



Course Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION

Cohort Number: [ASB95](#)

Course Number: [PS 2013](#)

Course Name: [Environmental Studies](#)

Start/End Date: [20 September 2011 -- 18 October 2011](#)

Time: [6:00 – 10:00 pm](#)

Location: [Room 306](#)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: [Donald Winslow, Ph.D.](#)

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Phone: [405-558-1855](#)

Website: <http://donaldwinslow.info>

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

All communication concerning this course will be provided through CWAonline. If CWAonline does not function properly, please call 866-547-9162 toll free to resolve the problem. Direct communication with your instructor follows the established protocol outlined above.

SGU CWA Phone Number: 918-610-8888

MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

St. Gregory's University promotes the education of the whole person in the context of a Christian community in which students are encouraged to develop a love of learning and live lives of balance, generosity, and integrity.

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all class meetings and study group sessions is mandatory because of the accelerated nature of the College for Working Adults Program. A student who misses one class meeting, for any reason whatsoever, must understand that his or her academic progress is in serious jeopardy. A student who has missed or will miss one class meeting must schedule a conference with the faculty member to determine what steps are required to ensure that readings, assignments, and activities will be submitted on time including supplementary assignments. The responsibility for completing assignments rests with the student. Failure to comply with these regulations will negatively affect the final course grade.

According to the student handbook, work missed must be made up with an additional 3-5 page, word-processed paper; topic to be assigned by faculty. Supplementary assignments are mandatory; failure to complete the supplementary assignments will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade for the course. Under no circumstances may a student miss two classes and receive credit for the course. This is a University policy and is not at the discretion of the faculty member. The student will be required to repeat the course. Students who must repeat a course will incur additional tuition expense for that course.

If a student's attendance record demonstrates a pattern of missed classes, that student will be administratively withdrawn from the program.

Class Cancellation: Instructors are not allowed to cancel class, change room locations, or change meeting time. Only CWA staff have that authority, based on instructors' requests due to emergencies, etc.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS

Please be prompt and remain in class until dismissed. If you miss a substantial portion of a class session, I reserve the right to count it as an absence. If you miss a class, contact me by email or phone to discuss make-up assignments. Note that you cannot miss more than one.

I will deduct 10% for each day that an assignment is late.

Please do not engage in side conversations during lectures, quizzes, presentations, or full-class discussions. Do not use electronic devices except for to take notes or otherwise engage in the class.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

The course module presents many of the details about the administration and content of the course. The module was written by another instructor for a course taught in Tulsa, so we will modify it somewhat. This syllabus is intended to clarify and supplement the course module, and incorporates the module by reference. You should refer to both documents and contact me if you have questions.

Individual Assignments

Rather than concentrating on the Tulsa area, newspaper and magazine articles for the weekly environmental issue assignment can be from anywhere in Oklahoma. Of special interest are issues involving Shawnee and the surrounding region. You may want to coordinate with your learning team or other classmates to make sure that not everyone presents the same articles.

Group Assignments

For the Superfund assignment, you may investigate any of the sites in Oklahoma. They are listed on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl.htm>. In addition to the sites listed by the EPA, you may want to choose the story of the fly ash dump in Bekoshe, OK. See <http://www.intheairwebreathe.com> for information about Bekoshe.

Grading Criteria

Assignment	Date due	Points
Participation	Every week	10
Quizzes	Every week	20
"Individual assignments" (review questions)	Every week	20
Newspaper article assessments	First 3 or 4 weeks	3
Presentation on nuclear waste	4 October 2011	4
Presentation on a Superfund site	11 October 2011	4
Proposal ("outline") for learning-team project	27 September 2011	4
Learning-team evaluation	18 October 2011	5
Capstone learning team paper	18 October 2011	20
Capstone learning team presentation	18 October 2011	5
Community member response to learning-team project	18 October 2011	5
Total		100
Extra credit assignment	18 October 2011	10
Grading scale: 90-100: A	80-89: B	70-79: C
	66-69: D	0-65: F

RUBRIC FOR PAPERS OR OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

Extra credit—There is an opportunity for 10 points extra credit for any student who can help a local environmental organization with a community project and write a short report on the experience. Let me know if you would like to do this.

Participation—I will award points for participation based on my subjective assessment of the extent to which you contribute to class discussions. You may also keep a journal about observations of environmental issues in your own life or in the lives of other individuals you encounter.

Quizzes--You may not use notes, books, or electronic devices during quizzes. Most questions on quizzes will be multiple-choice or constructed-response.

