

Syllabus
BIOL 823 – Environmental Biology
3 credit hours
June 3 - July 26

Instructor

Dr. Nathan Eidem
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Office hours: Meetings will be by appointment as this is an asynchronous course.

Course Overview

Environmental biology focuses on the interface of human activity and the natural biological world. The impacts of humans on biogeochemical cycles, ecosystems, and individual species are examined. The role of governmental policies and politics is a part of this discipline and is reviewed. Recent scientific research and reports are used to predict what the future challenges are to humans and organisms in the face of the rapid changes brought about by human activity.

Readings

There is no required textbook. Readings will be posted in each module.

Technical Support

LoperTECH Service Desk

Phone: 308-865-8363

Email: support@nebraska.edu

If you are having problems or technical issues with Canvas, please contact ITS. Note that Canvas is most compatible with Firefox or Google Chrome. If you are using a Mac and the Safari browser, try using one of the other two browsers to navigate Canvas first before contacting ITS.

Computer and Software

Access to a computer with internet access, presentation software (e.g. PowerPoint). MS Software can be purchased through UNK bookstore at a discount. The final presentation will require use of a webcam

Communication

Email is the best manner to communicate with me. In most cases, I should be able to respond within a few days. You should frequently check your UNK email and Canvas for course assignments or announcements. Seminars and other pertinent information will be posted on

Canvas. I will use the Canvas Announcements and provide individual feedback on assignments to regularly communicate with you. Typically I only provide assignment feedback if points are deducted to help you understand how to improve moving forward in the class. Please do not hesitate to reach out any time you have questions.

Grading

Discussion (10 pts/each)	80
Weekly Assignment (10 pts/each)	80
Weekly Quiz (10 pts/each)	80
Final Project	25
<u>Final Presentation</u>	<u>25</u>
Total	290

Grades will be assigned using the Department of Biology standard grading scale: follows: A (93-100%), A- (90-92%), B+ (88-89%), B (83-87%), B- (80-82%), C+ (78-79%), C (73-77%), C- (70-72%), D+ (68-69%), D (63-67%), D- (60-62%), and F (below 60%).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Your instructor may have indicated on their syllabus an attendance policy specific to their class. If so, that is the policy with which you must comply. If no other policy is stated, the University-wide attendance policy will apply.

- Undergraduate Student Attendance Policy:
<https://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-regulations/student-attendance-policy-statement/>

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Academic honesty is essential to the existence and integrity of an institution of higher education. The responsibility for maintaining that integrity is shared by all members of the academic community. To further serve this end, the University of Nebraska at Kearney has a policy relating to academic integrity.

[Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy](#)

[Graduate Academic Integrity Policy](#)

FINALS WEEK POLICY: The final exam will be administered in the time period scheduled during finals week in accordance with University policy ([Final Exam Schedule](#)). More information about UNK's Finals Week Policy, including when it is appropriate to ask for special accommodations to move a course's final exam, can be found here: [Finals Week Policy](#).

MENTAL WELLNESS: The UNK Counseling Center provides mental health services to support the academic success of students. The Counseling Center provides a full range of short-term professional mental health services.

Getting help is a smart and courageous thing to do. Contact the UNK Counseling Center at [308-865-8248](tel:308-865-8248) or visit their website for more information: https://www.unk.edu/offices/counseling_healthcare/counseling_care/index.php

MILITARY AND VETERANS SERVICES: Military and Veteran Services assist veterans, service members, and their dependents with education benefits and academic and supporting resources. They serve as a liaison between students and the Veterans Administration and branches of the military. Contact the UNK Military and Veteran Services office at [308-865-8677](tel:308-865-8677) or visit their [website](https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/veterans_services/index.php) for more information:
https://www.unk.edu/offices/financial_aid/veterans_services/index.php

REPORTING STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT, SEXUAL VIOLENCE OR SEXUAL ASSAULT:

Reporting allegations of rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and stalking enables the University to promptly provide support to the impacted student(s), and to take appropriate action to prevent a recurrence of such sexual misconduct and protect the campus community. Confidentiality will be respected to the greatest degree possible. Any student who believes she or he may be the victim of sexual misconduct is encouraged to report to one or more of the following resources:

Local Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Advocacy Agency: 308-237-2599

Campus Police (or Security): 308-865-8911

Title IX Coordinator: 308-865-8655

Retaliation against the student making the report, whether by students or University employees, will not be tolerated.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services for a disability, students must be registered with the UNK Disabilities Services for Students (DSS) office, 175 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214 or by email unkdso@unk.edu.

STUDENTS WHO ARE PREGNANT:

It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students who are pregnant. To receive accommodation services due to pregnancy, students must contact the Student Health office at 308.865.8218. The following links provide information for students and faculty regarding pregnancy rights.

<https://thepregnantscholar.org/title-ix-basics/>

<https://nwlc.org/resource/faq-pregnant-and-parenting-college-graduate-students-rights/>.

UNK STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION:

UNK stands in solidarity and unity with our students of color, our Latinx and international students, our LGBTQIA+ students and students from other marginalized groups in opposition to racism and prejudice in any form, wherever it may exist. It is the job of institutions of higher education, indeed their duty, to provide a haven for the safe and meaningful exchange of ideas and to support peaceful disagreement and discussion. In our classes, we strive to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. UNK does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or political affiliation. Respect for the diversity of our backgrounds and varied life experiences is essential to learning from our similarities as well as our differences.

The following link provides resources and other information regarding D&I: <https://www.unk.edu/about/equity-access-diversity.php>.

Everything in this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified in class and via Canvas when changes are made. See below for a tentative lab schedule. Welcome to class!

Tentative schedule

Week	Schedule	Due
1	Introduction to the Earth System and Environmental Science (30 pts)	June 9
2	Environmental Economics and Policy (30 pts)	June 16
3	Biodiversity and Conservation Biology (30 pts)	June 23
4	Demographics and Environmental Health (30 pts)	June 30
5	Food (30 pts)	July 7
6	Land (30 pts)	July 14
7	Water (30 pts)	July 21
8	Air (80 pts)	July 26