

*Northeast Iowa Community College provides in-demand education and training focused on improving lives, driving business success and advancing community vitality.*

## **ENV 115 94101 Environmental Science**

**Fall 2021**

**Delivery Method:**

- Online

**Meet Days/Times/Location:**

- Online; ONL

**Start and End Dates:**

- 8/24/2021 - 12/13/2021

**Academic Department:** Liberal Arts, Science and Business

## **Instructor Information**

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**Name:** Matthew Simon

**Phone:** 8104

**Email:** simonma@nicc.edu

**Office Location:** DC 3

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm

**Best Method to Contact Instructor:** email, simonma@nicc.edu

***NICC email is the official means of communication, you should regularly check your email.***

***NICC has a commitment to respond to student communication within 24 hours on a school day, and 48 hours on non-school days.***

## **Required Materials**

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**Environmental Science**

ISBN: 9781337569613

Authors: G. Tyler Miller, Scott Spoolman

Publisher: Cengage Learning

Publication Date: 2018-01-01

Edition: 16

## Course Information

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**Course Description:** Studies the biological basis of environmental science and human influence on biosphere dynamics. Emphasis on scientific principles, inter-relationships among resources, pollution and environmental degradation, soil and water conservation and the impact that politics, economics, ethics and world view have on the future direction for life on the planet.

**Major Course Objective:**

To develop an awareness and understanding of the complex ecological interactions that influence and sustain the Earth.

**Primary Common Learning Outcome Assessed:** Critical Thinking

**Educational Learning Outcomes:**

- Humans and Nature
- Basic Concepts of Ecology
- Air, Water and Soil Resources
- Living Resources
- Energy and Mineral Resources
- Achieving a Sustainable Earth Society (course summary)

## Grading Procedures and Scale

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grading Scale by Percent of Total Points</b> <i>Ex. (94 - 100%)</i>	<b>Grading Scale by Points</b> <i>Ex. (940 - 1000+)</i>
A	100-93	285-265
A-	92-90	264-256
B+	89-87	255-247
B	86-83	246-236
B-	82-80	235-228
C+	79-77	227-219
C	76-73	218-208
C- (or P)	72-70	207-199
D+	69-67	198-191
D	66-63	190-179
D-	62-60	178-171
F (or NP)	59-0	170-0

	<b># of Assignments</b>	<b>Points / Percentage</b>
Writing/other assignments	13	120
Discussions	11	110
<b>Quizzes and Test</b>	5	55
<b>Total Points possible</b>		285

**Final:** The final date and time will be announced later in the semester. Faculty members may choose to give an exam or incorporate a project/presentation as a final. If a final exam is not given, class is still held at the scheduled final exam time to complete the required goals and objectives of the course and meet the scheduled required hours.

## Course Calendar

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Week, Unit Topic and Reading	Tuesday of week	General Topics Covered	Writing/Other Assignment	Discussion Topic(s)
1  Introduction: Chapter 1  Climate Change Unit:  7.1, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6	8/24	Introduction, What is sustainability?  PLO: 1,5 UO: A, B, C, D, E CLO: 1	536 Case Study Week 1  What is YOUR environmental worldview?(5 pts)	Introductions!  Climate change in the media (10 pts)
2  Climate Change cont'd	8/31	Climate Change  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 5 UO: A, B, C, E CLO: 1	536 Case Study Week 2 (10 pts)  Intro & Climate change Quiz (10 pts)	Science of climate change and Legitimacy of science(10 pts)
3  Energy Unit: Ch. 12, 13	9/7	Personal energy use  PLO: 1, 6, 7 UO: A, F CLO: 1	NA	Ecological footprint and discussion(10 pts)
4  Energy cont'd	9/14	Energy Resources in Iowa  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 6 UO: A, E, F CLO: 1, 3	Group presentations on Iowa Energy (15 pts)	The role of fossil energy in a non-fossil energy producing state(10 pts)
5  Energy cont'd	9/21	National and Global energy resources  PLO: 1, 2, 6, 7 UO: A, E, F CLO: 1, 3	National/Global energy worksheet (10 pts)  Campus Sustainability Project  Energy Quiz (10 pts)	NA

6 Ecosystems Unit Ch. 3, 4,	9/28	What is an ecosystem?  Species/environmental interactions PLO: 1, 2, 3 UO: A, B, C, D, E CLO: 1	Sumino Oyster Case Study	NA
7 Ecosystems cont'd Ch 8, 9	10/5	Biodiversity  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, B, C, D, E, F CLO: 1	Sumino Oyster Case Study day 2 (10 pts)	Human role in preserving biodiversity (10 pts)
8 Ecosystems cont'd Ch 5, 7	10/12	Interactions, succession, control  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, B, C, E, F CLO: 1, 2	Metal mining in NE Iowa (10 pts)	Human role in driving succession in modified environments(10 pts)
9 Ecosystems cont'd Ch 6	10/19	Population and urbanization  PLO: 1, 2, 5, 6 UO: A, C, F CLO: 1, 3	NA	Eco-City design(10 pts)
10 Ecosystems cont'd	10/26	Invasive species  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 5 UO: A, B, D, F CLO: 1	Invasive species research(10 pts)	Non-native species; destructive invaders or builders of biodiversity?(10 pts)
11 Ecosystems cont'd	11/2	Field Trip  PLO: 1, 3 UO: A, B, C, D, F CLO: 1, 3	Ecosystems Quiz(10 pts)	Discuss and describe the ecosystem(s) in your locale(10 pts)
12 Agriculture Unit Ch 10	11/9	The role of agriculture in our environment  PLO: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 CLO: 1	Prairies to Corn case study(10 pts)	NA
13	11/16	The role of agriculture	Newspaper	Personal