Review questions—The module states which questions from the textbook will be assigned each week. I will let you know if I decide to assign alternate questions. Write short answers to the questions, justifying your positions with evidence and reasoning. You may refer to other sources of information if you include clear citations. These are individual assignments and the writing should be original. You may turn in a hard copy, submit the assignment online, or email the homework to me. I will evaluate your answers based on the strength of the positions you take and how well you justify them.

Newspaper article assessments—The module states that newspaper articles should be from the Tulsa area. Since we are doing the course in Shawnee, you are encouraged to use articles from Shawnee newspapers. If you live in another city, you may use articles from another newspaper or magazine as appropriate. You should write a short assessment of each article, considering the issues at hand and evaluating the treatment by the journalist. I will grade mostly on participation, but also consider your reasoning and the effectiveness of your communication.

Short learning-team presentations—Each learning team will make one presentation on nuclear waste and one presentation on a local Superfund site. These assignments are described in the module. Presentations will be evaluated based on the rubric entitled "Outcomes assessment for presentations".

Capstone learning-team projects—Each learning team will develop a hypothetical project and consider the environmental and regulatory ramifications of the project. The module suggests as an example the siting of a new building development. Your learning team may instead choose to develop a plan for a sustainable business opportunity, a plan for management of land or natural resources by a government or non-profit organization, or a citizen action project to protect the environment. Each learning team will prepare a paper and a presentation on the project. Learning team members will evaluate each others' participation in developing these outcomes. Each learning team will also respond to another learning team's project by playing the roles of community members who may be affected by the project.

Written capstone reports will be evaluated based on the six dimensions described in the "Outcomes assessment for individual written paper" rubric. In order to determine a grade for each report, I will weight the dimensions as follows: thesis/focus: 20%; organization: 20%; research base: 20%; supporting detail: 20%; language use: 10%; mechanics: 10%.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

St. Gregory's University expects its students to demonstrate integrity in their academic work. Acts violating the expected integrity include:

1. Cheating on examinations, quizzes or other written work;
2. Giving assistance to or receiving assistance from another during an examination or quiz;
3. Plagiarism, that is:
 - a. The use of another's published work wholly or in part without recognition or proper documentation;
 - b. The use of another student's work as one's own;
 - c. The purchase, use or provision of an already prepared paper;
4. Falsifying any academic record;
5. Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, copies of uncirculated examinations or examination questions.

Students found to have committed one or more of acts 1-3 will receive an F for the examination, written work or quiz in question. Acts 4 or 5 will lead to a hearing with the Dean of the College for Working Adults, since they are major social infractions, the penalty for which may be dismissal.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND ETIQUETTE

A university education is a privilege afforded to a very small segment of the human family. Classroom behavior ought to manifest a profound awareness and appreciation of this privilege. Both instructors and students have the responsibility to ensure that the classroom provides an optimal environment for learning.

Behavior that violates this responsibility includes (but is not limited to):

- failure to purchase the required textbooks or bring them (and other course materials) to each class session
- talking to other students except when invited to do so by the instructor as part of a class discussion or exercise
- making rude comments or gestures
- failure to turn off cell phones or pagers upon entering the classroom
- using a laptop computer for any purpose besides taking notes for this class
- reading material unrelated to this course during class sessions, and
- sleeping during class.

Engaging in any of these or other disruptive behaviors will result in the student being marked "absent" for that class session and/or being asked to leave the classroom. The instructor reserves the right to drop a student from the course for repeatedly engaging in disruptive and/or inappropriate classroom behavior.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of and to meet the catalog requirements for graduation and to adhere to all other rules, regulations, and deadlines published in the course catalog and Student Handbook.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO POLICY

The **St. Gregory's Community** went Tobacco Free for health and wellness reasons on August 1, 2009. This is part of the ongoing efforts to make St. Gregory's a healthier campus environment for all. Under the new policy, tobacco use of any kind will be prohibited anywhere on campus, indoors and out. This new policy enables students, faculty, staff, and visitors to preserve their health by providing a healthy environment where people can learn, teach and work free from any risks associated with tobacco use.

We hope all Tulsa CWA students will join us in making St. Gregory's a Tobacco Free campus. However, the north and west building entrances are the designated smoking areas set by Paradigm Realty. Benches and ashtrays are provided in these designated areas.

POLICY ON DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

St. Gregory's University is an equal opportunity, co-educational and Catholic institution of higher learning. It is open to students and faculty of all faiths, and does not discriminate in admissions or employment on the basis of race, color, gender, age, disability, or national origin or veteran status.

ADA STATEMENT

Students with disabilities are provided assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodation to meet their academic needs. Students seeking accommodation should contact the Director of Student Services at (918) 610-8888 to request services and verify the need for assistance through appropriate supporting documentation.