

Moraine Valley Community College
Environmental Science I (NAT 111-582)
Syllabus

September 1, 2009
NAT-111-582
Fall 2009

I. Faculty Information

A. Instructor	James L. Baker
B. Class Location	Blue Island Education Center 12940 S. Western Ave. Blue Island
C. Office Hours	By appointment only
D. Mailbox Location	Blue Island Campus
E. BIEC Phone	(708) 974-5300
F. E-mail	bakerj89@morainevalley.edu

II. Course Identification

A. Credit hours	4
B. Total contact hours	6
C. Days/hours course meets	Tues/Thurs 6:30 pm—9:30 pm Room 105
D. Course meeting dates	Sept. 1 through Dec.15, 2009
E. Prerequisite	None
F. Corequisite	None
G. Catalog Description	Interdisciplinary analysis of man's environment stresses the physical, biological and ecological aspects. Man's relationship to the natural environment and responsible stewardship are emphasized. The units of study are water, wildlife, population/resources, and geology.

III. Textbooks/reading list

Required:

1. Svec, Kotash and Crean. Activities in Environmental Science. Pearson Custom, 2006. ISBN 0-536-27322-7
2. McConnell and Abel, Environmental Issues, 3rd Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall Publishing, 2008. ISBN 0-13-156650-4

Optional:

1. Richard T. Wright. Environmental Science, Prentice Hall, Tenth Edition, 2008. ISBN 0-13-230265-9

IV. Course End Competencies

Students will:

- A. **be aware of and knowledgeable about political, economic, social, and technological issues which affect man's environment.**
- B. **develop an appreciation for the role that natural resources play in shaping our lives.**
- C. **understand, through scientific analysis, the vital relationships and interdependencies that exist among various resources.**
- D. **develop a willingness to scientifically investigate, evaluate, and actively Support needed environmental legislation at the local, state and federal levels.**
- E. **develop environmentally ethical attitudes and assume responsibilities in the use, management, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.**
- F. **demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the units taught in this course.**
- G. **appreciate the role of science and technology in contemporary society.**
- H. **develop a rationale for the place of science in society.**

V. Classroom Policies/Procedures

- A. General information sheet: At the end of the syllabus you will find attached a copy of the college's general information sheet **Please read this sheet carefully.**
- B. **A student who does not withdraw officially from a course may receive a grade of 'F', depending on course progress or course attendance, which will become a part of the student's permanent record. The withdrawal date is listed in the general information sheet.**
- C. Attendance Policy: **All students are required to attend all classes.** Please inform the instructor of expected absences. Class periods will begin promptly.
- D. Cheating Policy: The instructor encourages group work on exercises; however, collaboration on tests will result in a 0%, an F.
- E. **Each student is responsible for adhering to the Code of Student Conduct as stated in the college catalog.**
- F. Without the consent of the instructor, no late homework will be accepted.
- G. Testing Center: will be used for this class only with permission of instructor.
- H. Cellular phones, radios, headsets, etc. are prohibited during class.

- I. Students are to familiarize themselves with the resources of the library and the department that are pertinent to any aspect of environmental science.
- J. Several lab activities will be held outside in the nature study/forest preserve areas. Appropriate dress and caution is necessary. Students with any physical impairments must inform the instructor in advance.
- K. Safety procedures for lab activities will be given by your instructor. Please proceed with caution at all times.
- L. School policy prohibits the use of tobacco, drinking or eating in the classroom.
- M. Sleeping and/or disruptive behavior will result in immediate dismissal from class.
- N. Email Policy for Out-of-class Communication
 - 1. All email correspondence for this course should come from your student email account (username@student.morainevalley.edu) so it isn't filtered to spam and so the instructor can recognize it and not delay his response.
 - 2. Please read the Email Guidelines & Procedures which is located at <http://www.morainevalley.edu/studentemail/guidelines.htm>.