Agriculture, cont'd		in our environment PLO: 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, B, C, F CLO: 1, 3	review(10 pts) Agriculture Quiz(10 pts)	reflections on agriculture(10 pts)
14 Water Quality Unit Ch 11	11/23	Groundwater PLO: 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, C, F CLO: 1, 3	Groundwater pollution article review(10 pts)	NA
15 Water Quality cont'd	11/30	Surface water PLO: 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, C, F CLO: 1, 3	Kingston Coal Ash spill(10 pts) Water Quality Quiz(10 pts)	Reflections on water quality issues (10pts)
16 Environment and Human Health Ch 14	12/7	Solid waste, air pollution, human health PLO: 2, 3, 5, 6 UO: A, C, E, F CLO: 1, 3	Global strategies for waste disposal(10 pts)	NA
17 Finals Week	12/14	Final Exam What is YOUR environmental world view? PLO: 1, 3, 5, 6	Final Exam(15 pts)	NA

Schedule and points awarded value are subject to change

#### Unit Objectives (ELOs)

1. Humans and Nature
2. Basic concepts of Ecology
3. Air, Water and Soil Resources
4. Living Resources

5. Energy and Mineral Resources
6. Achieving a Sustainable Earth Society

PLO addressed by each activity will be noted numerically per the list at the bottom of this calendar

#### PLOs Associate of Science

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with various audiences using various methods
2. Students will demonstrate competence in problem-solving, logical thinking, and the application of mathematical processes
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply fundamental concepts in the natural sciences
4. Students will understand the methods and models by which the social sciences study individuals, cultures and societies
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of diverse cultures, historical viewpoints, and global perspectives
6. Students will locate, evaluate and responsibly use and share information
7. Competent and relevant technology skills

#### CLOs

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communicate Effectively
3. Lifelong Learning
4. Diversity

## Student Course Feedback

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Prior to course completion you will receive an email providing a link to share your feedback. You are EXPECTED to complete the feedback form for each class.

## Assessment

Northeast Iowa Community College is an institution dedicated to continuous instructional improvement as part of our assessment efforts. It is necessary for us to collect and analyze course level data. Data drawn from student work for the purposes of institutional assessment will be posted in aggregate and will not identify individual

students. Your continued support in our ongoing effort to provide quality instructional services at NICC is appreciated.

## College Policies

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### Attendance/Academic Engagement

(See College Handbook for more details) Regular attendance is expected. A strong relationship exists between success in college and class attendance. Absence in class interferes with the learning process and may lead to academic failure. Students should confer with the instructor immediately following an absence. When there is advance knowledge of an absence, students should discuss this with the instructor prior to the absence.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honesty, ethics, and taking personal responsibility for your work in an academic setting. Academic integrity includes honesty, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity requires student's work to be the product of their own thought and effort, and to ensure that the intellectual contribution of others is properly documented. Academic integrity applies to all academic activities, including, but not limited to, classwork, labs, clinical field, practicum or co-op assignments. Examples of violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, lying, falsifying data, and aiding dishonesty. Violations of academic integrity are addressed according to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), and sanctions may include, but not be limited to, warnings (either verbal or written), grade reduction for an assignment, project or test, or a failing grade for the course. Sanctions for violations of academic integrity for a course shall be determined by the faculty member for the course. Pursuant to the Student Conduct Code, egregious or repeated violations of the academic integrity policy may result in the suspension or expulsion from a class or from the College, as determined by the College.

### Class Continuation during Campus or Center Closing



Instructional continuity is critical to the College mission and to your success in this class. As such, should a campus or center close due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, please check your Brightspace class for specific instructions and expectations from your instructor due to the campus closure.

Classes will not be canceled, and students will be expected to continue to engage in this class remotely until such a time as classes can return to normal.

For notification on campus closures, please refer to the following:

<https://www.nicc.edu/about/consumer-information/emergency-response-and-procedure/>

## Campus Emergencies

In the event of a campus emergency, an alarm will sound or an appropriate announcement will be made. An emergency response guide, building evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas are posted in each room. Safety drills are held on a regular basis. For more information, visit campus emergencies in the college catalog.

