

Environmental Science I: Syllabus (NAT-111-580)
Moraine Valley Community College, Ed. Center at Blue Island
Fall 2009, August 31 – December 16
Mon/Wed 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(PLUS two class field trips - see course schedule for details)

Faculty Information

Instructor	Dr. Meagan Cleary
Office Hours	by appointment
Mailbox Location	Blue Island Campus
ECBI Phone	(708) 974-5300
E-mail	clearym27@morainevalley.edu

Course Identification Details and Hours

Credit hours	4
Prerequisite / Corequisite:	None / None
<u>Catalog Description:</u>	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.

Textbooks

Svec, Kotash and Crean. 2006. Activities in Environmental Science. Pearson Custom Publishing, Moraine Valley Community College. ISBN 0-536-27322-7

McConnell and Abel. 2008. Environmental Issues, 3rd Edition. Prentice Hall Publishing, New Jersey. ISBN 0-13-156650-4

(Optional) Richard T. Wright. 2008. Environmental Science: Toward a Sustainable Future, 10th Edition. Prentice Hall, New Jersey. ISBN 0-13-230265-9

Course End Competencies

Students will:

1. be aware of and knowledgeable about political, economic, social, and technological issues which affect man's environment,
2. develop an appreciation for the role that natural resources play in our lives,
3. understand, through scientific analysis, the vital relationships and interdependencies that exist among various resources,
4. develop a willingness to scientifically investigate, evaluate, and actively support needed environmental legislation at the local, state and federal levels,
5. develop environmentally ethical attitudes and assume responsibilities in the use, management, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources,
6. demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the units taught in this course,
7. appreciate the role of science and technology in contemporary society, and
8. develop a rationale for the place of science in society.

Classroom Policies/Procedures

I. General Conduct

- A.** Adhere to the **Code of Student Conduct** as stated in the college catalog.
- B.** The MVCC **general information sheet** is attached; please read carefully.
- C.** **Familiarize yourself with the resources** of the library and the department that are pertinent to any aspect of environmental science.
- D.** **Cheating is forbidden** and will result in a 0% (F).
- E.** **Use of tobacco, drinking or eating** in the class is prohibited by school policy.
- F.** **Use of cellular phones, MP3s, etc.** as well as are prohibited during class and their use will result in immediately dismissal.
- G.** **Sleeping and disruptive behavior** will result in immediate dismissal.

II. Attendance

- A.** All students are required to **attend all classes**.
- B.** **Inform the instructor of expected absences.** Make-up labs will only be given for those who arrange ahead of time. There are no make-up tests; if you miss one your final exam grade will be counted twice and if you miss more than one you will earn a grade of 0% (F).
- C.** **Classes begin promptly** and attendance will be taken at the start of class.
- D.** **Tardiness** is disruptive to class (but inevitable sometimes) and **you will be counted late** in the attendance book. If you are late to class, please come in quietly and sit at the closest available seat to disturb other students and the instructor as little as possible. If you have a conflict that will make you tardy on a regular basis, please inform the instructor.
- E.** **Class participation** is an important part of your learning experience and is counted as part of your course grade (see Grading Policies).
- F.** **If you need to leave class early**, please inform the instructor at the beginning of class, sit near the door, and when you go, please exit quietly.

III. Email Policy for Out-of-class Communication

- A.** **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 her response.
- B.** **Please read the Email Guidelines & Procedures**, which is located at <http://www.morainevalley.edu/studentemail/guidelines.htm>.

IV. Lab Safety & Responsibility

- A.** **Laboratory equipment and tests** can be delicate and require attention to instructions and detail. Procedures must be followed exactly as given by the instructor. If they are not, students will be responsible for replacing broken equipment and/or will be responsible for any injury caused as a result of disregarding safety precautions. Irresponsible behavior will be immediately documented. Offending student(s) will receive a 0% (F) for the laboratory assignment, and will be asked to leave class for that day.

B. During outdoor class sessions appropriate dress, preparation, and caution are necessary. *Appropriate dress* includes closed-toe shoes, comfortable clothes that can get dirty, layers including rain gear in case weather changes while we are out. *Appropriate preparation* includes bringing drinking water, sun protection, bug repellent (as needed/desired), and course materials (notebooks, pencils, etc.). Students with any physical impairment must inform the instructor in advance.

Grading Policies/Procedures

I. Your final grade is weighted in the following way:

Class Participation	15%
Lab Write-ups and Homework	40%
Unit Exams (3 @ 10% each)	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>15%</u>

Letter grades will be determined using standard grading percentages:

A (above 90%), B (80 – 89%), C (70 – 79%), D (60 – 69%), and F (below 60%).

II. Class participation is an important part of your learning experience, and your unique contributions during class also enhance the learning experience of the other students. This class has a *no tolerance policy for inappropriate comments* that may be demeaning, condescending, or otherwise hurtful between students. This class encourages positive sharing of student perceptions, experiences, and thoughts on the subject matter being discussed.

A. Class participation includes a) coming to class, b) speaking up in class with questions and answers when called upon, c) participating in class discussions, which includes citing material that was assigned to be read for that day, and d) working cohesively and collaboratively with other students during group assignments.

