

Course Syllabus

GEO 1405
Environmental Science (lecture and lab)
(0301035301)

Course Description: A survey of the forces, including humans, that shape our physical and biologic environment, and how they affect life on Earth. Introduction to the science and policy of global and regional environmental issues, including pollution, climate change, and sustainability of land, water, and energy resources. Lab activities will cover methods used to collect and analyze environmental data.

Semester Hours Credit: 4

Lecture/Lab Hours: 3-3

Prerequisite: To enroll in any science course, students must demonstrate readiness to perform college level academic coursework in reading and writing according to Coastal Bend College academic skills assessment guidelines. Basic computer skills are also required.

Textbook(s): *Natural Hazards: Earth's Processes as Hazards, Disasters, and Catastrophes (3rd Edition)*

ISBN: 9780321662644

Laboratory Book: *Hazard City, Assignments in Applied Geology-cd included (3rd edition)* **ISBN:** 9780131566828

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Recognize, describe, and quantitatively evaluate earth systems, including the land, water, sea, and atmosphere, and how these function as interconnected ecological systems.
2. Assess environmental challenges facing humans caused by their interaction with the physical and biological environment (e.g., population growth, energy resources, food production, pollution, water and resource use).
3. Acquire a scientific vocabulary and critical thinking skills related to environmental science.



4. Assess the effectiveness and feasibility of environmental policy and its impact.
5. Apply the scientific method to environmental investigation.
6. Measure and observe aspects of the environment (e.g., air, water, soil) through sampling and sample analysis.
7. Develop an assessment plan for an environmental case study.
8. Demonstrate the collection, analysis, and reporting of data.

Evaluation Methods:

Students receive a grade based on the completion of at least four (4) lecture exams and a final comprehensive exam. The lecture exams will consist of a combination of objective questions, short essay, recognition and identification exercises and mathematical problems requiring the student to interpret the information and do calculations based on that information.

A portion of the grade may also be determined by homework assignments, announced quizzes, or outside work done in the form of periodical reviews or short papers.

Laboratory grades are awarded according to performance on exercises assigned to them. Both the lecture and laboratory work will consist of exercises in which the student will need to evaluate data and make decisions based on those evaluations. The final exam, which may be from 80% to 100% comprehensive, is weighted twice the value of the other major exams.

The final grade will be determined by the number of points earned divided by the total points possible and multiplied by 100. Lecture will count 75% and lab 25% of the student's total grade. Lab policies and grades are explained in a separate handout.

ADA Statement: No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the College District, or be subjected to discrimination by the College District. Nor shall the College District exclude or otherwise deny equal services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association. 42 U.S.C. 12132; 28 CFR 35.130(g).

See at: [GL \(Legal\)](#)

Special Needs Services: Students with special needs, including physical and learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this course should contact the Student Development Office as soon as possible to make

arrangements; this should occur no later than the second week of class or as soon as the student has the documentation on the disability and requested accommodation per a certified medical or psychological professional. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation of disability to the Student Development Advisor.

For more information, contact: in Alice at sdalice@coastalbend.edu; Beeville at sdbeeville@coastalbend.edu; Kingsville at sdkingsville@coastalbend.edu; and Pleasanton at sdpleasanton@coastalbend.edu.

Academic Dishonesty: Each student is charged with notice and knowledge of the contents and provisions of Coastal Bend College's rules and regulations concerning student conduct. All students shall obey the law, show respect for properly constituted authority, and observe correct standards of conduct. Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by Coastal Bend College Policies FLB (Local) and FM (Local). Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

See at: [FLB \(Local\)](#) and [FM \(Local\)](#).

See the [Student Handbook](#) for further explanation of Scholastic Dishonesty.

Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights Policy: Copyright is the right of an author, artist, composer or other creator of a work of authorship to control the use of his or her work by others. Protection extends to literary works, musical works, dramatic works, pantomimes and choreographic works, pictorial and graphic works, sculpture, motion pictures and other audiovisual works, sound recordings and architectural works. Generally speaking, a copyrighted work may not be reproduced by others without the copyright owner's permission. The public display or performance of copyrighted works is similarly restricted. Generally, the unauthorized reproduction, performance or distribution of a copyrighted work is copyright infringement and may subject the infringer to civil and criminal penalties. The Fair Use Doctrine outlines exceptions to this Law and is outlined in Coastal Bend College Policy, [CT \(Legal\)](#).

Coastal Bend College, its faculty, students and employees must comply with Copyright Law. Detailed information on Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights is available in Coastal Bend College Policy [CT \(Legal\)](#) and [CT \(Local\)](#).

Questions regarding this information should be directed to the Director of Library Services at: library@coastalbend.edu or the Office of Marketing and Public Relations at: socialmedia@coastalbend.edu.

Intellectual Property: Student /Third Party Works: Rights to copyrightable or patentable works created by a student or a third party, that is, not a College District employee, shall reside with the author/ creator. Detailed information on Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights is available in Coastal Bend College Policy [CT \(Legal\)](#) and [CT \(Local\)](#).

Coastal Bend College



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NOTE: The College website (www.coastalbend.edu) serves as the main source with the most current version of the Coastal Bend College Board Policies and the Coastal Bend College Catalog.