

De Anza College
ESCI01 53Z - Environmental Science, Spring 2025
100% Online Course
Zero Materials Cost

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Mary Poffenroth
Office Location:	Online via Zoom
Division/Dept:	Biological, Health & Environmental Sciences: ES Dept.
Email:	<u>poffenrothmary@fhda.edu</u> It is best to email me any questions or concerns. For email, I will respond within 2 business days . Please do not expect a response late at night or on weekends. Your email must be in grammatically correct English, with proper salutations, in order to receive a response. If you do not receive a response, please send an email to my personal address at <u>mpoffenroth@gmail.com</u>
Office Hours:	Mondays 10 am to 12 pm Online or by appointment.
Days/Times/Classroom:	Lecture 100% Online in Canvas. This course is asynchronous lecture only. There is no zoom meetings. ESCi1 Lab is a separate course.
GE Fulfillment:	Area 5B / B2 for CSU/UC Transferable Credit
Online Orientation:	<u>https://www.marypoffenroth.com/esci01-deanza</u>

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

CLASS POLICIES

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Class Policies

This is a technology Intensive, Asynchronous Online Course with No Required Zoom Meetings

This course is delivered online through Canvas and Canvas. Success in the course requires active participation by logging in multiple times a week for updates, completing assignments, taking quizzes, reviewing lectures, and participating in discussions.

This Class Is Not Self-Paced

You will have deadlines, and they will not be adjusted unless there is an issue that affects the entire class. Online classes, although more convenient for lecture attendance than in-person, are still as rigorous. If you cannot meet the demands and timing of the course, as set forth in the schedule, please consider taking a different course that will best support your needs.

Since you may complete all homework any time before the deadline, no late homework will be accepted. For all electronic assignments, do not wait until the last minute to submit. No extensions will be given for user error or unreliable internet connections.

Communication

Email / Canvas Direct Messages

You may email me at PoffenrothMary@FHDA.edu or via Canvas. I prefer to be formally addressed as Dr. Poffenroth, and you can expect a response within two business days.

Email / DMs will only be answered Monday–Friday during business hours (9 to 5 PST)

Email Etiquette

As our communications are of a professional nature, please make sure to use business/professional language in your email, which includes salutations.

Netiquette

As we will be interacting online with one another, it is of the utmost importance that all of our communications are done respectfully. There is a zero-tolerance policy for any inappropriate language, hate speech, or personal attacks of any kind toward another student or faculty member. If such an occurrence happens, then the University will be immediately notified, and appropriate steps are taken to address the issue under the University guidelines.

How I Will Communicate with You

I will be sending you digital messages via your school-registered email and Canvas. Please make sure you are checking both these tools often.

Technology

You are required to have access to reliable computer technology, the internet, and up-to-date software/antivirus. You must have basic computing skills and know how to use the internet, Canvas, a word processing program (such as MS Word), and a slide deck program (such as PowerPoint). You must also know how to create a short video and upload that video to a video hosting site like YouTube or Vimeo. There are many technology resources on campus to support you if you do not already have access to reliable technology or an internet connection.

Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Course Materials Are the Intellectual Property of The Instructor

Course material developed by the instructor is the instructor's intellectual property and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course, such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions, without instructor consent. You may not duplicate, screenshot, or save any materials for dissemination to any other parties.

About the Instructor

As a first-generation college student myself, I understand the unique challenges of attending college. Over the last ten years, I have constantly adjusted and updated my courses to help reflect the changing technology and the ever-evolving student. You will find my courses full of different ways to keep you engaged and prepare you for future success. Many of my students go on to see me again in the biology department at San Jose State University or secure other four-year degrees and many lucrative jobs both within and beyond working with the environment. I take student feedback seriously and work to help you find the balance between a good challenge that will keep you interested and reaching your goals. If you want to learn more about my work in speaking, writing, and publishing – you can check out my portfolio website, <https://www.marypoffenroth.com>