VI. Grading Policies/Procedures

- A. Unit Exams – 3, Summative Final Exam – 1
- B. Quizzes, labs, assignments, and lecture
- C. Lab reports, laboratory/field activities.
- D. No lab reports will be awarded full credit after one week from the announced date. No labs will be accepted after the unit exam.
- E. Make-up Policy: No make-up exams are allowed unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor (**Before the day of the exam**)
- F. Individual conferences: Conferences with your instructor are advised at any time you have a procedural problem or question about the subject. Do not hesitate to make an appointment if you need additional help.
- G. Your final grade is weighted in the following way:
 - Unit Exams are worth 30% of final grade
 - Labs/Assignments/Quizzes are worth 50% of final grade
 - Final Summative Exam is worth 20% of final grade

Grading Scheme:

1. 90 – 100 % = A
2. 80 – 89 % = B
3. 70 – 79 % = C
4. 60 – 69 % = D
5. Below 60% = F

VII. Course Schedule/Calendar

NOTE: A FEW LABS WILL TAKE PLACE OFF THE BLUE ISLAND EDUCATION CENTER CAMPUS. WE WILL MEET AT NATURE PRESERVES, FOREST PRESERVES, AND POSSIBLY AT OTHER SITES THAT RELATE TO THE TOPIC BEING STUDIED. WEATHER CONDITIONS WILL BE A FACTOR IN CHOOSING THE DATES FOR THESE LABS.

Week	Dates	Tentative Topic Outline	Ch. Text	Issues
I. WILDLIFE UNIT				
1	09/01	1. Orientation—Administrative Duties 2. Metric System (Issues) 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 10		pp.1-3
	09/03	1. Lecture: Wild Species and Biodiversity 2. Metric System (Cont'd)	10	
2	09/08	1. Introduction to bird identification 2. Wildlife Activity 2 3. Scientific Notation (Issues)		pp. 4-6
	09/10	1. Field Trip to Lake Katherine Nature Preserve in Palos Hills 2. Lab: Wildlife – Activity 1 & 2 3. Lab: Wildlife – Activity 5, 6 (optional) 4. Optional Reading: Chapter 11		
3	09/15	1. Lecture: Ecosystem Capital: Use & Restoration 2. Review for Exam	11	
	09/17	1. UNIT EXAM # 1 (Wildlife) 2. Optional Reading: Chapter 2		
4	09/22	II. ECOSYSTEMS UNIT		
		1. Lecture: Ecosystems: What They Are 2. Lab: Vegetation – Activity 1 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 3	2	18

Week	Dates	Tentative Topic Outline	Ch. Text	Issues
	09/24	1. Lecture: Ecosystems: How They Work 2. Lab: Vegetation – Activity 4 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 4	3	20
5	09/29	1. Lecture: Ecosystems: How They Change 2. Lab: Vegetation – Activity 2 & 3 3. Preparation for Field Trip	4	19
	10/01	1. Field Trip to Cook County Forest Preserve— Swallow Cliff Woods. 2. Collect field data for Vegetation Activities (1-4)		
6	10/06	1. Follow-up of field trip observations and data collected. 2. Complete Vegetation Lab Activities using field trip observations and data collected. 3. Review for Ecosystems Unit		
	10/08	1. UNIT EXAM #2 (Ecosystems) 2. Optional Reading: Chapter 7		
7	10/13	III. WATER UNIT		
		1. Lecture : Hydrologic Cycle 2. Basics of microscope use 3. Lab—Water Activity 3	7	11
	10/15	1. Lecture: Human water needs 2. Lab : Water Activity 1 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 17		21
8	10/20	Staff Day Inservice—NO CLASS		
	10/22	1. Lecture : Water Pollution & Its Prevention 2. Investigate historical development of water reclamation in our metropolitan area.	17	
9	10/27	1. Lecture: Water Pollution and Sewage Treatment (Cont'd) 2. Optional Reading : Chapter 19		22
	10/29	1. Lecture: Hazardous Chemicals: Pollution and Prevention 2. Lab: Water – Activity 4 3. Review for Exam	19	

