



WACO, TEXAS

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COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN

ENVR 1301 – Environmental Science I (lecture)  
ENVR 1301.06

(16 Week Course – Face-to-Face)

Bradley T. Turner, M.S., M.E.S., M.A.

**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 at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

ENVR 1301.06

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### ENVR 1301 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. May or may not include a laboratory. Semester Hours 3 (3 lecture)

### Instructor Contact Information:

Instructor Name: Bradley T. Turner, M.S., M.E.S., M.A.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3p, or by appointment

Office Location: Science Building, Room 122

Zoom ID: 254 299 8408

Email: [brturner@mclennan.edu](mailto:brturner@mclennan.edu)

Phone: 254-307-3372 (cell) – I receive and return phone calls during most weekdays, but you can leave me a voicemail or text 24/7. Who knows... I might even respond to you during one of those weird times.

254-299-8408 (office) - My official MCC number that forwards to the number above

Favorite Treat: Soft, homemade gingersnap/gingerbread cookies

**\*\*\*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\*\***

### Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

### Required Text & Materials:

McCown, Michaela, Elaine K. Fagner, Bradley T. Turner. *Engaging in Environmental Science*, Part One.

TopHat Publishers. 2022. ISBN: 9781774943328.

Obligatory Bookstore/Product Placement Shout-out:

[MCC Bookstore Website](#)

### 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 PDF files and videos without a problem. This course requires that students complete blanks inside of a textbook, while during

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

ENVR 1301.06

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lecture class or while watching the optional lecture videos, posted in Brightspace. Because of this, students must also be able to view videos and have a reliable Internet connection to succeed. The videos are uploaded and streamed from YouTube.

### Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lectures, quizzes, exams, essays, and/or other alternative means.

### Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

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.

### 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. As proof that you read this syllabus, if you send me a picture of your favorite dinosaur from the internet (via email), I will give you an automatic grade of 100 for the first quiz—this is not a joke—this exercise proves to me that you are responsible and follow directions. You do not have to take the in-class quiz if you send me the picture within three hours before the second class meeting, as requested. 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.

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

### ENVR 1301.06

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Section	Topics Covered	Objectives
1	Ecology	1,2,3
2	Biological Energy	1,2,3
3	Adapting, Evolving, and Extinctions	1,2,3
4	Biomes, Successions, and Services	1,2,3,4
5	Matter and Nutrient Cycles	1,2,3,4
6	Human Populations	1,2,3,4
7	Ecotoxicology and Pandemics	1,2,3,4
8	Energy Consumption and Recycling	1,2,3,4
9	Climate Change and the IPCC	1,2,3,4
10	Climate Change Effects	1,2,3,4
11	Environmental Legislative History	1,2,3,4
12	ENVR Agencies, State and Local Governments	1,2,3,4
13	Public Lands and Land Trusts	1,2,3,4
14	Sources of Pollution	1,2,3,4
15	Environmental Justice	1,2,3,4
16	Alien/Invasive Species	1,2,3,4
17	Endangered Species & Migratory Birds	1,2,3,4
18	Yellowstone Wolf Case Study	1,2,3,4
19	Ancient Climate Change and Extinction	1,2,3,4
20	Environmental Empowerment	1,2,3,4

The grade scale used in this course is: A = 90 – 100; B = 80-89.9; C = 70-79.9; D = 60-69.9; and F = 59.9 or below. Grades are recorded and kept on Brightspace. Students may inquire about their status in the class via email, office hours, or before/after classes—but not during specified course times.

Discussion: Discussion aspects of the course might include class discussion, discussion boards, or even presenting information to the class. This part of the course is worth 10% of the final grade. These assignments will be specified more in class and on Brightspace.

Quizzes: Quizzes represent a total of 50% of the final course grade for ENVR 1301. There are a total of eleven quizzes, making each quiz worth 5% of the final course grade, because the lowest quiz grade is automatically dropped by Brightspace Gradebook. Quizzes may assume a variety of forms,

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

### ENVR 1301.06

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such as multiple choice, identify, short-answer, essay, *et cetera*. Each quiz is designed to provide the instructor with proof that the student is engaged in the course materials and lectures. The instructor may elect, when he deems necessary, to follow the testing policy used on exam day that is also included in this document, while administering quizzes. The length of available time for each quiz will vary with the time of quiz and the content that each quiz covers. All quizzes will be conducted online and completed before class time on their specified due dates.

Exams: This class includes four unit exams. Each unit exam is worth 10% of the final course grade and the optional. Exams may exhibit variances in assessment means and question amounts.

Exam Day: Unless directed otherwise by the instructor during the previous class, below is the testing policy used on exam day:

- Each student is required to bring one Scantron 888-E, 886-E, or an 882-E and possibly scratch paper for an exam (you only need to bring one of these Scantron types, but know that any of these specified forms will work).
- You cannot be more than five minutes late to the exam, based on the instructor's watch.
- You can only have a Scantron (with paper, when applicable), and two pencils for your Scantron, on your desk or on your person during the exam.
- No food or drink is allowed during the exam. It may be stored at the front or back of the classroom, but cannot be on or near the student's person during the exam.
- All backpacks and personal items must be gathered and placed at either the very front or back of the classroom, away from students. A person may designate his/her personal items with name tags, etc... if there is concern.
- Students can only speak to the instructor during an examination period.
- The instructor will grant permission to leave the exam and return on a case-by-case basis, based solely upon the decision of the instructor.
- If a student fails to properly place his/her Scantron in the appropriately designated pile, the instructor is not required to re-grade the misplaced Scantron.
- Once a student has completed his/her exam, he/she must leave the room.
- Hats and headgear must be situated in a position so that the instructor can see a student's eyes during the exam, unless noted otherwise by the instructor. Students may be also required to remove or turn hats/head gear backwards in order to comply with this rule.
- Long sleeves (jacket, shirt, etc...) must be rolled-up, even with the elbow and feet should remain flat on the ground, unless noted otherwise by the instructor.
- Violators (and/or suspected violators) of the testing policy will (or may) receive an automatic zero for his/her exam grade for all instances listed above, except for electronic devices, which carries a separate penalty described below:
- No electronic devices are permitted during the examination time or during the exam review period. If a student is a first-responder, the instructor will monitor the particular notification device and alert the student in the event of an urgent message. All devices must be turned

