

EHSC 4400
Environmental Issues in the Developing World
Spring 2009 Syllabus

Department of Environmental Health Science
College of Public Health

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Marsha Black
Office Location: 148 Environmental Health Science Bldg.
Phone: 706-542-0998
Email: mblack@uga.edu
Office Hours: By appointment. Please email to schedule.

Course Meeting Time and Location

Building: Environmental Health Science Bldg. (1050)
Room: 101
Day: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 3:30-4:45 pm

Textbooks and Other Required Course Material

Required reading materials will be emailed to each member of the class as a PDF file.

Course Description

Study of environmental issues in developing countries, including water, soil, and air contamination resulting from human impacts and industrial development. Strategies to mitigate or manage contamination issues will also be discussed.

Course Learning Objectives

- Identify key environmental concerns of selected developing countries, focusing on contamination of water, soil and air from traditional land use practices through impacts of industrialization.
- Know the environmental laws and regulations of select developing countries and their effectiveness in regulating pollution.
- Identify specific environmental issues of selected countries and develop cost-effective pollution prevention and remediation strategies that are appropriate for each country's economy and culture.

Course Requirements for Grading Purposes

Grades will be assigned on a point system, to include quiz scores, leading and participation in discussions, final exam scores and presentation scores (graduate students only).

Quizzes (100 points): A total of 6 quizzes will be given at the beginning of class (15 minute duration) on each discussion day (Jan. 29; Feb. 12, 24; March 17, 31; and April 16). The lowest quiz grade will be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Discussion of readings (25 points): The class will be divided into groups who will lead paper discussions on the discussion days (see above for dates). Two articles that relate to the current topic will be discussed on each day. One paper will be chosen by the instructor; the other will be chosen by the group and distributed to the class by the class date before the discussion day. All members of the group must participate in leading the discussions. Peer grades (100% scale) will be solicited following each group discussion date and individual scores will be adjusted by that average grade.

Participation (25 points): Class participation and attendance during discussion and special presentation days (graduate and guest lectures) will be graded. More than one unexcused absence on these days will result in the loss of 5 points/day.

Final Exam (100 points): The final exam will be a take-home exam. It will be given to students on April 21. Answers should be typed and turned in to Dr. Black's office by NOON on the scheduled final exam date (May 7, 2009). The exam is open-book and for each question, a minimum of two journal sources must be used. Please cite references used in your answers in CBE name-year format. Format instructions and examples are located at <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocCBE.html>. Treat all journal articles available in electronic format as a print journal article – no internet address is necessary, as long as the year, volume# and page numbers are available. If the article is an internet-only preprint, identify the DOI number. Internet sources are NOT allowed, except for official government sites. Please note that the exam may not be discussed with others.

Undergraduate Students	Points
Quiz grades (5 of 6 quizzes @ 20 points/quiz)	100
Discussion grade (leading) x Group % grade	25
Participation during class discussions	25
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>100</u>
Total points	250

Grading Policy

Final grades will follow the scale: 90-100% A; 80-89% B; 70-79% C; 60-69% D; <60% F.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is encouraged for all class dates and **REQUIRED for all discussion and special (guest lecture and graduate student) presentation days**. Roll will be taken on those days and participation grades will be docked 5 points per absence. Late arrivals will be counted as absent. A written doctor's excuse will be needed to be excused from any required class. Other potential excused absences should be discussed with the professor before class.

Make-Up Policy

There will be no make-up grades for quizzes. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.

Proposed Schedule		
Dates	Topic	Presenter(s)
January 8	Introduction	Dr. Black
January 13	Video: Baraka (<i>Note: Video lasts 1 h 40 min</i>)	
January 15	Discussion of environmental justice readings	Dr. Black
January 20	Development and deployment of innovative solutions at the bottom of the economic pyramid	Dr. William Kisaalita, Bio & Ag Engineering
January 22, 27	Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Bloc: Environmental quality and the transition to EU membership	Dr. Black
January 29	Discussion of readings; Quiz 1	Group 1
February 3,5	China: Rapid industrialization – impacts on water quality, use and management	Dr. Black
February 10	Human Health Issues in China	Dr. J.S. Wang, EHS
February 12	Discussion of readings; Quiz 2	Group 2
February 17, 19	The Aral Sea: Post-Soviet central Asia and transnational water issues	Dr. Black
February 24	Discussion of readings; Quiz 3	Group 3
February 26	Environmentally-induced human health issues in Uganda	Dr. Chris Whalen, Epidemiology/Biostat
March 3, 5	Ethiopia: Poverty, famine and environmental health ramifications	Dr. Black
March 10, 12	<i>Spring Break – No Class</i>	
March 17	Discussion of readings; Quiz 4	Group 4
March 19	Parasitic diseases that result from environmental issues in the developing world	Dr. Dan Colley, Ctr. Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases
March 24, 26	Vietnam: Ancient land, emerging economy, legacy from ancient and modern wars	Dr. Black
March 31	Discussion of readings; Quiz 5	Group 5
April 2	Air pollution in Vietnam	Dr. Tham Hoang, Florida Intl. University
April 7, 9	Peru: Mining activities - economic and environmental implications	Dr. Black
April 14	Cooking stove-related indoor air pollution in the developing world	Dr. Luke Naeher, EHS
April 16	Discussion of readings/Quiz 6	Group 6
April 21	Guest Speaker: Wildlife and conservation issues in Bulgaria <i>Final take home exam will be handed out</i>	Dr. Sarah Schweitzer, Warnell Sch. Forestry and Natural Resources
April 23	Graduate student presentations	
April 28	Open/Wrap up	Dr. Black
May 7	Take-home exam due at 3:30 pm	
General Disclaimers		

The course syllabus and proposed schedule are general plans for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.