Required Materials

Our class has no textbook purchase requirement. If you wish to use a textbook, the free-of-charge OpenStax Biology, 2nd Edition. Clark, Choi, and Douglas (2018). ISBN-10: 1-947172-51-4 is a great choice. This book can be accessed in full, free of charge at: <https://openstax.org/details/books/biology-2e>

Determination of Grades

- Grades are calculated evenly, with no one assignment weighted differently. Final course grades will not be curved.
- It is your responsibility to check your grade in Canvas throughout the semester. You will have a final opportunity to check your grades before they are submitted officially after all grades are finalized. If you fail to address any issues/discrepancies before this time, no changes will be made after grades are submitted unless it is due to instructor error.
- In order to pass with a C or better, students must submit the major course project(s), which are those that are worth 100 points.
- **Course Grade:** The percentage earned out of **500** points determines the semester grade – Grades will NOT be Curved. You will have two weeks from the posting of each grade update to address any concerns/mistakes with your instructor. After these two weeks, grades will become permanent and unchangeable. It is your responsibility to ensure your grade is correct weekly. Incorrect grade change requests at the end of the semester will absolutely not be honored. **The master grade book will be housed securely in your Canvas account for all assignments.**
- **Grade Discrepancies:** If you notice a grade discrepancy on grade updates posted on Canvas, you have exactly two weeks from that posting to contact me to resolve any issue. After that, your score will become permanent.

Letter Grades

Final grades for this course will be calculated from the activities described in Canvas. At any given time during the term, you will see how you are doing in the class because of the % system being used in Canvas. The following grading scale is used (with +/- standard rounding rules apply where .1-.49 is rounded down, .5-.99 is rounded up):

%	%	%
A+ = 98 - 100		
A = 92-97	B- = 80-81	D+ = 60-67
A- = 90-91	C+ = 78-79	D = 57-59
B+ = 88-89	C = 68-77	D- = 54-56
B = 82-87		F = < 53.9

Assignments

Submitting Your Work

We will submit all work to Canvas. When a file upload is requested, you may only upload a .PDF, .DOCX, or .DOC file. All other submissions, including any .pages or any [Google Share Files](#) will receive an automatic zero grade. If you are using Google Docs, simply download a copy as a .PDF or .DOCX from Google Docs and upload that file into Canvas. Your work must be directly viewable within Canvas without any password or download requirements by the viewer.

Do not submit your assignments via the smartphone app. The app has proven to be unreliable, and you should always use a laptop or desktop computer to perform your work.

Missed/Late Work & Emergency Safety Net Policy

As you can submit your work any time before the deadline, there is no late work accepted in our class. However, here is how we will handle emergencies for all students:

All Students May Miss Exactly 25 Points Weekly Homework Points Without Penalty

Everyone is allowed to miss exactly a total of 25 points of weekly module homework per term, no questions asked, and you do not need to contact me to take advantage of this. It will be processed automatically for everyone after the semester has concluded. This will cover a single week of missed lecture class. This does not count toward your oral presentation or PSA Video.

This is meant to provide for emergencies, so I suggest you only miss homework/discussion if you absolutely have no other choice (such as an illness or death of a loved one). This will, essentially, cover a week's worth of homework (except for the oral presentation or PSA video project).

You do not need to submit work that will be covered under this policy.

If you find that you are missing more than one week of class, you will need to decide if a late drop or incomplete is more supportive of your success, as you will not be allowed to make up additional work in our class.

The safety net only applies to work missed and will not count towards extra credit.

Late Submission for Primary Topic Oral Presentation Video Module

Primary Topic Project deliverables submitted late:

- 10 points deduction per calendar day late for the oral presentation until your score is zero.
- 25 points per calendar day late for your summaries until 2 days post deadline, after which, your grade will be submitted to the university as either non-passing or incomplete, depending on what you are eligible for.

FAQ About the Emergency Safety Net

If I have a doctor's note, can I have more extensions than other students?

No. This policy was written to cover all students for missing a single week of class for any reason, illness, or emergency. If you find you need to miss more than one full week of class (equal to roughly 10% of the total class), we will need to discuss other options, such as a late drop or incomplete, depending on the circumstances at the time.

