



## BIOL 2406 Environmental Biology

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### *Instructor information*

**Name:** Kristie Deramus

**Email:** [kderamus@odessa.edu](mailto:kderamus@odessa.edu)

**Office Location:** No office on campus (I'm off-campus just like you) ; )

201 West University Blvd  
Odessa, Texas 79764

(432) 638-3008 (this is my cell phone, so please no calls before 9am or after 9pm.)



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### *Course Information*

#### **Course**

Title: Environmental Biology, BIOL 2406.WB  
Course Dates: January 18, 2011 – May 12, 2011  
Course Credits: 4 credits – lecture and lab  
Prerequisites – None

#### **Course Description**

Environmental biology is an investigation into the study of basic ecological principles, relationships between living organisms, and problems involving energy and the environment. Emphasis is placed on human interaction with other organisms and how these relationships affect conservation, pollution, waste-management, depletion of non-renewable resources as well as environmental economics and politics. (SCANS 1, 6, 9.)

#### **Course Objectives**

1. Learner will be able to understand why environmental problems are complex and interrelated.
2. Learner will be able to understand the role of ethics in society and environmental decision making.
3. Learner will be able to understand the issues involved in risk management.
4. Learner will be able to understand the role of atoms, matter and energy in the processes that occur in the natural world.

5. Learner will understand the interactions of organisms and ecosystems.
6. Learner will understand the environmental issues faced in today's world and those that will be faced in the future.
7. Learner will understand their personal role in conservation and develop their personal view on environmental issues.

This course meets the general education requirements for an Associate in Applied Science in Occupational Safety and Health Technology and Associate in Arts in Teaching.

### **Required Materials**

TEXTBOOK: *Environmental Science: A Study of Interrelationships*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Enger & Smith.

**Prerequisites and Basic Skills:** You should not attempt to take this course online unless you are very comfortable using a computer. You are expected to have the following basic computer skills: website navigation, word processing, send/receive/save emails, organize/backup computer files, view online videos/tutorials, download software, cut and paste between a word processor and email program, change subject/title of email message, compose/reply to email messages in complete sentences.

**Successful Online Learner:** The following statement describes certain attributes of the most successful online learners as taken from an online education workshop attended by some members of our department "The successful online student can work fairly well independently, engaging the course materials with minimal intervention on the part of the instructor. The student who needs significantly more input from the instructor and is not willing or able to engage in collaborative discussions and activities with peers is less likely to succeed online."

**Email Information for non-assignments:** For general email questions or comments please use the following format:

**Title your email with the following in the subject area: BIOL 2406 – brief description of message.**

Always include your name in body of the email message. I won't recognize you by your email address. **If your name is not in the message it will be returned to you unanswered.**

**Importance of Email Rules: Why does OC require you to use the student email account instead of your regular email account?** One reason is that messages from companies such as Yahoo, Google, AOL, and others commonly end up getting filtered out and placed in a junk folder. Also, using the OC email helps to protect the faculty from receiving email which contains viruses, Trojan horses, worms, etc. that may damage our computers. The IT department has access to both student and faculty email accounts and not to your regular email account, so they can aid students in the event of a problem. While this policy may seem inconvenient to you it is in place for your protection and ours.

I know the email rules may seem cumbersome to you at first, but keep in mind that I have multiple students in my various courses at any given time. If half of the students send me a message missing a name, title, course, or some other basic information, I would either have to look up the information or send an email asking for clarification. This would require many unnecessary hours of extra emailing, just to get basic information that should have been included in the header or subject area. I'm not sure about you, but I don't have an extra couple of hours in my day. **It is for this reason that received email messages that do not follow the email rules will be returned to you unanswered with an explanation of what needs to be added.**

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.

**Dropping the Course:** If you consider dropping this course, please discuss your reasons with me prior to withdrawing from the course. Students who began their college experience as freshman in the Fall 2007 or later can only withdraw from 6 classes in their entire undergraduate college career.

**Review of Online Exams:** Unfortunately, there is no way for me to make the exams available to online students for review. Due to the way BlackBoard features operate, doing so would compromise the integrity of the tests in this course.