## Course Section Policies

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### Absence/Illness

You are expected to arrive for your lecture or laboratory at the time listed on the class schedule. You will be expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. You are expected to listen, read and follow the instruction that are provided by your instructor. You will be prepared to respond to the questions of your instructor or to discuss with your classmates when requested by your instructor. Attendance at all lab sections is mandatory and will be recorded. Due to continued COVID-19 pandemic responses, all class sessions will be remotely accessible, recorded and archived (subject to change); however, since this has been scheduled as a face-to-face course, unless there is a pressing health concern, i.e. an active COVID case or quarantine, etc., you are expected to be physically in class. These situations must be communicated to the instructor. If you must attend class remotely, you will be required to have your camera active throughout the class period and respond to course content as if you were in class physically, including answering questions, group work, etc. Failure to abide by this expectation will result in your attendance being considered an unexcused absence for the day and available points will not be awarded. Changes to this policy may occur based on the dynamic nature of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and will be communicated by your instructor.

## Academic Integrity Violations

Academic honesty and integrity are integral to the academic process. Academic dishonesty – cheating, plagiarism and collusion – is a serious offense which undermines the educational process and the learning experience for the entire college community. If a student is found to be cheating the student will receive a zero for the assignment and may be referred for additional disciplinary action.

For a detailed explanation of plagiarism, visit the Lib Guide on plagiarism at <http://nicc.libguides.com/citingsources>

## Late Work

Unexcused late work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0% except in cases of extreme emergency (family death, hospitalization, etc.), and documentation in the form of a doctor's note, obituary, etc. will be required. If you know you will be absent you must contact the instructor and make adequate arrangement several days in advance to ensure you can get any work that may be due. Communication is required to avoid problems. Because this is an online course, you should have ample time to know what will be due for each week, I will not re-open assignments, discussions or quizzes. Time management for online courses is an important skill.

## Missing Assignments

Missing assignments will receive a score of zero points.

## Makeup Testing

Tests will not be able to be made up except in case of extreme emergency (family death, hospitalization, etc.) and documentation in the form of a doctor's note, obituary, etc. will be required.. These cases will be determined on a case-by-case basis with the instructor, timely and thorough communication is required.

## Use of Technology

### Cell Phone/Text Messaging Usage

Use of cell phones for class related activities is permitted.

### Laptop Use

Laptops may be used in class for class related activities only.

### Recording

Please schedule a meeting with your instructor to discuss recording during class.

## Classroom Conduct

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As a student in this course (and at this College) you are expected to maintain a high degree of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class; and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom in which the rights, dignity, worth, and freedom of all members of the class are respected. Please refer to the [College Catalog](#) for detailed information on the [Student Conduct Code](#).

## Additional Information

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### Learning Center

The NICC Learning Centers provide tutoring assistance free of charge to any student in person Monday through Friday or virtually online with our online tutoring service 24/7 with [Upswing](#). Students are encouraged to utilize the Learning Centers in Calmar, Peosta or Dubuque.

### Access

Take advantage of the *ReadSpeaker Listen Button* to enhance understanding and comprehension of the materials in this and any syllabus within the content area. All of the materials posted in the content area of NICC Brightspace classrooms have a *Listen Button* to have the text highlighted and read for you. Listening to text read aloud is shown to improve reading comprehension. [www.nicc.edu/readspeaker](http://www.nicc.edu/readspeaker)

### ReadSpeaker for Brightspace by D2L



### Course Copyright

All course materials students receive or to which students have online access are protected by copyright laws. Students may use course materials and make copies for their own use as needed, but unauthorized distribution and/or uploading of materials without the instructor's express written permission is strictly prohibited. Students who engage in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may be held in violation of the College's Code of Conduct, and/or liable under Federal and State laws.

### Netiquette

The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and bulletin board postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of forum messages.

## Accommodation Policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, NICC ensures the accessibility of its programs, classes, and services to students with disabilities. For any questions or to apply for disability services please contact the Accessibility Services Office to set up an appointment, or visit the Accessibility Services website at:

<https://www.nicc.edu/academic-support/disability-services/accommodations/> for additional information. Any student eligible for and needing academic accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with their instructor.

Sally Mallam, M.S.  
Director of Accessibility Services  
844.642.2338 ext. 1258  
[mallams@nicc.edu](mailto:mallams@nicc.edu)

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of Northeast Iowa Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (employment), sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by federal and state civil rights regulations. If you have questions, concerns or to read the full policy at:

<https://www.nicc.edu/aboutnicc/nondiscriminationpolicy/>.

## Title IX: Confidentiality and Responsible Employee Statement

Northeast Iowa Community College faculty are committed to helping create a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. The College strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support and report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, I am required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact one of NICC's Counselors (Calmar Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 1378 / Peosta Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 2215). For more information about reporting options and resources visit [Sexual Respect and Title IX](#).

## Disclaimer

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This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check the Learning Management System (Currently Brightspace) for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted by your instructor or listed in the course announcements or through NICC email.