

## GE.125 Environmental Science and Ecological Living (4 Credits) <2nd Quarter Fall 2024>

### Course Information

Instructor:	Dr. Sethuram
Credits (Clock Hours):	4 Credits (40 Clock Hours)
Lecture Day(s)/Time:	Monday 8:00 - 9:10 PM EST; Wednesday 8:00 - 9:10 PM EST
Lecture Location:	#auditorium

### Professor Contact Information

Professor Name:	Sharanya Sethuram
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:s.set1202@gmail.com">s.set1202@gmail.com</a>
Office Hours Days/Time:	Wednesday 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (EST)
Office Hour Location:	#auditorium
Schedule Office Hours Here:	By appointment - Message/DM me!

### Teaching Assistant(s) Contact Information

TA(s) Name:	Brandon Walker
Email Address(es):	<a href="mailto:bwalker4455@gmail.com">bwalker4455@gmail.com</a>
Office Hours Days/Time(s):	By Appointment: Send me a DM or schedule with my link, <a href="https://calendly.com/bwalker4455/office-hours-brandon-english125">https://calendly.com/bwalker4455/office-hours-brandon-english125</a>
Office Hour Location(s):	TA Brandon Office Hour Room
Schedule Office Hours Here:	<a href="https://calendly.com/bwalker4455/office-hours-brandon-english125">https://calendly.com/bwalker4455/office-hours-brandon-english125</a>



### Teaching Assistant(s) Contact Information

TA(s) Name:	Sawyer (Malissa) Page
Email Address(es):	Malissapage0628@gmail.com
Office Hours Days/Time(s):	Thursday 9-9:55
Office Hour Location(s):	Office-Hours
Schedule Office Hours Here:	DM me through campuswire!

### Grade Breakdown

Exams:	15%
Video Reflections (homework):	25%
Reading Reflection (homework):	25%
Weekly Activity/ Discussions:	25%
Attendance:	10%

### Grading Standards

The comprehensive Campus-wide grading standard for final course grades can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

Campus uses the following grade scale for final course grades:

A = 90 - 100%

B = 89 - 80%

C = 79 - 70%

D = 69 - 60%

F = Below 60%

### Course Materials

Textbooks:	All course materials and eTextbooks for the Campus Scholars are provided digitally at no cost.  <a href="#">Textbook Title and edition: Textbook Title and edition: Environmental Science 101, by Jason Hlebakos</a>
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### **GE.125 Environmental Science (4 Credits) Course Description**

*Pre-requisites: None*

*This course offers a comprehensive introduction to environmental science with an emphasis on ecological living. It covers fundamental concepts in ecology, the impact of human activities on the environment, and sustainable practices, presented in a way that integrates with broader scientific disciplines. The course is designed to lay a solid foundation in environmental science, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary for advanced study in this field or related disciplines.*



### Course Outcomes

Outcome 1 : Students will be able to describe and apply core environmental science principles and theories.

*Related Skills:*

Outcome 2: Students will be able to connect environmental science concepts with other scientific disciplines, such as biology, chemistry, physics, and geology.

*Related Skills:*

Outcome 3: Students will be able to describe environmental systems and human societies.

*Related Skills:*

Outcome 4: Students will be able to explain the connection between environmental systems and human societies and have proficiency in describing the effects of human activities on ecosystems.

*Related Skills:*

Outcome 5: Students will be able to critically evaluate environmental research, policies, and arguments using scientific reasoning and evidence-based thinking.

*Related Skills:*

Objective 6: : Students will develop the skills to articulate complex environmental issues and solutions clearly and effectively.

*Related Skills:*

Objective 7: Students will be able to describe and apply sustainable strategies to various issues, both local and global.

*Related Skills:*

Objective 8: Students will be able to identify ecological and economic factors of natural resource management.

*Related Skills:*

### Course Outline

Times and days in this syllabus including assignment due dates and times refer to Eastern Standard Time (EST or EDT). If you are not located in EST or EDT, you must translate dates and times to your time zone.