Why was this policy created?

A single missed work policy that applies to all students equally is the most equitable way to manage life's emergencies for students while preventing decision bias from me. Of course, I always try to be as unbiased as possible – but I am human, so having a policy that applies to all students instead of me deciding case by case, student by student, ensures that all emergencies are treated equally and fairly - no matter their cause. In each term, I teach anywhere from 200-400 students, and without a strong policy that applies equally to all, I can't guarantee that all students are treated equally. If you find that life has dealt you an emergency larger than missing a week of class, the college is set up to support you with a late drop or incomplete.

This policy puts the power into your hands to decide when to use your one-week emergency safety net without the stress of feeling like you have to justify your need. This also removes me as a judge of your need since you are the best person to judge when you need to use your emergency safety net. This also ensures all emergencies are treated equally - from physical to emotional to mental well-being.

However, this also creates a bit of a temptation to use it sooner rather than later, so I urge you to save your safety net for a true emergency.

Why was this amount of missed work forgiveness chosen?

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course-related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. This is a college standard requirement for all classes. Please see your catalog or schedule of classes for more info.

This policy essentially excuses each student from a full week of our course, which works out to be around 10% of the course. Again, if you find that you need to miss more than 10%, then a late drop or incomplete is the next step.

Do I need to contact you or provide any documentation to use this homework safety net?

Not at all. I created this policy because I wanted you to feel in control over when to use your safety net without any need to ask or justify. Just know that what is stated here is the maximum for all students in our class, and the adjustments will happen at the very end of term once all other work has been graded.

Assignment Details

Online class activities involve students working alone or in small online groups analyzing scientific writings, finding and evaluating information for personal growth and societal use, and constructing effective written and oral presentations. Full assignment details can be found in Canvas for the following:

Weekly Lecture Activities (Online, Submitted to Canvas) <i>up to</i>	350
Digital Environmental Presentation	100
Final Project	100
Total Points for Quarter	<i>Up to 550</i>

Campus Policies

Course Description Lecture is fully online and 100% asynchronous

An introduction to environmental science as a branch of the sciences and its relation to the scientific field, including the scientific method. Review of the principles, concepts, and terminology of the environmental sciences and ecological literacy, including restoration ecology, landscape ecology, sustainable studies, and ecosystem management. Agenda 21 and other environmental indicator tools as they relate to human use of the earth's systems, including the hydrosphere, atmosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere, and the impact on cultural, ethnic, and gender groups will be explored.

Student Learning Objectives

Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLO)

Utilize the scientific method to demonstrate the role of scientists and the public to analyze the consequences of human actions on the physical, biological, and cultural world.

II. Course Objectives

Examine Earth Systems and Resources.

Examine the living world.

Assess the relationship between population and environmental science.

Examine land and water use

Assess energy resources and consumption.

Examine environmental pollution

Examine global climate change.

Course Topic Goals

Science is a continuous and adaptive process through which we discover and communicate how the natural world works, separate facts from inference, and establish testable hypotheses. All students should master essential quantitative and qualitative skills that are necessary to understand scientific knowledge and methods in order to incorporate these processes into professional and everyday life experiences.

After completing this course you should be able to:

1. Examine environmental studies as a newly emerging field of study and its relation to the scientific field and other disciplines.
2. Assess and apply environmental and ecological concepts to modern life and a technologically based society.
3. Assess and explore the career opportunities in the environmental studies field.
4. Analyze the history of human use and exploitation of the earth's natural resources.
5. Examine the relationship between resource degradation and the changing role of humans in society.
6. Compare and contrast the history of land use ethics in Western versus non-Western cultures.
7. Explore the impact of the industrial revolution and other technological advances on the human relationship with nature.
8. Evaluate the effects of the conservation movement in the United States.
9. Assess the political system within the United States and its relationship to environmental degradation.
10. Analyze how ethics, politics and the current economic system within the United States has influenced environmental policies and regulation.
11. Assess the relationship between environmental degradation and the cycle of poverty.
12. Examine and describe the world's natural resources including air (the atmosphere), water (the hydrosphere), soil (the lithosphere) and species (the biosphere).
13. Assess and debate the current state of the world's natural resources and the impacts on human populations.
14. Analyze and explore possible solutions to the current state of the world's resources.

