**ENVST 2050: Introduction to Environmental & Sustainability Science** (4 credits)

Fall 2014
Section 1: Tuesdays 2:00-3:45 pm, William Stewart (ST) Hall 205
Section 2: Thursdays 2:00-3:45 pm, William Stewart (ST) Hall 208

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Shah, jennifer.shah@envst.utah.edu, 585-####

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:30 & by appointment in OSH 152F

Required Text/Supplies: Environmental Science by Miller & Spoolman (14th Ed)
Clicker – needs to be Turning Technologies NR or NXT

Course Web Page: CANVAS

Grading
Participation (quizzes, online & class exercises): 15%
Lab reports: 40%
Exams (3, 15% each): 45%
Extra credit: options may be offered throughout semester

Course Description: This course will provide a scientific foundation in Environmental Science. Although there are many social and political concepts critical to Environmental and Sustainability Studies, it is important to have literacy in some basic scientific principles and knowledge.

The goal for this class is to have students versed in the topics of: 1) Ecology and Sustainability, 2) Biodiversity and 3) Earth Resources and Environmental Quality. The course consists of lectures, participation exercises, which will require critical thinking and data analysis, and laboratory assignments (at-home and field based).

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1) Acquire knowledge of the physical and natural world through study in the sciences.

a. Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring

b. Achieved through a survey of topics in ecology and sustainability, biodiversity and Earth resources and environmental quality using case studies and real-world examples.

c. Measured through quizzes and exams.
2) Development of intellectual and Practical Skills including: inquiry and analysis, critical thinking, written communication, quantitative literacy, and problem solving.

a. Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance.

b. Achieved through laboratory exercises & write-ups and discussions & analytical exercises.

c. Measured through scores on laboratory write-ups and exercises.

3) Application of integrative learning, including synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies.

a. Demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems.

b. Achieved through application of ideas and material learned throughout the semester to the final laboratory (Climate Change & It’s Impacts).

c. Measured through score on final laboratory write-up.

Class Policies:

Participation in is expected and will be reflected in your grade. Note: If you do not ATTEND you CANNOT participate. Viewing of lectures (through CANVAS) and reading assignments (lecture notes, scientific papers, and other handouts – all available on our CANVAS website) are expected to be completed BEFORE class. Class time will be devoted to discussion of lecture/reading material, group projects, and preparation for/implementation of lab exercises.

Assignments will include four lab reports, as well as one or more quizzes and/or graded online discussions. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. There are NO MAKE-UPS for missed participation exercises.

There will be three exams. These will be taken online, on our CANVAS website. Each exam will be available for 24 hours, but you will have an allotted time to finish the exam once you start it. The time allotted is noted on each exam. IF YOU KNOW YOU WILL MISS AN EXAM, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW AHEAD OF TIME or no accommodation will be granted. Incompletes will only be given at the discretion of the professor and only if the student is passing at the time.

Assignments are based on student section number. It is advised that students participate only in the section within which s/he is enrolled.

Turn your cell phone off when you come in to class.

You are responsible for all information presented in online lectures, class discussions/exercises, labs, and materials provided over the course website.
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Academic misconduct syllabus statement:

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Penalties may include failure of an assignment, the entire course, and/or the filing of formal charges with appropriate university authorities. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one’s work, and plagiarism;

- Cheating involves the unauthorized possession or use of information in an academic exercise, including unauthorized communication with another person during an exercise such as an examination.

- Misrepresenting one’s work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one’s own work or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of all instructors.

- Plagiarism means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person’s work in one’s own work offered for academic consideration or public presentation.

Lecture & Reading Schedule:

**Section 1 (Tuesdays):**

August 26 - Go over syllabus & discuss how the class will work

September 2 - **Quiz 1 due;** Discuss Chapters 1 & 2

September 9 - Discuss Chapter 3

September 16 - Discuss Chapters 4 & 5

September 23 - Conduct Lab 1 in field (meet at Red Butte Garden)

September 30 - **Lab 1 report due; Exam 1 available on Canvas**

October 7 - Discuss Chapter 7; Finding & reading a scientific article; Ask questions about Lab 2

October 14 - Fall Break

October 21 - **Lab 2 due;** Discuss Chapters 8 & 9

October 28 - Discuss Chapters 12 & 13
November 4 - Tour geology exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Utah, ask questions about Lab 3 *(meet at the NHMU)*

November 11 - **Lab 3 due; Exam 2 available on Canvas**

November 18 - Discuss Chapter 10

November 25 - Discuss Chapter 11

December 2 - Discuss Chapter 15; Ask questions about Lab 4.

December 9 - **Lab 4 due.** Discuss Chapter 16

December 16 - **Exam 3 available on Canvas**

**Section 2 (Thursdays):**

August 28 - Go over syllabus & discuss how the class will work

September 4 - **Quiz 1 due;** Discuss Chapters 1 & 2

September 11 - Discuss Chapter 3

September 18 - Discuss Chapters 4 & 5

September 25 - Conduct Lab 1 in field *(meet at Red Butte Garden)*

October 2 - **Lab 1 report due; Exam 1 available on Canvas**

October 9 - Discuss Chapter 7; Finding & reading a scientific article; Ask questions about Lab 2

October 16 - Fall Break

October 23 - **Lab 2 due;** Discuss Chapters 8 & 9

October 30 - Discuss Chapters 12 & 13

November 6 - Tour geology exhibit at the Natural History Museum of Utah, ask questions about Lab 3 *(meet at the NHMU)*

November 13 - **Lab 3 due; Exam 2 available on Canvas**

November 20 - Discuss Chapters 10 & 11

December 4 - Discuss Chapter 15; Ask questions about Lab 4.

December 11 - **Lab 4 due.** Discuss Chapter 16

December 18 - **Exam 3 available on Canvas**

*All policies and content in syllabus are subject to change.*