As the quarter progresses, the following weekly outline is subject to revision. Changes will be reflected in this syllabus which will be stored in Campuswire in the Course Group under "Files"

#### 1. Introduction to Environmental Science: Earth's Systems and Sustainability

Week of 10/07	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to Earth</li> <li>Environmental Science, Sustainability, IPAT and You</li> </ul>
	Course Outcomes	Course Outcomes 1, 2, & 3



	Addressed:	
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Accessing course materials and getting to know each other.
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 1: Science and Sustainability and all of Chapter 2: Matter and Energy (Video) Link: <a href="#">Earth From Space Full HD Nova</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 1 - Chapter Reflection</li><li>• Assignment 2 - Video Reflection</li></ul>

## 2. Ecological Systems: Energy and Climate

Week of 10/14	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy;</li><li>• Climate Change</li></ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes 1,3, & 4
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Sustainability and Energy; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 4: Ecology (Video) <a href="#">Link: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The danger of a single story   TED</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 3 - Chapter reflection</li><li>• Assignment 4 - Video Reflection prompts</li></ul>

## 3. Principles of Ecology: Human Impacts

Week of 10/21	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mining: beyond the pickaxe</li><li>• Water World</li></ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes 4 & 8
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Climate Change and Resources; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 12: Energy, and section 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3 of Chapter 10: Water (Video) Link: <a href="#">Flint's Deadly Water (full documentary)   FRONTLINE</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 5 - Reading Reflection</li></ul>



- Assignment 6 - Video reflection

#### 4. Ecosystems and the Human Population

Week of 10/28	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Population: 8 billion and counting</li><li>• Concrete Jungle or Human Zoo?</li></ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes: 1,3,4
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Water and Population; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read section 14.1, 14.2, and 14.3 of Chapter 14 and all of Chapter 6; (Video) Link: <a href="#">NOVA   Saving Venice   Season 49   Episode 12   PBS</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 7 - Reading Reflection</li><li>• Assignment 8 - Video reflection</li></ul>

#### 5. Ecosystems and Agriculture: Principles of Ecology; Human Impacts

Week of 11/04	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beef. It's what's for dinner</li><li>• Biodiversity: the more the merrier</li></ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes: 3,4,8
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Urbanization and Agriculture; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 (Video) Link: <a href="#">Our Planet   One Planet   FULL EPISODE   Netflix</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assignment 9 - Reading Reflection -</li><li>• Assignment 10 - Video Reflection</li></ul>

#### 6. Midterm Week

Week of 11/11	Focus:	Review/ guidelines
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 8
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Review topics.



	Readings & Tasks:	Prepare for Exam/Paper
	Assignments:	Midterm Exams/ Paper

## 7. Sustainability and Conservation: Principles of Sustainability; Conservation Strategies, Policies, and Law

Week of 11/18	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Price is Wrong</li> <li>• Do we have an accord?</li> </ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes: 5,6,7,8
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Economics, Policies, and Laws; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 5, Section 10.4 of Chapter 10, Section 14.4 of Chapter 14, (Video) Link: <a href="#">Questions for a Resilient Future: Robin Wall Kimmerer</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 11 - Reading Reflection</li> <li>• Assignment 12 - Video reflection</li> </ul>

## 8. Resource Management, Waste, and Pollution Control

Week of 11/25	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Not</li> <li>• Plastic Plastic Everywhere!</li> </ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes: 5,6,7,8
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Waste; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	(Textbook) Read all of Chapter 9 and all of Chapter 13 (Video) Link: <a href="#">The Plastic Recycling Myth   Climate Change Documentary   WHY PLASTIC?</a>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 13 - Reading Reflection</li> <li>• Assignment 14 - Video reflection</li> </ul>

## 9. Resource Management, Waste, and Pollution Control

Week of 12/02	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Adaptations</li> <li>• Around the World</li> </ul>
	Course Outcomes	Course Outcomes: 5,6,7,8



	Addressed:	
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: adapting to climate changes; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Textbook) Read all of Chapter 11</li> <li>• (Video) Link: <a href="#">The climate crisis: Can smart ideas save the planet?   DW Documentary</a></li> </ul>
	Assignments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 15 - Reading Reflection</li> <li>• Assignment 16 - Video discussion</li> </ul>

## 10. Ecological Living Case Studies

Week of 12/09	Focus:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam Review</li> </ul>
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	Course Outcomes: 5,6
	Discussion/Additional Instruction:	Discussion Section: Help with case studies; help with assignments
	Readings & Tasks:	
	Assignments:	Study for Final Exam

## 11. Comprehensive Final Exam

Week of 12/16	Focus:	Comprehensive final Exam
	Course Outcomes Addressed:	All
	Final Assignment/Exams:	Asynchronous final exam due

### **Attendance & Camera Policy**

*Synchronous classes allow for engaged discourse, peer-to-peer learning, and the development of a highly interactive and trusting learning community. Fostering dynamic learning environments would not be possible without live attendance. Collaborating with peers and engaging in meaningful discussions about challenging content is critical to student achievement, constructing knowledge, and the quality student's overall learning experience.*

*All Campus courses have a uniform attendance policy.*

Active attendance, defined as being present in class with the camera on, is worth 10% of a student's grade in each course and class attendance is recorded every class session (lecture and TA discussion sections). Students who fail to attend, arrive late, or leave early will lose points for that class period.