**Course Schedule:**

**Units for lecture exams:**

Unit 1            Chapters 1 - 4  
 Unit 2            Chapters 5, 6, 11  
 Unit 3            Chapters 7,13  
 Unit 4            Chapters 14 – 16

**Units for lab exams:**

Lab Exam 1            Ecological Footprint, Experimental Design/Scientific Method, Chemistry  
 Lab Exam 2            Habitat & Niches, World Biomes, Predator/Prey, Population Dynamics  
 Lab Exam 3            Wolf, Organic Food, Water

**Units for paper assignments:**

Paper 1            Chapters 1 - 3  
 Paper 2            Chapters 5, 6, 11  
 Paper 3            Chapters 13 -16

**Weekly Assignments:** Bold Face indicates the assignment is to be submitted, Red indicates an exam to be completed, and Green indicates a paper to be submitted.

Week	Date	LECTURE ASSIGNMENTS	LAB ASSIGNMENTS
<b>1</b>	<b>1/18 – 1/23</b>	<b>*Introductions (Student Lounge) *Navigation Assignment</b>	None
<b>2</b>	<b>1/24 – 1/30</b>	<b>*Read CH 1 *CH 1 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Environmental Relationships)</b>	<b>*Environmental C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>1/31 – 2/6</b>	<b>*Read CH 2 *CH 2 Wordlist *Discussion Question (If a Tree Falls in the Forest....)</b>	<b>*Ecological Foot *Lab Report</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>2/7 – 2/13</b>	<b>*Read CH 3 *CH 3 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Is Sustainability a</b>	<b>*Scientific Method/Experiment Design Report</b>

4	2/7 – 2/13	*Read CH 3 *CH 3 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Is Sustainability a Realistic....) *Submit Paper 1(Global Environment) Topic	*Scientific Method/Experiment Design Report
5	2/14 – 2/20	*Read CH 4 *CH 4 Wordlist *Experiment Discussion (How do They do That?) *Post Paper 1 (Global Environment) for Review	*Chemistry Experiment and Report
6	2/21 – 2/27	*Read CH 5 *CH 5 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Extinction: Easy Come, Easy Go) *Paper 1 (Global Environment) Due *EXAM I (1,2,3,4)	*Habitat and Niche
7	2/28 – 3/6	*Read CH 6 *CH 6 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Before You Judge...)	*World Biomes *EXAM I (eco focus scientific method design, chemistry)
8	3/7 – 3/13	*Read CH 11 *CH 11 Wordlist *Discussion Question (Should We Preserve Biodiversity....) *Submit Paper 2 (Interactions) Topic	*Predator/Prey Success
9	3/14 – 3/20	<b>SPRING BREAK!!!!</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK!!!!</b>
10	3/21 – 3/27	*Read CH 7 *CH 7 Wordlist *Discussion Question (To Develop or Not To....) *Post Paper 2 (Interactions) for Review *EXAM II (5,6,11)	*Population Dynamics
11	3/28 – 4/3	*Read CH 13 *CH 13 Wordlist *Discussion Question (How do we Feed ...) *Paper 2 (Interactions) Due	*Wolf Lab *EXAM II (habitat world biomes, predator/prey, population dynamics)
12	4/4 – 4/10	*Read CH 14	*Organic Foods

13	4/11 – 4/17	*Read CH 15 *CH 15 Wordlist <b>*Discussion Question (Water, Water Everywhere...)</b> <b>*Submit Paper 3 (Soil, Air, or Water) Topic</b>	<b>*Water Sample Lab</b>
14	4/18 – 4/24	*Read CH 16 *CH 16 Wordlist <b>*Discussion Question (Feeling the Need....)</b> <b>*Post Paper 3 (Soil, Air, or Water) for Review</b>	<b>*Global Warming</b>
15	4/25 – 5/1	<b>*Paper 3 (Soil, Air, or Water) Due</b> <b>*EXAM IV (14,15,16)</b>	None this week
16	5/2 – 5/8	<b>*Discussion (Reflections)</b> <b>*Course Evaluation</b>	<b>*EXAM III (wolf lab, organic food, water sample lab)</b>
17	5/9 – 5/12	<b>*COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM</b>	

### Grading:

#### Lecture

Student Introduction	10 pts
Navigation Assignment	20 pts
Lecture Exams (4)	400 pts
Discussion Questions (13)	520 pts
Papers (3)	300 pts
Final Exam (1)	150 pts

#### Laboratory

Lab Assignments (12)	360 pts
Lab Exams (3)	150 pts

### Course Evaluation:

**Announcements:** Various bits of information are placed here throughout the course (quite often, in fact.) Please check it frequently because I place important information here that often arises suddenly. You certainly don't want to miss anything important!! Plus, it's a good way for us to stay connected!

