# SYLLABUS - Introduction to Environmental Science (EPCT 1311)

**CREDIT**
3 Semester Credit Hours (lecture)

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**
Face to Face. Monday 6.30pm – 9.25pm

**PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE**:
Passed the writing portion of TSI or other accepted testing instrument.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
An overview of environmental science with emphasis on history and development, audits and site assessments, and other special concerns.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the historical impact of the environmental movement.
2. Describe the environmental interrelationship between social, political, and natural processes.
3. Describe the environmental regulatory agencies and their mission at federal, state, and local levels.

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**


Instructor: **R. Peter Whittaker MHS REHS**

Email: rpwhittaker@lit.edu

Office Phone: 409 247 5283

Office Location: MPC 239


Office Hours: **Monday – Thursday 2.00-5.00pm. Friday 11.00am-12.00pm (Appointment Recommended).**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

1. Environmental Science Systems and Solutions. By, McKinney and Schoch, **6th Edition.** ISBN number is 978-1-28409-170-0
2. USB Flashdrive.

Revised: 8/23/24

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

This is an attendance based class. Attendance is required for all scheduled lectures and activities. Attendance and participation account for 10% of the overall class grade (as shown in course evaluation). 3% points will be deducted from your overall grade (up to a maximum of 10%) for each unexcused absence.

An excused absence will only be granted if the student provides a written justification (for example, by email) which is vetted and approved by the instructor (such as a sickness/injury, or job related requirement). If the student is applying for a job related excused absence documentation must be provided from their employer, including their supervisor's contact information. A sick note from a Doctor or hospital is required for long term sickness/injury.

**DROP POLICY**

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

| DATE | TOPIC | READINGS (Due on this Date) | ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Week 1 8/26/24** | Introductions. Introduction to environmental health science | **Week 1 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 2 9/2/24** | **Labor Day Holiday (Campus Closed)** | **Campus Closed** | |
| **Week 3 9/9/24** | The environment as an integrated system, and the biosphere | **Week 3 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 4 9/16/24** | Biological resources, plus env. ethics and environmental regulatory agencies | **Week 4 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 5 9/23/24** | **Exam # 1** Followed by demography | **Week 5 PowerPoint** | **Exam 1 (9/23/24). On Week 1 – 4 Material.** |
| **Week 6 9/30/24** | Feeding the world | **Week 6 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 7 10/7/24** | Fundamentals of energy, fossil fuels, and hydroelectric power | **Week 7 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 8 10/14/24** | Nuclear energy, plus alternative energy sources and energy conservation | **Week 8 PowerPoint** | |

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| **Week 9 10/21/24** | **Exam # 2** Followed by water resources | **Week 9 PowerPoint** | **Exam 2 (10/21/24). On Week 5 – 8 Material.** |
| **Week 10 10/28/24** | Water pollution | **Week 10 PowerPoint** | |
| **Week 11 11/4/24** | Principles of pollution control, followed by toxicology, pesticides, and risk | **Week 11 Powerpoint** | |
| **Week 12 11/11/24** | Air pollution: local and regional, plus global air pollution and global warming | **Week 12 Powerpoint** | |
| **Week 13 11/18/24** | Municipal solid waste and hazardous wastes. **Start Class Presentations of Selected Topics** | **Week 13 Powerpoint** | **Class Presentations of Selected Topics. 11/18/24** |
| **Week 14 11/25/24** | **Class Presentations of Selected Topics** | | **Class Presentations of Selected Topics. 11/25/24** |
| **Week 15 12/2/24** | **Exam # 3** Followed by **conclusion of Class Presentations of Selected Topics** | | **Exam 3 (12/2/24) On Week 9 – 13 Material.** Followed by **conclusion of Class Presentations of Selected Topics** |
| **Week 16 12/9/24** | **Final Exam – Comprehensive** | | **Final Exam – Comprehensive. 12/9/24** |

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

1. Class Attendance and Participation 10%
2. Three Class Tests (3 x 20%) 60%
3. Class Presentation of Selected Topic/Instrument 10%
4. Final Exam 20%

**GRADE SCALE**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

Revised: 8/23/24

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu).

**STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT**

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

**STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.