments become needed. For each unit, there are assignments due precisely 11:55pm on specified evenings. A student may complete available assignments early (when they are available), but **will not** be able to receive credit on any assignments submitted **past** an assignment's specified deadline.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Weekly Schedule</b>	<b>Text Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
8/24 –8/31	Week 1	<b>Important Dates</b> <b>Orientation</b>	Wiley PLUS Site Brightspace	Discussion Board 1 Orientation Quiz
8/31 –9/7	Week 2	<b>Humans in the Environment</b> Introducing Environmental Science & Sustainability Environmental Laws, Economics & Ethics	Chapter 1-2	Discussion Board 2 Quiz 1 & 2
9/7 – 9/14	Week 3	Ecosystems & Energy	Chapter 3	Discussion Board 3 <b>Issue Essay 1</b> Quiz 3
9/14 – 9/21	Week 4	<b>The World We Live In</b> Ecosystems & the Physical Environment Ecosystems & Living Organisms	Chapter 4-5	Discussion Board 4 Quiz 4 & 5
9/21 –9/28	Week 5	Major Ecosystems of the World Biological Resources	Chapter 6 &16	Discussion Board 5 Quiz 6 & 16
9/28 – 10/5	Week 6	<b>A Crowded World</b> Human Health & Environmental Toxicology The Human Population	Chapter 7-8	Discussion Board 6 Quiz 7 & 8 <b>Issue Essay 2</b>
10/5 - 10/12	Week 7	The Urban Environment Energy Consumption	Chapter 9-10	Discussion Board 7 Quiz 9 & 10
10/12 – 10/19	Week 8	<b>The Search for Energy</b> Fossil Fuels Renewable Energy and Nuclear Power	Chapter 11-12	Discussion Board 8 Quiz 11-12
10/19 – 10/26	Week 9	<b>MIDTERM Chapter 1-12 &amp; 16</b>		<b>Testing Center</b>

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10/19 – 10/26	Week 9	<b>Our Precious Resources</b> Water: A Limited Resource Soil Resources	Chapter 13,14	<i>Discussion Board 9</i> <i>Quiz 13-14</i>
10/26 – 11/2	Week 10	<b>Resources and Concerns</b> Mineral Resources Land Resources Food Resources	Chapter 15,17, 18	<i>Discussion Board 10</i> <i>Quiz 15,17,18</i> <b>Issue Essay 3</b>
11/2 – 11/9	Week 11	Air Pollution Global Climate Change	Chapter 19-20	<i>Discussion Board 11</i> <i>Quiz 19 &amp; 20</i>
11/9 – 11/16	Week 12	<b>Environmental Concerns</b> Water Pollution	Chapter 21	<i>Discussion Board 12</i> <i>Quiz 21</i>
11/16 – 11/23	Week 13	Pest Management	Chapter 22	<i>Discussion Board 13</i> <i>Quiz 22</i>
11/23 – 11/30	Week 14	Solid and Hazardous Wastes	Chapter 23	<i>Discussion Board 14</i> <i>Quiz 23 &amp; 24</i>
11/30 - 12/6	Week 15	<b>Review</b> Tomorrow's World	Chapter 1-24	<i>Discussion Board 15</i> <i>Review Quiz (ungraded)</i> <b>Issue Essay 4</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>12/7 &amp;12/8</b>	<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Comprehensive Exam</b>	Chapter 1-24	

## Course Grading Information:

Grades are kept on *Brightspace*.