Students who do not have their camera on, and who do not have a camera policy exception, may be marked absent for that class period.

Students are expected to attend and participate in every live class meeting.

- Four credit (4) courses meet three times per week (2 lecture sessions, 1 discussion section)
- One and two credit (1-2) courses meet once per week (1 lecture session)

Students seeking an excused absence should first speak with their TA and/or instructor about the cause of their absence. Granting of an excused absence is at the discretion of the teaching team.

If regular unexcused absences occur, the student's Support Coach will schedule a mandatory meeting with the student to discuss the cause of unexcused absences and develop a plan to ensure the student attends live class meetings.

Refer to the [Student Handbook](#) for policies and procedures related to absences due to sudden conflict or emergency and excused absences.

### **Group Work**

For homework assignments and ungraded problem sets, you may cooperate with other students or work in small groups at the discretion of your instructor. Each student however must submit their own, individual work and is responsible for understanding the material. Group work or collaboration is not permitted on quizzes or exams.

### **Time Commitment**

For Campus four-credit courses, student work completed per week, excluding finals week, should reasonably approximate a total of 4 hours of direct instruction and 8 hours out of class student work (120 hours per quarter).

Students will be in live class meetings for three hours per week (total of 30 hours per quarter) and one hour of online discussion or an additional instructional activity per week (total of 10 hours per quarter). Students are expected to complete 8 weekly hours (total of 80 hours per quarter) of out of class work.

### **Suggested Late Assignment Policy**

Late assignment policies are determined by the course instructor for each course. Our suggested late assignment policy is as follows. This may be adjusted by the instructor at their discretion.

- Late assignments submitted within 7 days of the due date may be penalized 10 percentage points. (The max grade that you can earn becomes 90%).
- Assignments submitted between 7-14 days late may be penalized 30 percentage points. (The max grade that you can earn becomes 70%).
- Assignments submitted more than 14 days late may not be accepted. Final acceptance of these assignments is at the discretion of the Instructor and Teaching Assistant.

### **Where To Get Help**





**Support Coach:** Each student's support coach is their primary point of contact throughout their entire experience at Campus. If a student has any questions regarding where to receive help, developing strategies for success, or problem-solving they should reach out to their support coach.

**Technical Support:** Campus' IT Specialist is available to support issues or questions students encounter with their laptop, mobile hotspot device, or Campuswire. Contact IT through the #IT-Support channel in Campuswire.

**Tutoring Help:** Campus offers live, 1:1 tutoring with Campus tutors. You can sign up for tutoring on your own schedule through the CampusLife group on Campuswire.

**Mental Health Support:** [TimelyCare](#) is here for you if you need virtual care support, 24/7/365. The following services are available to students at no cost:

- **TalkNow:** 24/7, on-demand emotional support to talk about anything, including anxiety, relationships, depression, and school-related stressors.
- **Scheduled Counseling:** Choose the day, time, and mental health provider that best works for you. (6 visits per year)
- **Self-Care Content:** Visit the Explore page within TimelyCare for guided self-care content including yoga and meditation sessions, as well as group conversations with our providers on a variety of health and well-being topics.
- **Basic Needs Support:** Access to low or reduced-cost community resources, including food and housing assistance, transit support, childcare, and finances.

Download the TimelyCare app or visit [timelycare.com/campus](https://timelycare.com/campus) today to register with your Campus email address. For assistance call TimelyCare at (833) 484-6359 or speak with your Campus Student Support Coach.

### **Additional Information**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and need accommodation in this class, please contact your Student Support Coach. You will be asked to provide documentation of your disability and complete the necessary paperwork in order for accommodations to be made. You can review the [Campus ADA Policy in full here](#).

**Plagiarism & Academic Integrity:** The [Student Handbook](#) lists plagiarism as an unacceptable behavior. Campus is committed to upholding high standards of academic integrity and honesty. All students are expected to respect and adhere to these standards, and any incident of academic misconduct is viewed by the Campus community as a serious offense. Any attempt by a student to present work as their own when it is not is regarded as academic misconduct. This encompasses all written and computer-based work that may include, but is not strictly limited to, homework, classroom assignments, compositions, essays, tests, and quizzes. Copying another student's work or assisting another student in copying or cheating is academically dishonest and considered misconduct. Students using generative AI tools without explicit permission, or attempting to use these tools to complete assignments, will be subject to disciplinary action. Students found guilty of plagiarism will be disciplined by Campus up to and including expulsion.

**Copyright Notice:** The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a Campus student, you are required to follow the College's copyright policy. For more information about the fair use exemption, see the Library's copyright page. All material used in course is copyrighted. You may use the material for coursework but are prohibited from posting it outside of Campuswire or using it for non-course purposes.