**Discussion Board:** In the discussion board area, you will see several different forums.

- The "Ask Your Instructor" forum is for questions that others in the course may also have or would benefit from the answer. If you have individual or personal questions, feel free to email me directly.

- The forum entitled “Student Lounge” is for learner use. You are free to discuss anything you would like or share information that you have found with your classmates.
- There are also forums for different discussion questions in which we will explore environmental issues. This is part of your grade and you are required to post an original post. The required length of the original post is found in the individual question instructions. You must also respond with a significant response to two other learners’ original posts. Significant means that it is a minimum of 75 words in length and contributes to the discussion. In case you are wondering, “I agree” or “You are correct” are not acceptable responses.

**Exams:** There is a lecture and separate laboratory exam for each unit except unit 4 which does not have a laboratory exam. Unit exams are taken at your home. Please be sure you have them completed by the due date unless you are working out of town at the time and do not have access to a computer (you will need to contact me if this is the case). Allow each exam to completely load before clicking on anything. Otherwise, the exam will lock up and you will not be able to reenter it. Once you begin an exam, you must complete it. It will not allow you to reenter the exam at a later time (that means you can’t sneak a peek ahead of time). **So, if you click on the exam that means you are committed to completing it!!!** There will be a comprehensive lecture final.

**Submitting Assignments:** When you submit an assignment, please send it as an attachment in the body of an email to me. When saving your assignments to **your computer**, use the following format to name your files:

Last name\_First Initial\_Assignment name

**Grievances:** Student grievances should first be discussed with the instructor. Unresolved issues may then be discussed with the instructor’s immediate supervisor.

## ***Policies and Procedures***

### **Incomplete Policy**

An incomplete grade may be given only if (1) the student has passed all work completed, and (2) he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of “I” will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

### **Instructor’s Response Time**

You will get a response to your email within 48 hours (and more often, sooner than that.) If the instructor is unable to do so (for some reason) you will be informed.

**Long-Term absence policy:** Students are expected to make contact with the instructor each week by completing their assignments. If you are absent from the course for more than **1 week** without contacting the instructor, the course will be made unavailable to you. You will need to contact your instructor by email explaining the reason and request access to the course website. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to ensure your participation in the course.

### **Statement of Academic Dishonesty**

In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure as stated in the [Student Handbook](#) under the heading titled *Student Right to Due Process* on page 31.

### **Statement of cheating/plagiarism and Copyright – disciplinary actions**

The instructor has the right to drop a student with a grade of “F” if the student is found to **plagiarize someone else’s work in the class or someone else’s work from the internet. This also applies to any learner’s found to be re-using work from having previously taken the course!**

**Statement of Special Accommodations:** Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at (432) 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Learning Resource Center (Library): The Library, known as the Learning Resources Center, provides research assistance via the LRC's catalog (print books, videos, e-books) and databases (journal and magazine articles). Research guides covering specific subject areas, tutorials, and the "Ask a Librarian" service provide additional help.

Technical Support For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

Important School Policies For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students' and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.

### **Important Course Dates:**

Classes Begin	January 18, 2011
Deadline for Spring Degree Application	February 28, 2011
Last Day to Drop or Withdraw with a "W"	April 14, 2011
Spring Break	March 14 - 20, 2011
Last Class Day	May 7, 2011
Final Exams	May 9 – 12, 2011
Spring Graduation	May 13, 2011

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## **Hardware/Software Requirements**

### **Computer:**

A minimum of 64 MB RAM, 1 G of free disk space, 150 MHz or higher recommended, a monitor capable of at least 800 x 600 resolution

**Peripherals:** Speakers to be able to listen to audio files.

**Software:** **Anti-virus software** is highly recommended for students and instructors. Online courses involve much file sharing, which increases your risk of computer virus infection. Anti-virus software will help protect your computer in case of exposure to a computer virus.

**Other software:** You are required to submit assignments typed in Microsoft Word document, and I will ask you to view course content that is in the form of Microsoft Word. In this case, you must have access to Microsoft Word (2003), and documents must be sent in that format. . In this course you must have access to Microsoft Word (2003), PowerPoint, and spreadsheet applications.

