

**Biology 445 ~ Environmental Health Special Topics: Solid Waste
Spring 2013
Thursdays, 1:50-2:50pm**

Instructor: Reynee Kachur **Email:** kachurr@uwosh.edu

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Office Hours: As needed; you should feel free to call or email prior to visiting to make sure that I am in my office and available.

Course Description: The Biology 445 courses are designed to investigate and discuss in detail environmental public health issues. The topic for the Spring 2013 semester is solid waste. Solid waste management is an ongoing concern for municipalities, corporations, and individuals. All creatures, from a paramecium to humans, make daily decisions about what to use and what to throw away. Waste is a consequence of everyday life; however, the challenge for society is to minimize how much waste is generated and to convert waste into a resource.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Define solid waste.
- Describe the different sources and characteristics of solid waste.
- Explain integrated sustainable solid waste management.
- Describe the functional elements of solid waste management.
- Identify the components of a landfill.
- Understand the size of the solid waste problem.
- Integrate elements of integrated solid waste management into environmental health practices.

Course Policies:

- There are no make-up class sessions. It is your responsibility to attend all classes, and your grade will reflect your attendance (broken out below).
- If you expect to miss a class for a justifiable reason, you must contact the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled class. It is up to you to make up the content.
- Your participation grade will be based on your participation during classes throughout the semester. Participation consists of presenting your own thoughts and experiences to the class, not just by answering questions. Communication skills are central to public health practice, and being able to lead as well as participate in discussions is important.
- All assignments must be handed in on time unless there is a justifiable reason for lateness, and that reason has been discussed with and approved by the instructor at least 24 hours prior to due dates for the assignments.
- Any changes to the course, cancellations, etc. will be posted to the class D2L site or a class e-mail will be sent out using the D2L class roster. .

Required Materials:

- There is NO required book.
- There will be handouts and lecture materials provided via email or D2L and in class. You will be responsible for this material.

Grading Scale:	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent
		A	92.0-100	C
	A-	90.0-91.9	C-	70.0-71.9
	B+	88.0-89.9	D+	68.0-69.9
	B	82.0-87.9	D	62.0-67.9
	B-	80.0-81.9	D-	60.0-61.9
	C+	78.0-79.9	F	<60.0

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Point Distribution	Points
Quizzes (2)	100 points total (50 points/quiz)
10 Quiz Questions (2)	50 points (25 points/quiz)
Decomposition project report	40 points
Campus solid waste group project	40 points
Grading Criteria: Letter to the editor on solid waste topic	15 points
Self solid waste analysis	25 points
Product Life Cycle Presentation	30 points
Product Life Cycle Presentation handout	20 points
Readings/ Class Discussions	36 points (3 points/class)
Attendance	24 points (2 points/class)

Presentation and Handout Information: Each student will be responsible for selecting a product and giving a 10 (±1) minute presentation on the life cycle of that product during class time. Additional specifics of this presentation will be discussed during the second week of class.

- You must check/discuss the product you are interested in with the instructor **BEFORE** the fourth (4th) week of class.
- You must also prepare a handout of your presentation. These handouts do not need to be long and complicated; they should simply supplement your oral presentation. They may include illustrations, diagrams, tables, etc.
- Information/material in the handouts will be fair game for questions on the last quiz.

Quizzes and Quiz Questions:

- Each student will submit 10 possible quiz questions for each exam. These questions should be true/false, multiple choice, matching, fill-in the blank, or short answer. Credit will be given to relevant questions only.
- The quizzes will be created based on a combination of instructor and student generated questions (true/false, multiple choice, matching, etc) and several questions that involve a discussion during the quiz.

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).

Academic Dishonesty: If you are caught cheating or engage in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will receive an F on that assignment and be subject to the Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures as outlined in the Student Disciplinary Code (<http://www.uwosh.edu/dean>). Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying directly from sources and claiming the information as your own (plagiarism)
- Making up information or giving false information
- Giving answers to someone or allowing them to copy your work
- Possessing a copy of an examination that you should not possess
- Turning in work that was completed by someone else
- Using notes or other information during an examination
- Copying from another student with or without their consent
- False excuses to receive due date extensions
- Answering a cell phone or checking text messages during an exam.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Dates and topics subject to change.

All changes will be announced in class, sent via email, or posted on D2L.

Semester Week	Class Date	Topic	Assignment (A) /Reading (R) /Deadline (D)
1	Jan 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course overview • Solid Waste Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Syllabus
2	Feb 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Solid Waste Management • Decomposition project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R: Article (D2L) • A: Decomposition project (D2L)
3	Feb 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Solid Waste Characteristics and Quantities • Assign self solid waste study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Self waste study analysis (D2L)
4	Feb 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid Waste Collection • Identify groups for campus project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Campus solid waste project (D2L) • D: Self waste study analysis due • R: Article (D2L)
5	Feb 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: Questions for Quiz #1 due
6	Mar 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #1 	
7	Mar 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS – Group meetings for campus solid waste project (D2L) 	
8	Mar 21	NO CLASS ~ SPRING BREAK	
9	Mar 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing of Municipal Solid Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: Letter to the editor due
10	Apr 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Reduction and Materials Recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R: Article (D2L)
11	Apr 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemical Processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R: Article (D2L)
12	Apr 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour of landfill or digester /TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: Decomposition project due
13	Apr 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: Campus solid waste project due
14	May 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D: Questions for Quiz #2 due
15	May 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz #2 	