

**EHSC 4400/6400**  
**Environmental Issues in the Developing World**  
**Spring 2008 Syllabus**

**Department of Environmental Health Science**  
**College of Public Health**

**Course Information**

Instructor: Dr. Marsha Black  
Office Location: 206A Environmental Health Science Bldg.  
Phone: 706-542-0998  
Email: [mblack@uga.edu](mailto:mblack@uga.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment. Please email to schedule.

Co-Instructor: Aaron Wilson (PhD candidate)  
Office Location: 134 (office); 305 (lab) Environmental Health Science Bldg.  
Phone: 706-542-6076 (lab)  
Email: [wilson31@uga.edu](mailto:wilson31@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**

Reading materials will be posted on the class website or 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 (140 points):** A total of 8 quizzes will be given at the beginning of class (15 min duration) on each discussion day (Jan. 22, 31; Feb. 12, 21; March 4, 25; and April 3, 17). The lowest quiz grade will be dropped when calculating the final grade.

**Discussion of readings (60 points):** The class will be divided into 4 groups and these groups 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 instructors; 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 (50 points):** Class participation and attendance during discussion and special presentation days (graduate and guest lectures) will be graded. Unexcused absences on these days will result in the loss of 5 points/day.

**Final Exam (150 points):** The final exam will be a take-home exam. It will be given to students on April 17. Answers should be typed and turned in to Dr. Black's office by NOON on the scheduled final exam date (May 6, 2008). The exam is open-book. Please cite any 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>. Internet sources are NOT allowed, except for official government sites. Please note that the exam may not be discussed with others.

**Presentation (50 points-- Graduate students only):** Each graduate student will research and give a 30 minute presentation (use of PowerPoint is required) on an environmental issue in a developing country that was not previously discussed by the instructors or guest lecturers. Include in the presentation the political and cultural framework that has shaped the issue in that country, its past and current status, in addition to details on the issue.

### Proposed Schedule

Dates	Topic	Instructor(s)
January 8	Introduction	Black/Wilson
January 10	Discussion of readings	Black/Wilson
January 15, 17	China: Rapid industrialization – impacts on water quality, use and management	Black
January 22	Discussion of China readings; Quiz 1	Group 1
January 24, 29	India: Legacy of colonialism – focus on grassroots environmental activism	Wilson
January 31	Discussion of readings; Quiz 2	Group 2
February 5, 7	Brazil: More than the Amazon – ecology, history, and indigenous rights	Wilson

February 12	Discussion of readings; Quiz 3;	Group 3
February 14, 19	Vietnam: Emerging economy, ancient land and cultural traditions – Environmental impacts	Black
February 21	Discussion of readings; Quiz 4	Group 4
February 26, 28	The Aral Sea: Post-Soviet central Asia and transnational water issues	Wilson
March 4	Discussion of readings; Quiz 5	Group 1
March 6	Wildlife and conservation issues in Bulgaria	Dr. Sarah Schweitzer
March 11, 13	Spring Break – No Class	
March 18, 20	Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Bloc: Environmental quality and the transition to EU membership	Black
March 25	Discussion of readings; Quiz 6	Group 2
Mar 27, April 1	Nigeria: Oil of the Niger delta – politics and the consequences of global capitalism	Wilson
April 3	Discussion of readings; Quiz 7	Group 3
April 8, 15	Ethiopia: Poverty, famine and environmental ramifications	Black
April 17	Discussion of readings/Quiz 8 Take home exam given to class	Group 4
April 22	Graduate student presentations	Horton, Eppler
April 24	Graduate student presentations	Fitzgerald
May 6	Take-home exam due at 12:00 Noon	

### Grading Policy

<b>Undergraduate Students</b>	<b>Points</b>
Quiz grades (7 of 8 quizzes @ 20 points/quiz)	140
Discussion grade (leading) x Group % grade	60
Participation during class discussions	50
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>150</u>
Total points	400

<b>Graduate Students</b>	<b>Points</b>
Quiz grades (7 of 8 quizzes @ 20 points/quiz)	140
Discussion grade (leading) x Group % grade	60
Participation during class discussions	50
Presentation	50
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>150</u>
Total points	450

Final grades will follow the traditional 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/ quiz 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.

**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.