McLennan COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I (LAB) - ONLINE

ENVR 1101.87/88

MICHAELA R. MCCOWN, M.S.

NOTE: This is an online 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website on any changes to these guidelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1101.87/88

Course Description:

This laboratory-based course accompanies ENVR 1301, Environmental Science (lecture). Activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze environmental data. Semester Hours 1 (3 lab)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Credit for/concurrent enrollment in ENVR 1301.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Every student in this course needs to regularly check Brightspace for new assignments, announcements, and/or messages. Every student needs to be able to access YouTube videos, DOCX, and PDF files without a problem. This course requires that students conduct independent labs. Because of this, students must also be able to view videos and have a reliable Internet connection to succeed. A student must have access to reliable transportation, with proper insurance, tags, etc… when applicable, to participate in field trips. All students must complete the McLennan Community College waivers online before being cleared to participate in any off-campus lab activities. Failure to complete the liability form online, provided via a link on Brightspace, may result in a student being withdrawn from the course at the same scheduled time when Lab Three is due.

*****INSTRUCTOR NOTE:*****

Do not submit *.pages, *.numbers, or *.key files. If you submit Apple iWorks files and your work cannot be opened by the instructor, you will receive a zero for the assignment. HEIC photos are also not accepted – these typically are generated by phones using the "live" mode.

Do not submit *.odp, *.odt, or *.ods files. These are OpenOffice files and, when opened in Microsoft Office, will lose formatting and document properties. If you submit OpenOffice files and your document loses formatting when opened, you will lose any points associated with the formatting of the document for the assignment.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Michaela R. McCown
MCC E-mail: mmccown@mclennan.edu
Office Number: 254-299-8846
Office Location: Faculty Office Building 211 (due to COVID, do not come without an appointment)
Office/Teacher Conference Hours (Virtual only via Zoom): Tuesdays 1-5 pm
Other Instruction Information: Email or contacting via text is preferable.
***Please refrain from using the Brightspace Instant Messaging system, because it is unreliable and sometimes difficult for me access when I'm not on my laptop**

Required Text & Materials:

Fagner, Elaine K., Michaela McCown, and Bradley T. Turner. *Practical Environmental Science*, 2nd Ed. Minneapolis, Minnesota: bluedoor, LLC, 2016. ISBN: 978-1-64386-237-8

MCC Bookstore Website: http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/

Methods of Teaching and Learning:
Virtual tours, lab exercises, lectures, quizzes, essays, and/or other alternative means.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:
1. Apply the scientific method to environmental investigation.
2. Measure and observe aspects of the environment (e.g., air, water, soil) through sampling and sample analysis.
3. Develop an assessment plan for an environmental case study.
4. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

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 Outline or Schedule:
The official class schedule is posted and updated on Brightspace, as adjustments become needed. All lab assignments will be due by 11:55 pm on the due date and submitted via Brightspace. At times, students may be allowed to work ahead in the course (if they choose), but the instructoris not required to make future assignments available before an assignment's scheduled time. If additional assignments are opened, the additional labs' due dates will be posted near the title of each lab. A student may ALWAYS 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.

Lab Unit	Lab Topics	Objectives
1	Syllabus Quiz, Liability Form/Waiver Completion	N/A
2	Environmental Observation	1, 2, 3, 4
3	iNaturalist Bingo	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Ecological Succession	3, 4
5	Wildlife Telemetry	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Trace a Drop of Water	1, 3, 4
7	Texas Freshwater Levels	1, 2, 3, 4

8	Sanitary Landfill Experience	2, 3, 4
9	What's in Your Trash?	1, 2, 3, 4
10	Cobbs Citizen Recycling & Curbside Recycling	3, 4
11	Surveying Local Climate	1, 2, 3, 4
12	City Government and the Environment	3, 4
13	Environmental Policy & Voting History	2, 3, 4
14	Urban REAP	2, 3
15	Grades finalized and submitted	N/A

Course Grading Information:

Each lab represents an equal portion of the final grade. There is no final exam in ENVR 1101. Grades are kept here Brightspace, under the Grades tool. The grade scale used in the course is: A=90-100, B=80-89.9, C=70-79.9, D=60-69.9, and F=59.9 and below.

Labs will typically require the submission of a lab writeup or completion of a quiz over the material to assess mastery of the content. For labs that contain a quiz, those quizzes will be conducted online, and students will have two opportunities to take each quiz. Once finished, the quiz will not show you the correct answers; instead, you must reevaluate and find the correct answers on your own before you retaking the quiz again. If you retest and score lower on your second attempt, the higher of the two grades will be the grade automatically recorded and used by Brightspace. You are permitted to use notes from the lab activity and the lab book on the quiz. Because you have two opportunities to take the quiz, there are no resets for quizzes. If you have an issue the first time you take the quiz, it is up to you to determine a solution (technology, incorrect response, etc.) before taking the quiz the second time. Lab writeups will be submitted as PDF, doc, docx, or jpeg files through assignment portals in Brightspace.