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

### ENVR 1301.06

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off (not simply muted). First time violations of this policy will result in a fifty-point deduction (or the grade of a 0 if the student's score is less than a 50), as well as severe as the first offense, adhering to the policy on electronic devices, discussed later in this syllabus. Second violations will result in an immediate zero on the exam and all consequences posted under the policy on electronic devices. Deductions for these violations cannot be rectified.

- For questions pertaining to G.A.D. Insurance, please refer to the G.A.D. Insurance policy listed separately in this document.

#### **The Official G.A.D. Insurance Policy:**

G.A.D. Insurance is a privilege and represents a process related to testing that provides students with an opportunity to earn a higher grade on an exam. The instructor sets the rules and guidelines for G.A.D. Insurance, and has the right to revoke G.A.D. Insurance for any reason he deems fit. The qualifications for G.A.D. Insurance renew with each new unit, meaning that each unit resets the qualification process. Unless notated otherwise by the instructor, the qualifications for G.A.D. Insurance, a student must hold perfect attendance for a unit, pass the discussion portions of a unit (when applicable) with a 70 or greater, take the exam on the scheduled day at the pre-determined location, not be late to an exam, and receive a 70 or greater on each of that unit's quizzes. Any students who do not qualify for G.A.D. Insurance will not receive the points provided for that unit, but still have the opportunity to qualify on the following unit—demonstrating the fairness of the policy. The instructor retains complete, total, and all authority on anything pertaining to G.A.D. Insurance.

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

All makeup unit exams will be administered online by the MCC Testing Center and must be taken within one calendar week of the originally scheduled test date; the only exception to this rule being exam five, which can only be made up by taking the comprehensive final. The comprehensive final cannot be made up. All makeup exams are conducted online via Brightspace and may be modified to prevent cheating and to be fair to the students who attended the exam. If not completed, a grade of zero will be recorded for each exam missed.

One quiz can be made up for full-credit by submitting a three page, 12 point Times, double-spaced, one-inch margin outline of the topics involved on the quiz the student wishes to makeup. Students should also take note that they can always request assistance on providing the instructor with material to serve in lieu of absent reading quiz grades before a known event and completed early work will always be counted as full credit—meaning, a student can always request to submit work, test, or take a quiz early for days he/she knows they will be absent, but can only make up one quiz otherwise. In the event of the school closing because of inclement weather, check Brightspace for instructions.

#### **MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

- \* [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))

## Environmental Science I - Lecture

### ENVR 1301.06

---

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

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. All tobacco-use is prohibited in the classroom. You cannot record my lectures without my consent, in order to protect the integrity of my courses. Students are not allowed to bring children to class. Students are not allowed to bring guests to class, without prior permission. Any student caught sleeping during class will be marked absent and dismissed from class for that day.

Electronic devices are permitted during the course, with the exception of exam day or specified assignments. The instructor does not mind if a student sends an occasional message or needs to step outside to answer an intermittent phone call; however, this must be done within the bounds of moderation (as defined by the instructor). Students should not be using their electronic devices for any purposes other than those pertaining to the course, as deemed fit by the instructor (not the student). The first violation of this policy will result in a verbal or written warning and the second violation will result in dismissal from class/lab for that day, an absence, and the prohibition of future use of technology in both classes. A third violation of the policy may result in being dropped from the course (when the violation occurred) for disruptive behavior and/or the grade of an F for the semester.

In the event of the school closing because of inclement weather, a health risk, or whatever else... check Brightspace Announcements for instructions and/or any potential schedule adjustments.

With regards to disruptive behavior (as decided by the instructor), the instructor will provide offenders with a verbal or written warning during their first incident. There is only one warning given per semester and warnings are valid for both concurrent lecture/lab enrollment. Second-violations may result in an absence from the course, an F for the final semester grade, a call to campus police, or expulsion from the course. All disciplinary actions are determined by the instructor as a response to the instructor's perceived severity of the offense.

Each student is expected to actively participate in each classroom. Minimal physical activity is required. If you suffer from seizures, etc... notify the instructor as soon as possible so he can know how to access your I.C.E. contact.

Any student who participates in academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, or collusion on any problem on an assignment, quiz, test, (etc.) may receive an F for her/his semester grade, be reported to the Disciplinary Council, and could even be recommended for suspension from the McLennan Community College District. The weight of the compromised assignment is irrelevant—the punishment of failing semester grade may be the same.

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

MCC Attendance Policy:

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

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

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course. 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.

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.



## Environmental Science I - Lecture

### ENVR 1301.06

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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. Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code. McLennan Community College may not excuse absences for religious holy days which may interfere with patient care.

Any student who does not drop him/herself before October 25, and exceeds seven absences, will stay enrolled in the course and receive the grade he/she earns.

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **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 <https://www.mclennan.edu/disability/>.

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

### **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](mailto: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 <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/incidentLandingPageV2-MCC.asp>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://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.

**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](mailto: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](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity/> for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**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.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy regarding college email, which can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>. 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. For more information about your student email account, go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/student-email/>.

**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](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**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.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**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.