B. Daily participation will be evaluated as positive contribution (1), neutral (0), or negative (-1). *Positive contribution* is given to students who actively participate and offer constructive, appropriate insights. *Neutral contribution* is given if students attend class, but do not attempt to answer questions when called upon and do not participate in groups or discussion. *Negative marks* are given for students who refuse to participate (including sleeping or reading non-course related materials), or those who make hurtful and prejudicial comments. *Unexcused absences* will be counted as negative contributions and excused absences will be counted as *neutral contributions*.

III. Labs and Assignments may be concluded during class time or may be done over several days, depending on the nature of the lab. They are due as directed by the instructor, unless you have a known conflict and have *pre-arranged* another schedule with the instructor at least one day (24 hours) in advance of the due date. **Late lab reports and assignments** will be accepted for only one week after the due date and will receive 50% of the total points earned.

IV. Exams are scheduled and, if the syllabus changes, changed exam times will be announced in class. **If exams are missed, they cannot be made up**; the final exam grade will be used in place of the missed exam. If more than one exam is missed, the student will earn a zero (0%, F).

V. The withdrawal date is listed in the general information sheet; it is 12 weeks into this 16 week course which is Monday, November 16, 2009. A student who does not turn in assignments nor attend class regularly, and does not withdraw officially from the course, may receive a grade of 'F.' The grade will become a part of the student's permanent record.

VI. Individual meetings with your instructor are advised at any time you have a procedural problem or question about the subject. **Please, do not hesitate to make an appointment if you need additional help or have questions!**

Course Schedule/Calendar

**** Two field-based classes are scheduled outside normal class time, and will only change due to poor weather conditions. You have advanced warning, so please make appropriate arrangements so you can attend. If you absolutely cannot attend, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible. ****

Date	Topic	Env. Issues	Activity Book	Optional Env. Sci. Ch.
Unit I: Human Population, Sustainability, Sprawl, & Environmental Policy				
M 08/31	1. Administrative Duties & How to Study 2. Math & Science Review	p.1-17		
W 09/02	Human Pop. & Development		1:1, A:1, A:4	5
M 09/07	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY			
W 09/09	Human Pop. & Development	1, 4	1:4	5, 6
M 09/14	1. Human Pop. & Development 2. Class Activity: Taking A Stand		A:2, A:3	5, 6
W 09/16	Sustainability & Sustainable Lifestyle	p.19- 30, 24, 27	1:2	1.2, 23
M 09/21	Sustainable Lifestyle & Policy	26	1:5	23, 22
W 09/23	1. Assign capstone group project: Turfgrass 2. Review Homework & Review for Exam I	14		
M 09/28	1. Unit I Exam (1.5 hours) 2. Start Unit II: Activity: Dichotomous Key			

Date	Topic	Env. Issues	Activity Book	Optional Env. Sci. Ch.
Unit II: Ecosystems				
W 09/30	1. Ecosystems 2. Class Activities: Food Web & Trophic Levels			2, 3, 4
M 10/05	FIELD TRIP I: Vegetation Nature Study Area, MVCC main campus, 9AM - 1PM		Unit 2	2, 3, 4, 10
W 10/07	1. Ecosystems Use & Restoration 2. Class Activity: Deer Population Graphs	20, 22, 23		10, 11
M 10/12	FIELD TRIP II: Wildlife Little Red Schoolhouse, 9AM - 1PM		3:3, 4:1, 4:2	2, 3, 4, 10
W 10/14	1. Class Activity: Commons Dilemma 2. Review homework & for Exam II			
M 10/19	1. Unit II Exam (1.5 hours) 2. Start Unit III			8
Unit III: Soil, Water, & Air				
W 10/21	Soil & Food Production	19, 28		8
M 10/26	1. Food Production & Intro to Water 2. Water Quality Homework	18, 11		9
W 10/28	Water Quality Guest Speaker			7, 17
M 11/02	Activity: Water Quality Labs		3:1, 3:4	7, 17
W 11/04	Climate, Weather, & Atmosphere	5, 6, 12, 13		20, 21
M 11/09	1. Finish Atmosphere 2. Review homework & for Exam III	5, 6, 12, 13		20, 21
W 11/11	1. Unit III Exam (1.5 hours) 2. Start Unit IV			
Unit IV: Energy Resources, Solid Waste, & Hazardous Chemicals				
M 11/16	1. Mining & Fossil Fuels 2. Class Activity: Cookie Mining	16		12
W 11/18	Fossil Fuels & Nuclear Energy	7, 8		12, 13
M 11/23	Nuclear Energy & Renewable Energy	10		13, 14
W 11/25	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING			
M 11/30	Solid Waste Disposal	15		18
W 12/02	Hazardous Chemicals	17		19
M 12/07	1. Plant Quiz 2. Work on Final Project, review homework			
W 12/09	Present Group Projects	14		
M 12/14	Review for Final			
W 12/16	Final Exam (including Unit IV, 2 hours)			

This syllabus can be modified at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

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.