*15% 15 Weekly Discussion Board Entries - Begun no later than Wednesday, Completed on Monday; New topic begun on Monday; Here is where you can earn bonus points.*

*15% 4 Issue Essays due on Monday*

*25% 24 Review Quizzes (Each quiz corresponds to a chapter. You may take each quiz twice for the grade. After the second try, you should be able to continue to take the quiz for practice. The highest of the first two tries will be recorded.)*

*20% Comprehensive Midterm Chapters 1-10 & 16 Exam*

*25% Comprehensive Chapters 1 - 24 Exam*

**Testing:** *The comprehensive midterm and final exam will be composed of 100 multiple-choice questions taken within a time limit of an hour-and-one-half. The midterm and the final exam must be taken in one sitting within the time limit set. Grades should be posted no later than 24 hours after the assessment has been completed (typically immediately). If a test must be made up for any reason, the instructor reserves the right to change the format to short answer and fill-in-the-blank, or give a zero if the test is not made-up in a reasonable amount of time!*

**Quizzes:** *Quizzes may be taken twice (or retake each quiz once). When finished, the quiz will not show the correct answers. You should find the correct answers on your own before you retake the quiz. The objective of the quizzes is to encourage critical thinking to learn the content—not just memorize it for a quick quiz. QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED by 11:55 pm on their required nights. If you retest and score lower on the second try, the higher of the two grades will be the score recorded and*

*used by Brightspace. **Because you can use your book and may retake the quizzes, there are no resets for quizzes—for any reason—ever. No exceptions!!***

***Monday is the deadline for graded quizzes.***

*Reading and preparation assignments will be given **from the online textbook.***

*The instructor will consider the behavior of any student **accepting help on any test** or exam as cheating. Cheating includes using other computer windows to search answers. Anyone caught cheating on a test or exam will automatically fail the course for the semester and be reported to the disciplinary council. If a student takes longer than the mandated time on a test, the student will receive a zero on that test.*

***Plagiarism** is using another's ideas or words as one's own. Issue papers and discussion boards are intended to be the student's **opinions** supported with documented research or commonly accepted information. For example: if a student uses a "cut-and-paste" of an internet document or retypes the information nearly word-for-word without using proper documentation or giving credit to the author, it is considered plagiarism. Students are responsible for finding out proper documentation strategies for writing. A writing center is available on campus.*

***Course Expectations:** There are mandatory postings in which students interact with each other and the instructor. Students should expect to spend 6-10 hours a week on this course and ready access to a computer is a must.*

### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

*It is the student's responsibility to supply the instructor with the proper documentation in a timely fashion if the student knows she/he will be absent. Late work is **not** accepted! Assignments not submitted and tests not taken will receive a grade of zero. **Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades** (as per MCC policy). Students have plenty of time to properly complete the various required assignments. I do not reopen sections once they close. Students cannot make up the Midterm or Final Exam.*

Absence from 25% of scheduled lecture meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course; therefore, will be withdrawn. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If a student wishes to withdraw for his/her own reasons, he/she will need to request withdrawal from the instructor no later than the official drop date. The following identifies the grade a student will receive for different situations:

- 1) If a student misses more than 25% of the scheduled class events and contacts the instructor that he/she wants to drop before the official drop date, the instructor will drop the student with a "W".
- 2) If a student has missed more than 25% of the scheduled class events after the official drop date the instructor either will assign a "W", if the student is passing, or an "F" if the student is not passing. The instructor

does have the discretion to issue a “W” for extreme extenuating circumstances. The policy states that all absences including approved MCC functions, illness, and the death of an immediate family member count toward a student’s attendance record for a course. Students will be permitted to make up class work and assignments missed due to the following types of documented absences: 1) authorized participation in an official MCC function, 2) personal illness, or an illness or death in the immediate family. Note that the instructor has the option of determining whether a student may make up work missed due to absences for other reasons. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of the reason for an absence and to do so in a timely fashion. Note: Students interested in seeing the MCC class attendance policy in its entirety should check the Highlander Guide or the MCC policy manual.

Regular attendance is necessary for success in science courses. Your attendance by participation is expected in this class.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

*Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.*

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)**

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))**

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

**Accommodations/ADA Statement**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://mclennan.edu/disability).



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Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

**\* Click Here for more information about Title IX**

**([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Vice President for Student Success) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence or domestic violence.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Chrome, or Safari) to print each link's information.*