There will be audio/video files in the course for which you will need [Windows Media Player](#) or [QuickTime](#) or [Real Player](#).

**Internet connection:** 56 K modem or better

**Browser and settings:**

Microsoft Internet Explorer 6" (IE 6) works best with Blackboard on computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system.

Java and Cookies must be enabled. To enable Java:

1. In Internet Explorer 6, go to the "Tools" menu and choose "Internet Options".
2. Choose the "Privacy" tab and move the slider to "Medium" (which is the default setting) to enable Cookies.
3. To enable Java (if not installed, first see next item "Java Plug-in for Windows..." or Java Plug-in for Macintosh" below), while remaining in the "Internet Options" window choose the "Advanced" tab.
4. Scroll down until you see the "Java (Sun)" item and check the box beside "Use Java...".
5. Click "OK".
6. You may need to close your browser and all other applications and restart your computer before this setting takes effect.

**Email:** Students enrolled in Odessa College must use Odessa College email address. Go to <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/> to set up your email account. Your account was set up for you at registration. Do not create a new account. Simply follow the instructions.

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## **Preparation for Computer Emergencies**

### **Computer Crash**

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

### **Server problems**

When the Blackboard server needs downtime for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing the time and the date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems your course instructor will send an email.

**Backup Data:** *Definitely produce a backup of all assignments/documents/emails that you produce during the semester. It is highly suggested that you utilize a thumb drive or external hard drive in addition to saving all course files on your computer. Thumb drives provide a very convenient method of storage. A 2GB model is a great investment in your peace of mind for around \$5-10. You never know when lightning may strike and render a computer useless. Backing up files is necessary in the virtual world.*

**Alternate Computer:** Make arrangements to have access to another computer that you can use in the event you have computer problems. Identify a college, library, Internet café, employer, friend, or other source that would provide you with computer access in case of emergency. Always be prepared for waking up to a non-functional computer.



If you take care with these few simple suggestions you will understand why technology problems are NOT acceptable reasons for deadline extensions.

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## **Student Support Services**

### **ADA Accommodation/Support**

Rivera-Weiss, Becky 432-335-6861 [brivera@odessa.edu](mailto:brivera@odessa.edu)

### **Admissions & Registration & Transcripts**

Beard, Becky (Director) 432-335-6443 [bbeard@odessa.edu](mailto:bbeard@odessa.edu)

### **Blackboard Technical Support**

Davis, Corey 432/335-6781 [cdavis@odessa.edu](mailto:cdavis@odessa.edu)

### **Bookstore**

Stevens, Heather (Manager) 432-335-6654 [smolder@odessa.edu](mailto:smolder@odessa.edu)

### **Business Office**

Pollock, Debbie (Manager) 432-335-6600 [dpollock@odessa.edu](mailto:dpollock@odessa.edu)

### **Computer Services**

Carson, David (Director) 432-335-6649 [dcarson@odessa.edu](mailto:dcarson@odessa.edu)

### **Counseling**

Aguilar, Rosie 432-335-6741 [raquilar@odessa.edu](mailto:raquilar@odessa.edu)

### **Help Desk (Student Learning Center)**

Carlson, Chip 432-335-6835 [ccarlson@odessa.edu](mailto:ccarlson@odessa.edu)

### **Financial Aid and Scholarship**

Nesmith, Dee (Director) 432-335-6429 [dnesmith@odessa.edu](mailto:dnesmith@odessa.edu)

### **Library**

Petersen, Carolyn (Director) 432-335-6641 [cpetersen@odessa.edu](mailto:cpetersen@odessa.edu)

### **Testing Center/Career Center**

Pease, Terri (Coordinator) 432-335-6816 [thilliard@odessa.edu](mailto:thilliard@odessa.edu)

### **Vice President of Instruction**

Hughes, Tanya Dr. 432-335-6413 [thughes@odessa.edu](mailto:thughes@odessa.edu)

### **Vice President of Student Services**

Bauske, Dr. David 432-335-6683 [dbaucke@odessa.edu](mailto:dbauske@odessa.edu)

**Access to Odessa College Library Online Catalog**

<http://www.odessa.edu/dept/library/>

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