



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I (LECTURE)

ENVR 1301.87/88

MICHAELA R. MCCOWN, M.S.

NOTE: This is a 16 week online course.

NOTE: You will be required to attend 1 hour supplemental instruction sessions.

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

ENVR 1301.87/88

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 lec).

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Must be able to view Brightspace on a regular basis and open either PPTX and DOCS files or PDF files without problem. Should also check email on a regular basis for updates on the course. Will need to be able to access Brightspace to watch videos and to complete online assignments. Because of this, students must have a reliable Internet connection to view videos and succeed. Students will need a webcam for discussions and for test proctoring via Respondus Monitor.

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

Do not submit any file types other than: PDF, DOCS, JPEG, or MOV files. Any other file types cannot be opened by the instructor and will not be accepted.

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 (in person or via Zoom, but please let me know in advance that you are coming): M/W 11 am – 1 pm or by appointment

***Please refrain from using the Brightspace Instant Messaging system, because it is unreliable **

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

When contacting your professor by email for this course, you must follow these guidelines:

1. Write using formal English only (as if to the president of the company where you work).
2. Always begin your subject line with your course and section number
3. Use your MCC student email address – external email addresses may be caught by the spam filter.
4. Work will not be accepted by email unless specifically requested by the professor.
5. Allow for 24 hour turnaround for a reply to your email during week days, and 48 hrs on weekends.

Failure to do any of the above may result in your professor not seeing or reading your email.

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Engaging in Environmental Science, Part I

ISBN: 9781774943328

Author: McCown, Fagner, & Turner

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1301.87/88

Publisher: TopHat

YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE THIS BOOK, it was included in your course fees. Our course is Inclusive Access and these materials are provided to you through our Brightspace course shell. If asked to provide payment, please contact me BEFORE you proceed.

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lectures, objective quizzes and exams, online class discussions via discussion boards, written reports, reflections, alternative assignments.

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.

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. Note that the work week begins Monday at 12:01 am and ends Sunday at 11:55 pm. All due dates except for the midterm and final will be Sunday at 11:55 pm. At times, students may be allowed to work ahead in the course (if they choose), but the instructor is not required to make future assignments available before an assignment's scheduled time. If additional sections are opened, the

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1301.87/88

additional sections' due dates will be posted in the same location as the additional sections' tabs. 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.

	Topics Covered	Objectives
1	Introduction, Quiz 01, Discussion Board	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Chapter One (Intro to Environmental Science), Chapter Two (Ecology and Energy), Quiz 02	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Chapter Three (Evolving, Adaptations, and Extinctions), Chapter Four (Succession and Biomes), Quiz 03	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Chapter Five (Biogeochemical Cycles), Chapter Six (Populations & Urbanization), Quiz 04	1, 2, 3, 4
5	Chapter Seven (Ecotoxicology and Disease), Chapter Eight (Energy Consumption), Quiz 05	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Chapter Nine (Climate Change & The IPCC), Chapter Ten (Climate Change Effects) Quiz 06	1, 2, 3, 4
7	Midterm Exam	1, 2, 3, 4
8	Chapter Eleven (Environmental Legislative History), Quiz 07	1, 2, 3, 4
9	Chapter Twelve (Environmental Agencies), Chapter Thirteen (Public Lands, Land Trusts, & World Heritage Sites), Quiz 08	1, 2, 3, 4
10	Chapter Fourteen (Sources of Pollution), Chapter Fifteen (Environmental Justice), Quiz 09	1, 2, 3, 4
11	Chapter Sixteen (Alien & Invasive Species), Chapter Seventeen (Endangered Species & Migratory Birds), Quiz 10	1, 2, 3, 4
12	Chapter Eighteen (The Yellowstone Wolves), Quiz 11	1, 2, 3, 4
13	Chapter Nineteen (Ancient Climate Change & Extinction Events), Chapter Twenty (Environmental Empowerment), Quiz 12	1, 2, 3, 4
14	Special Lecture, Quiz 13, Discussion Board	1, 2, 3, 4
15	Final Exam	1, 2, 3, 4
16	Grades finalized and submitted	N/A

Course Grading Information:

Exams: 35% (a Midterm and Final Exam)

Quizzes: 40% (13 quizzes, lowest grade dropped)

Discussions, Chapter Questions, and Supplemental Instruction: 25%

The grade scale used in this course is: A = 90 – 100%; B = 80 – 89%; C = 70 – 79%; D = 60 – 69%; F = ≤59%. Grades are kept on Brightspace under Grades tool, on the main menu.

Quizzes: There will be a total of 13 quizzes during this session, the lowest of which will be dropped at the end of the semester. There are no time limits on quizzes; but, be sure that they are completed

by 11:55pm on the specified nights when they are due. In the event of essay and short-answer questions, simply repeating two or three words from the notes will not suffice—I want to know that you grasp the concepts we discuss in my class. You are permitted to use your notes on all quizzes in this course; in fact, I highly recommend that you use your notes and book on the quizzes in this course. I do request that you complete quizzes in order—meaning do not skip section/units that include lectures when working ahead. The lectures go in order and it might make things hard for you to study if you break the order.

