



Syllabus: **BIO 105N: Environmental Biology**

Course Information	
Course Prefix/Number: Bio 105N	Credit Hours: 4
Semester: Spring 2020	Course Title: <i>Bio 105N, Environmental Biology</i>
Class Days/Times: <i>Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:15pm-4:30pm</i>	Room: <i>IWK 5</i>

Instructor Information: Name: Teresa DeKoker	Phone/Voice Mail: n/a E-mail: tdekoker@tocc.edu Office location: n/a Office hours: n/a
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Course Description: Fundamentals of ecology and their relevance to human impact on natural ecosystems. Includes ecosystem structure and function, population dynamics, and human impacts on air, water, land, and biodiversity.

Student Learning Outcomes After completion of the course students will be able to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Synthesize ecological principles into an understanding of how the Earth functions. 2. Apply ecological principles to understand human impact on the environment. 3. Evaluate scientific basis of environmental issues. 4. Describe possible causes and analyze potential solutions to current environmental issues. 5. Demonstrate skills necessary for life-long learning, critical examination, and personal decisions relative to environmental biology.
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Course Structure: This course is an integrated lab/lecture course where the labs are integrated into the regular class periods. This course consists of three parts: Foundations of Ecology & Environmental Studies, Sustaining Life on Earth, and Climate Change, Water, & Energy Resources. Each part has 4-5 units. Each unit consists of PowerPoint lectures, assigned reading, films, in-class activities, discussions, an article review, and laboratory project and each module has an exam. This course also includes three field-based, place-based projects which integrates culture, math and ecology and a group project exploring water issues in the Southwest.

Texts and Materials: “Environment: The Science Behind the Stories” 6th edition by Jay Withgott and Mathew Laposata,

Evaluation:		
Evaluation	Points	Percentage of total grade
Participation/Attendance	100	10%
Labs/Activities/Collaborative Projects	300 pts	30%
Homework Assignments	400 pts	40%
Exams & Quizzes	200	20%
Total	1000	100%

Himdag Cultural Component:

Tohono O’odham traditions and cultural beliefs will be discussed as relevant course topics, and only as appropriate to the Tohono O’odham Nation’s traditional standards for sharing information as determined by the Himdag committee.

Policies and Expectations:

- 1) Students are expected to attend each class, arriving on time, except in the case of an excused emergency.
- 2) Students are expected to contact instructor prior to absences, coming late to class or leaving early.

- 3) Unexcused late arrivals or early departures will count against attendance record.
- 4) Class participation and preparation are essential to student success. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, complete required research as stated on the course schedule.
- 5) Students are expected to come to class prepared for class and having done any preliminary work required as per the course schedule.
- 6) Students are expected to stay in class and work diligently throughout the whole time. Sleeping, frequent/continued exiting from the class during the class period will constitute one (1) absence.
- 7) **No cell phone use is allowed during class. Use of cell phones during class, unless permitted by instructor, is a violation of the T-So:son.**
- 8) Failure to submit a project results in a grade of zero (0). An F is a better grade!
- 9) No work accepted after the last class
- 10) Students are expected to check TOCC email regularly.

Classroom Behavior

- Visitors may be only allowed at class sessions or on field trips with instructor approval, visitor's safety and behavior are the responsibility of the student.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.
- Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at discretion of the instructor.
- Cellphones should be turned off during class, unless the instructor is allowing students to use their tools (calculator, internet access).
- Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.
- Student behavior is also detailed in student handbook under Student Code of Conduct Violations

Make-up policy:

Late assignments that can be made up will be accepted but will be penalized 25%. Laboratories cannot be made up except in the case of college closure. At the instructor's discretion, extra credit opportunities and optional activities may be provided.

Academic Integrity:

Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Tohono O'odham Community College, the Student Services Department, and by your instructor. Students may consult the TOCC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, on

scholastic ethics and on the grade appeal procedure. Copies are available at Tohono O'odham Community College.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must clearly be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited. Copying from a book without proper reference or from a person under any circumstances will result in an "F" for the assignment, and at the instructor's discretion, possibly an "F" for the course. If you are uncertain about proper citations ask your instructor or the librarian.

Course Feedback:

All assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week after the assignment is closed for handing in. E-mail and phone messages will be returned within two days. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. Four unexcused absences may result in withdrawal and a "W" or "Y" will be recorded. You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible (approved by Faculty Senate April 2014).

Quizzes and exams are given out at the beginning of class time. Class activities begin at the start of class and may be missed if you do not arrive to class on time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will be counted as an absence for the day. Because exams, labwork and/or other assignments potentially occur every class period, points potentially will be lost each class period missed. If you miss all or a portion of a class, then you are solely responsible for obtaining missed class material from fellow students. Complete attendance is mandatory during student project presentations; otherwise presentation points will be forfeited.

Incomplete Policy

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. There must be an unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth

week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

Instructor Withdrawals

Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent) not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on 2/27/2020, are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion.

Student Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by 3/30/2020 if you do not expect to complete the class, otherwise you may receive an "F" grade.

Special Withdrawal (Y) Grade

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason

Reasonable Disability Accommodations (Americans with Disabilities Act):

TOCC seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to provide an equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to make known to the instructor his or her specific needs in order to determine reasonable accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an Accommodation Plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

Title IX

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and all staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex- this includes sexual misconduct; harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence and sexual assault.

Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services

Course Outline: (See Canvas for specific dates)

I. Environmental Biology

- A. Science
- B. Scientific method
- II. How the Earth Works
 - A. Climate and biomes
 - B. Ecology
 - 1. Ecosystem components
 - 2. Energy flow and biogeochemical cycling
 - 3. Natural selection and evolution
 - 4. Population and community ecology
- III. Humans on Earth
 - A. History
 - B. Population
 - C. Economics and politics
- IV. Human Impacts
 - A. Biodiversity
 - 1. Description and importance
 - 2. Impacts upon and management
 - B. Water
 - 1. Resources
 - 2. Uses and management
 - C. Land

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.