Incompletes

Incompletes are permitted only if a student is in good standing (has a passing grade), has completed at least two-thirds of the course, and has a verifiable serious and compelling reason to take an incomplete. An incomplete is not given due to poor performance.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Students are responsible for dropping themselves before deadlines set forth by De Anza College.

Academic integrity

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the College. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted or plan to submit for another class, please note it requires the approval of instructors.

You are responsible for knowing the College Policy on Academic Dishonesty outlined in the College Catalog. Any student found plagiarizing *any* essay or assignment in ESCI191 will receive an automatic failing grade (F) on the essay or assignment, may receive a failing grade in ESCI191, and will be referred to the Judicial Affairs office. Plagiarism includes copying phrases, sentences, keywords, parts or all of another's writing, including papers or articles published on the Internet, newspapers, magazines, books, journals, or any other medium, including the writing of your fellow students from current and/or previous classes. All phrases, keywords, sentences, or larger sections of writings taken from an outside source and used in a student's paper should be appropriately re-worded by the student AND cited. Drawing as few as five consecutive words from another's writings will be considered plagiarism, as can improper paraphrasing. All ideas or concepts drawn from another's work should be properly cited. NOTE: A student who shows or lends to their classmates their own work is at risk of being an accessory to plagiarism and, if their work is copied, will suffer the same consequences as the student who plagiarizes (see section 1.1.6 of the Definition of Academic Dishonesty). **This policy also applies to students in previous courses who show or lend their work to current students.**

General Expectations, Rights, and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with De Anza's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (formerly the DRC).

Campus Policy on Consent for Recording and Sharing of Instructor Materials

Common courtesy and professional standards dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's (or guest speaker's) permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. All recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor (or guest speaker); you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. Course materials developed by the instructor (or guest speaker) are the intellectual property of the instructor (or guest speaker), as well, and cannot be shared publicly without his/her written approval. Overall, you may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course, such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions, without formal instructor consent. Such permission allows the recordings and materials to be used for your private study purposes only.

Lecture Schedule

This schedule starts slowly by design. You can complete and submit all your assignments before the due dates. The end of the quarter is heavy on deliverables, so make sure you plan ahead. Lecture videos and Canvas assignments will become visible by the Sunday before each Monday every week.

Module #	Topics	Special Due Dates/Reading/Notes These readings are optional	Canvas Lecture Work Due By 11:59 pm PST Fridays
0	Introduction to the course	Welcome Week – make sure to submit your roll call assignment to secure your space in class	April 11
1	The Environment and Human Health		April 18
2	Environmental Ethics, Economics, and Policy	Review OpenStax: Chapter 1: The Science of Life	April 25
3	Environment, Sustainability, and Science The Physical Science of the Environment	Review OpenStax: Chapter 2 – The Chemical Foundation of Life	May 2
4	Organism and Population Ecology and Evolution Communities and Ecosystems	Review OpenStax: Chapter 18– Evolution and Chapter 19 – The Evolution of Populations	May 9
5	Geography of Life/Finish Ecosystems	Review OpenStax: Chapter 45 – Population & Community Ecology	May 16
6	Biodiversity Conservation Forest Resources	Review OpenStax: Chapter 47: Conservation and Biodiversity	May 23
7	Oral Presentations	<i>Digital Presentations Due to Canvas</i>	May 30
8	Air Quality Water Agriculture and the Ecology of Food	Review OpenStax: Chapter 46: Ecosystems	June 6
9	Climate Change and Global Warming Human Population Growth	Review OpenStax: Chapter 44 – Ecology & The Biosphere	June 13
10	Becoming an agent of change Urban Ecosystems Waste . Activism, civic engagement, and future opportunities for you.		June 20
11	Final Project Due Date	Presentation Summaries Due	June 23