



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I (LAB) - ONLINE

ENVR 1101_O080

MICHAELA R. MCCOWN, M.S.

NOTE: This is an 16-week online course.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE I

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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 Failure to complete the liability form online, provided via a link on Brightspace, may result in a student being withdrawn from the course at the same scheduled time when Lab Three is due.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 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

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: M: 11 am – 1 pm (in person or via Zoom); W: 11 am – 2 pm (in person or via Zoom); R: 4 – 5:30 pm (virtual via Zoom only)

Other Instruction Information: Email is preferred.

*****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: Practical Environmental Science, Part I

ISBN: 9781774942727

Author: Turner

Publisher: Bluedoor LLC

Note that this course uses inclusive access, which means that books are purchased by the student when they pay tuition and fees. The book is a physical book that the student will have to pick up from the bookstore. The student can also opt-out of this service, but will need to do that on their own before a specified deadline set between the bookstore and the business office.

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. Each lab unit should take approximately 3 hours to complete. 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 instructor is 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.

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Lab Unit	Lab Topics	Objectives
1	Syllabus Quiz, Liability Form/Waiver Completion, Data Analytics Lesson One	N/A
2	Data Analytics Lessons Two and Three	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Data Analytics Lessons Four and Five	1, 2, 3, 4
4	Data Analytics: Lesson Six and Dashboard Submission to Discussion Board	1, 2, 3, 4
5	Dashboard Peer Review and Ecological Succession Lab	1, 2, 3, 4
6	Submit Finalized Dashboard; Trace a Drop of Water	1, 2, 3, 4
7	Complete Data Analytics Certification Exam	1, 2, 3, 4
8	Texas Freshwater Levels	2, 3, 4
9	Sanitary Landfill Experience	1, 2, 3, 4
10	Cobbs Citizen Recycling & Curbside Recycling	3, 4
11	Wildlife Telemetry Lab	1, 2, 3, 4
12	City Government and the Environment	3, 4
13	Environmental Crimes	2, 3, 4
14	Stormwater Best Management Practices ; Makeup Lab	1, 2, 3, 4
15	Urban REAP	2, 3
16	Grades finalized and submitted	N/A

Course Grading Information:

Each lab, quiz, or assignment represents an equal portion of 90% of your grade. Part of this course also includes obtaining a industry recognized certificate in Data Analytics. The lessons will be interspersed throughout the course and will count for lab and quiz grades throughout the first half of the course. You will also be required to take an open-book exam to complete your data analytics certificate; this is worth 10% of your final grade for the course. You will have three opportunities to take the data analytics certificate exam offering online through NC3 Certs, and it is an open book exam. Grades and a list of full assignments are kept 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 lab 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:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date. Any student who does not attend class before the census date will be dropped from the class before the census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

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. **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(s).** If students have an excused absence, they need to reach out

to the instructor with documentation of that excused absence in a timely manner in order to for that absence to not be counted against them.

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

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Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences.

Preferred/Chosen Names and Pronouns for Students:

The instructor values the importance of calling students by their preferred/chosen names and pronouns. If students would like to submit this information, students may do so by either completing the form at <https://www.mclennan.edu/admissions/docs/Student-Admission-Change-Form-2022.pdf> or by going to [Self Service](#) and selecting User Options, User profile, and Edit Personal Identity.

The instructor strives for accuracy in referring to students by their preferred/chosen name and pronouns in class and requests that notification is provided to the Instructor by email so the instructor is aware of the change and can begin using the preferred/chosen name and pronouns. For changes that occur in the course of the semester, the instructor asks for grace for inadvertently calling a student by the wrong name or pronouns. Should this occur, please respectfully correct the instructor.

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 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 incompleteness of the lab.

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.

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

THERE IS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CHEATING, COLLUSION, AND/OR PLAGIARISM ON ANY TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT IN THIS COURSE.

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

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own work. Working with other students or other individuals on an assignment without instructor permission is considered collusion and cheating.

On occasion, two students in this course may share a common bond such as sharing a living space or being involved in the same collegiate or other organizational entity enroll in the same course. Students who share a common bond need to be sure their assignment work is clearly their own. It is recommended that students discuss their situation with the instructor at the beginning of the course about this issue and identify that they have a common bond.

*****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.

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.

10/09/2023



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. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

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:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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/studentemail.

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](#)
- [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](#) 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.