There are some occasions when a student may be required to travel locally to conduct his/her lab experiments. The locations should not be difficult to find. In the event the student cannot identify a location, he or she must inform the instructor of the dilemma five days prior to the assignment's due date. Also, students must complete online waiver and liability form, as discussed in Lab One, before receiving credit for any labs past Lab Two. In the event a student defaults on submitting and completing his/her waivers by the end of Lab Two, he/she will likely be dropped for non-participation during the time schedule for completing Lab Three.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

I generally do not accept late work. On occasion, I may open multiple lab assignments up for students who wish to work ahead. In those instances, work can always be turned in early, but usually cannot be submitted late. For each lab section, an assignment will be due on specified night at 11:55pm (not 11:56pm). However, I do provide students with an opportunity to makeup one lab grade, but only during one week towards the end of the course. The Makeup Lab will be deployed in its own folder, similarly to the other course work. The Makeup Lab replaces a student's lowest quiz grade and is completely optional. The Makeup Lab will be a completely new, separate, and optional

lab assignment. The Makeup Lab often represents the sole-guaranteed opportunity for extra-credit in the course.

MCC Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and the instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. **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.

In the case of online and hybrid courses, attendance will be determined in terms of participation, as described in the course syllabus. In this course, a student is marked absent when she/he fails to complete that section's assignment. Absence from 25 percent of scheduled lecture and/or laboratory meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course, and the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If the student's 25 percent absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop date, the student will receive an F. In extenuating circumstances, the instructor may assign a W to a student who is not passing. Each absence will count toward attendance requirements in each course. Students will be permitted to make up class work and assignments missed due to absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. Also, the instructor has the prerogative 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. McLennan Community College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students are required to file a written request with each instructor for an excused absence. A student whose absence is excused for this observance may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

Any student who does not drop him/herself before October 22, and exceeds four absences, will stay enrolled in the course and receive the grade she/he earns.

*** Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy**
(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.

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 educational opportunity. Each student is required to actively participate in each activity. Minimal physical activity is required for some of these labs. If you have any physical issues that prevent your participation, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible, via Instant Message on Brightspace, so an alternative strategy can be determined. If you do not notify the instructor about your physical issues before an incident, you will be held responsible for the incompletion of the lab.

I try to remove the need for you to cheat, by letting you use your notes, submit assignments multiple times before the deadline, open most of the labs early, and complete a majority of the course wherever you physically feel the most comfortable. Any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or collusion on any problem on an assignment, quiz, test, (etc.) will receive zero for the activity in which the offense occurred and will be reported to the office of Student Development. Plagiarism may include the use of ideas, research, or sentence structure without giving proper credit to the creator.

I POSSESS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING, COLLUSION, AND/OR PLAGIARISM.

Often, in particular on short-answer or essay labs, I do not mind when students seek outside, scholastic material to locate additional information on various topics. However, be sure that you realize that you cannot simply copy something and pass it off as your answer – this is considered plagiarism. If a student is unsure as to what constitutes cheating/plagiarism, he/she needs to ask for clarification before submitting an assignment. When applicable, it is a student's obligation to verify the authenticity of his/her work through proper citations. Unless expressly stated otherwise in the assignment instructions, all assignments are to be completed independently and should reflect one's own work. Working with other students or other individuals on an assignment without instructor permission is considered collusion and cheating.

*****INSTRUCTOR NOTE:*****

Deviation from any of the aforementioned course policies, will result in the following penalties:

1st Offense: Written warning from the instructor, a zero grade issued for the activity in which the offense occurred, and a report made to Student Discipline

2nd Offense: Report made to Student Discipline and will receive a failing grade in the course.

On occasion, two students in this course may share a common bond (married, friends, siblings, etc…) and if you fit into that category, you must notify me within the first week of class. This is because students with a common bond occasionally experience issues that should be addressed before completing much of the course. We can talk about these various issues, once they arise. Failure to

notify the instructor about a common bond may result in strict consequences, as determined by the instructor.

*** Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement**
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Other Important Information:

1. If you are having trouble accessing the lectures or with Brightspace in general, call the MCC Help Desk at 254-299-8077 or email them at helpdesk@mclennan.edu
2. The instructor has the power to provide additional credit for assessing a student's knowledge, skills, and abilities, as pertaining to the course and course material, on a case-by-case basis (both individually or collectively).
3. The instructor has the power to make adjustments to testing locations and questions, as he deems fit.
4. This syllabus is a living document and, at any time, the instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus for the benefit of the class to counter unforeseen issues.
5. Times are enforced in Central Standard Time.
6. A student's name must appear on the college's approved liability form list, or she/he may be removed from the class before the time when Lab Three is due.

McLennan COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

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 or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry 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 at 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 notified via 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.

Minimum System Rquirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:
Go to https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html 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:
Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:
The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:
You may forward 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 be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:
Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

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. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

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

disabilities@mclennan.edu
254-299-8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

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 or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It 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.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.