I allow you the opportunity to attempt each quiz twice (or retake each quiz once; however, you prefer to phrase it). 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. The objective of these quizzes is to encourage critical thinking and provide students with the opportunity to take the material to heart—not simply memorize it for a few hours. Again, make sure that your quizzes are completed by 11:55p on their required nights. 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. I believe that two opportunities to take a quiz (with your notes) should provide anyone (who does the required work) with the means to ace every quiz in the course. However, because of the fact you can use your notes and may retake a quiz:

THERE ARE NO RESETS FOR QUIZZES --- FOR ANY REASON--- EVER.

Typically, when students used to ask me to reset a quiz, it was because of a computer error. Because of this fact, I feel it necessary to alert you to a few things:

1. If the computer freezes on your first quiz attempt, you need to change computers before beginning your second attempt. I understand that technology does not always work properly but you should have a backup plan for when/if that technology fails you for the second attempt.
2. I highly recommend using the MCC library computers for quizzes, because they often prove the most dependable in an online testing environment. If you only have access to one computer, you need to designate an alternative computer, as soon as possible, to use as a backup before beginning to take quizzes in this course.
3. You will receive a zero when you do not record a quiz grade by the specified time.
4. A quiz listed as “In Progress” at/after the deadline will result in a grade of zero for that quiz.
5. With regards to last-minute assignments please remember the old adage: Failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.
6. If/When Brightspace goes down during a crucial time, issues will be dealt with when Brightspace comes back online. Due dates may be adjusted to reflect any changes.

Exams: With regards to the two exams: each student is required to complete two proctored exams during this course—a Midterm and a Final. During the scheduled exam periods, students will have no other assignments due in this lecture course because I consider the exams to be the primary assignments. Students may continue to take quizzes scheduled after the Midterm, before taking the Midterm (if you so choose), but know that the exams have strict deadlines and that you will receive a zero as your Midterm/Final exam grade for defaulting on the required exams. You may complete quizzes in advance, just be sure that you still complete the exams on their scheduled dates.

In order to comply with the aspect of a proctored exam, you will be required to test with Respondus Monitor, which also requires the use of a computer with a webcam and a microphone. You must have your video and microphone on for the duration of the exam, and you must provide a full 360 degree

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1301.87/88

view of your surroundings before beginning the exam. The Midterm Exam will be less than thirty, randomly selected multiple-choice and 3-4 short-answer questions that originate from all lectures given prior to the scheduled time of the Midterm. The Final Exam will consist of less than thirty, randomly selected multiple-choice questions and 3-4 short answer questions that originate from lectures eleven through twenty. The Midterm Exam is worth 17.5% of your final average and the Final Exam is worth 17.5% of your final average. You are only allowed to attempt the Midterm Exam and Final Exam once—neither exam may be retaken for a higher grade. **You will NOT be permitted to use materials or notes on your exams** and need to ensure your testing environment is as quiet as possible. You are not permitted to wear headphones or listen to music during the exam. The time limits for the midterm and final exams are 2.5 hours.

For both exams, there will be primary content folder tabs available on the main menu for Brightspace that include the exam portal, directions on arranging/taking the exam, and materials that you might need to review before beginning the exam. The due dates for both exams are posted under the Syllabus/Schedule section in Brightspace.

Discussions, Chapter Questions, and Supplemental Instruction: Students will be required to complete various activities and engage in a total of 2 discussions via the Brightspace Discussion board. Rubrics and instructions for discussion boards are located in Brightspace.

Students will also be required to complete chapter reflection questions at the end of each chapter. These questions are located in TopHat and students will be required to complete the questions by the due date for each chapter. The short answer questions on the Midterm and Final exam will be randomly selected from the chapter questions.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions will review material presented in lecture and allow students to set aside time to study the material in a group session. Students will receive 15 pts per week for attending SI sessions (up to 105 pts per semester), which means students have to attend 7 sessions spread across 7 different weeks in order to receive full credit for this assignment. SI sessions will be offered in person and on Zoom at various times throughout each week. Students will not receive full credit for a session if they arrive late, are not participating, or have to leave early. The SI schedule will be posted in Brightspace the first week of class – if students are not able to attend any SI session, they must notify the course instructor the first week of class so alternative arrangements can be made. If an individual does not participate in the availability poll during the first week of class to determine when the SI sessions are scheduled, they will not receive alternative arrangements if they end up having a scheduling conflict.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

I do not accept late work because students will have plenty of time to properly complete the various required assignments and all assignments will be completed online. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

If a student becomes incapacitated during the course of the semester and is unable to complete their work, please communicate with me so we can make alternative arrangements.

MCC Attendance Policy:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1301.87/88

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. Any student caught sleeping during lecture may be marked absent or dismissed from class.

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(s).** 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 25, and exceeds absences greater than 25% of the the scheduled courses, 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)**

(<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 additional 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.

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. Cheating may include using non-permitted resources on an assignment – for example, using notes or the internet on an exam in which no external resources are permitted. 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 questions, 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. 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 two sections 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](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)
(www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity)

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

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

Other Important Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

ENVR 1301.87/88

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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.



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 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.

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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to 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 (<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. For more information about your student email account, go to 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 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](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

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.

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.