

LAB SYLLABUS 26-104 ECOSPHERE IN CRISIS - FALL 2011

For sections A05L (Wed 1:50-4:50), A07L (Fri 9:10-11:10)

Instructor:	Shannon Davis-Foust
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Office Hours:	9:00-10:00 Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 Friday, or by appointment
Classroom:	Halsey 110

Objectives

All of humanity ultimately relies on the natural environment for its welfare, yet problems often arise from interactions between humans and the environment. This lab is designed to provide an opportunity to further explore a wide variety of environmental issues covered in Biology 104 lecture. We will be going on field trips, conducting lab experiments, watching films, and discussing environmental issues to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the interconnections between human actions and the natural environment. By the end of the semester you should recognize the significance of maintaining a clean and healthy natural environment and appreciate the roles of biodiversity in maintaining the health of this planet.

Required Materials

- Davis-Foust, Fall 2011, Biology 104 Laboratory Manual.
- Printouts from D2L. Contact me immediately if you have any trouble downloading the materials.

Policies and Expectations

- Plan for a 3 hour class. It is your responsibility to be prepared for and attend each class. Notify me as soon as possible if you plan to be absent for any reason.
- Email and D2L will be used throughout the term. Emails constitute legal, official University communication. Not checking your email is not an excuse for performance problems in the class. Contact Academic Computing or any Campus Computer Lab supervisor for assistance with email and D2L.
- As a courtesy to others - and to yourself - please turn off all electronic distractions during class. If your cell phone goes off or you are caught texting you will be asked to leave and/or you will be considered absent for the day.
- Laptops may be used for this class, but I don't recommend them.
- Arrangements for any special need must be made *in advance*, except in the case of unforeseen circumstances. Late assignments will be accepted if arrangements were made in advance, but with a point reduction of 10% per day.
- Writing assignments are expected to be of the highest quality. Anything turned in that is in shorthand or illegible will be given a 0 until you hand in a legitimate version (at which point penalties for handing in late work will apply).
- Your work area must be clean before you leave.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you decide to engage in academic misconduct you will be subject to the Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures as outlined in the Student Disciplinary Code (<http://www.uwosh.edu/dean>). Under Chapter UWS 14 (Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures), "academic misconduct" means an act in which a student (UWS 14.03):

- a) seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- b) uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- c) forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- d) intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- e) engages in conduct aimed at making a false representation of a student's academic performance; or
- f) assists other students in any of these acts.

Disabilities

Students who have physical or learning disabilities that wish to request academic adjustments should notify the Disabilities Office so that appropriate accommodations can be made. For more information contact the Counseling Center or Disabilities Services (424-2404).

Grading

Quizzes (4).....100 pts **Assignments (3)**.....60 pts **Attendance & Participation**.....40 pts

Quizzes - Quizzes will primarily be in the format of short answer/essay, so study accordingly. If you will miss a class due to a University-sponsored activity (e.g. athletics contest), your coach should have provided you with a letter. Bring a copy of that letter to permit a make-up quiz. If you miss a quiz for any other University-accepted reason (e.g. illness or bereavement), go to the Dean of Students Office in Dempsey Hall, obtain a written excuse, and bring the written excuse to permit a make-up. **Absolutely NO** late quizzes will be scheduled for reasons of holiday or end-of-term travel.

Assignments – There will be 4 assignments. You may chose to skip one or have your lowest score will be dropped. Grades will be based on clarity and effectiveness in communicating main ideas. Grammar and spelling count! All assignments are due at the beginning of class and will be considered late if turned in at a later point.

Attendance and Participation - A significant part of your lab grade is participation. Practice is essential for gaining skills to effectively communicate your knowledge and to gain tact for dealing with opposing points of view. A different point of view isn't necessarily a wrong point of view. The classroom is a safe place to practice effective communication skills.

In addition, you should be critical of all the material that is presented to you. The abundance and fast flow of digital information is a powerful, but also dangerous, tool. Don't take anything for face value – do your research – and don't be afraid to play devil's advocate!

The following rubric is a rough outline of the qualities you will be graded on for participation.

Exemplary (90-100%)	Perfect attendance/one excused absence, maintains a positive attitude, team player, is engaged in environmental topics inside and outside of class, encourages others, respects others, turns in clever questions, is critical of the material, always alert
Good (80-90%)	One or two excused absences, maintains a positive attitude, team player, participates in most discussions, respects others, turns in good questions, is critical of the material, often alert
Average (60-80%)	One or two excused absences/one unexcused absence, usually has a positive attitude, sometimes participates in discussions, respects others, turns in good questions, occasionally daydreams
Below Average (50-60%)	Two or more unexcused absences, complains, does not typically participate in discussions, respects others, turns in questions, sometimes falls asleep
Poor (below 50%)	Three or more unexcused absences, complains and complains, prevents others from learning, almost never participates in discussions, disrespects others, does not complete assigned work, snores loudly

Schedule of Laboratory Exercises

Please refer to the lab manual for the spring semester schedule.