Week	Dates	Tentative Topic Outline	Ch. Text	Issues
10	11/03	1. UNIT EXAM # 3 (Water) 2. Optional Reading: Chapter 5		
	11/05	IV. POPULATION / RESOURCES UNIT		
		1. Lecture: The Human population 2. Lab: Population Activity 1 3. Optional Reading : Chapter 6.	5	pp.6-8 1
11	11/10	1. Lecture: Population and Development 2. Lab: Population – Activity 1 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 9	6	pp. 19-30
	11/12	1. Lecture: Production & Distribution of Food 2. Lab: Population – Activity 2	9	2
12	11/17	1. Lab: Population – Activity 2 (Cont'd) 2. Optional Reading: Chapter 12		7
	11/19	1. Lecture: Energy from Fossil Fuels 2. Lab: Population - Activity 5 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 13	12	8
13	11/24	1. Lecture: Energy from Nuclear Power 2. Lab: Population – Activity 5 3. Optional reading: Chapter 14	13	9
	11/26	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS		
14	12/01	1. Lecture: Renewable Energy 2. Lab: Population – Activity 5 (cont'd)	14	
	12/03	1. Sustainable Energy 2. Mountains of Trash 3. Optional Reading: Chapter 18		15 27
15	12/08	1. Lecture: Municipal Solid Waste 2. Review for Exam	18	17
	12/10	1. Review for Final Summative Exam		
16	12/15	FINAL EXAM		

This syllabus is provisional, and can be modified at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER 2009-2010



Attendance Policy

The attendance policy of each instructor is included in the course syllabus distributed by the instructor on the first day of class. Compliance with each instructor's attendance policy is the student's responsibility. An instructor's attendance policy may go into effect with the first class meeting of the course. Late registration does not exempt the student from adhering to the attendance requirements in the course syllabus. Make-up work or work submitted late due to absence (including an instructor's decision to award less than full credit for work submitted late) will be handled at the discretion of the instructor in accordance with the course syllabus.

Students not regularly attending class are strongly advised to withdraw officially from the course. Students who do not withdraw officially may receive a grade of 'F' for the course, which will become a part of the student's permanent record. Students who must be absent due to prolonged illness or extended emergency should notify their instructor(s) immediately to determine a plan of action appropriate to the situation.

Campus Environment

In accordance with the Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act, Moraine Valley Community College prohibits smoking in all campus buildings.

Food is not allowed in the classroom. Beverages in the classroom are left to the instructor's discretion. Please leave the classroom in a clean and tidy condition.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Students, faculty, staff, and college visitors may not use and must silence cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in all instructional areas, which include all labs, classrooms, conference rooms, and lecture halls during instructional sessions, workshops, and meetings; the Library/Learning Resources Center; the Testing Center (B101); and other areas designated by the college.

Center for Disability Services

The Center for Disability Services (CDS) seeks to provide equal access to programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, L150, 708/974-5711 (V) or 708/974-9556 (TTY). The CDS will work with you to make arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Computer Labs

Computers are available for student and/or community use. More information is available online at <http://www.morainevalley.edu/Resources/computer.htm>.

Counseling Career Dev/Academic Advising Center

Visit or call the Counseling Center (708/974-5722) for academic, career, and personal counseling or help in selecting a college major. Visit or call the Advising Center (708/974-5721) for information on MVCC programs of study, transfer information, and course selection assistance. Both centers are located in the Student Services Center—Counseling (S101) and Advising (S203).

Emergency/Closing Information

Information about Moraine Valley closing because of bad weather or emergency will be broadcast on the following radio and TV stations, or you can check our Web site or call. Students, faculty, and staff will also receive an automated phone call (home or cell phone) to inform them if the college is closed or if classes will be delayed.

RADIO: WGN (720 AM) and WBBM (780 AM); Zone (94.5 FM).

TELEVISION: WBBM-Channel 2, WMAQ-Channel 5, WLS-Channel 7, WGN-Channel 9, WFLD-FOX-Channel 32, and ChicagoLand Television CLTV News.

ONLINE: Moraine Valley's website (www.morainevalley.edu) and the Emergency Closing Center's website (www.emergencyclosings.com).

PHONE: Call the college's main phone number (708/974-4300). Additionally, information is available by calling 1-312-222-SNOW (7669) using a touch-tone phone.

Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA, 1974)

Please refer to the complete policy in the 2009-2011 catalog, page 45, regarding student rights concerning education records maintained by the college.

Graduation Petition Deadlines

Students completing a certificate or degree must file a graduation petition in the Records Office. Filing deadlines are: Fall graduation (December) - September 15; Spring graduation (May) - February 1; Summer graduation (August) - June 1

Irene H. Brodie Academic Skills Center (708/974-5340)

Free tutoring for currently enrolled Moraine Valley students is available in B284A for accounting, biology, chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Tutoring is available in English and reading in B284B. Students should pick up a tutoring schedule for specific details. Additional information can be found in the college catalog, semester class schedule, and the center's Web page. The center has two computer labs—classroom and walk-in.

Late Registration Policy

COURSE LENGTH	17 - 12 WKS	11 - 5 WKS	4 - 1 WKS
Late Registration Period	1st WK	3 days	1 day
Late registration with Instructor Permission	2nd WK	3 days	1 day

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THESE DATES. Refund information is available in the semester class schedule and the Registration Office.

NON-CREDIT Refund Policy: It is the student's responsibility to drop a non-credit course three business days (9am to 5pm, Mon-Fri) prior to the start date of course to receive a full refund. Courses dropped less than three business days before or after the start date will not receive a refund. No-shows do not constitute an official drop. No credit may be used toward another section for missed classes. Classes that are canceled by the college receive a full refund.

Library (708/974-5235)

The Library is located at the west end of Building L. Enter on the 2nd floor. Additional information on the Library can be found in the college catalog and the Web site.

Student E-mail

Students are provided a college-issued e-mail address and are required to use this e-mail address to communicate with their instructors and other college staff. Faculty will use the college-issued e-mail to communicate electronically with students. The user name and password are printed on the class schedule students receive in the mail. Students who do not receive an e-mail address do not have a birth date on file and must contact Registration to provide this information. For more information, visit morainevalley.edu/studentemail.

Student Identification Card/Photo I.D.s (708/974-5620)

All full- and part-time students must have a Moraine Valley photo identification card (ID) that has been validated for current enrollment. ID cards and/or validation stickers can be obtained at the Photo ID Services area, located in the Student Services Center (Room S164). Two forms of identification are required; your current class schedule will serve as one of these forms. Obtain your ID at the beginning of the semester. You will need it to use the library, computer labs, testing center, and recreational facilities. Additional information can be found in the student handbook and on the Web site.

Testing Center (708/974-5309)

The center is located in B101. You must present a valid MVCC student ID. All testing materials will be collected at closing. THE LAST EXAM IS HANDED OUT 35 MINUTES PRIOR TO CLOSING.

Withdrawal Policy

After the prescribed period of tuition refund and before the end of the 13th week of a 17-week semester (see table below), an official withdrawal will result in a "W" on the student's record. A student who does not withdraw officially from a course will receive a grade of "F", depending on course progress or course attendance, which will become a part of the student's permanent record. To withdraw officially from a course, a student must obtain a withdrawal form from the Registration Office or Extension Center coordinators. The withdrawal form must be completed and returned, in person, to the Registration Office (S125).

Class length	Deadline to obtain "W"	Class length	Deadline to obtain "W"	Class length	Deadline to obtain "W"
3 wks	2 weeks	8 wks	6 weeks	13 wks	10 weeks
4 wks	3 weeks	9 wks	7 weeks	14 wks	10 weeks
5 wks	4 weeks	10 wks	7 weeks	15 wks	11 weeks
6 wks	5 weeks	11 wks	8 weeks	16 wks	12 weeks
7 wks	5 weeks	12 wks	9 weeks	17 wks	13 weeks

Writing Center

Moraine Valley faculty members and peer consultants are available to assist students with any part of the writing process. The Writing Center is located in L242 and is open Monday through Friday. Additional information is available online at <http://writingcenter.morainevalley.edu>.

THE COLLEGE WILL BE CLOSED:

FALL 2009: Sept. 7, Nov. 25-29

No credit classes will be held Oct. 20, 2009—college services will be available

SPRING 2010: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, April 2-4

No credit classes will be held March 2, 2010—college services will be available

No classes will be held March 15-21 (SPRING BREAK)—college will be open

*Hours of operation are posted outside of each center.