

T, Th 9:00 – 10:15, LSW 103 <https://oc.okstate.edu/>
Dr. Bill Henley, Prof. of Botany, LSE 104, 744-5559, bill.henley@okstate.edu

Office hours: M/W 4–5 and Th 11–12, or by appointment. I urge each of you to visit me individually as it is the best way for me to get to know you and for you to demonstrate your interest. Immediately before class is generally NOT a good time, but after class may be.

Text: Miller, G.T. Jr. 2007. *Sustaining the Earth*. (8th Ed.) Wadsworth Publishing Co., Belmont, CA.
Additional required or recommended readings, if any, will be announced.

e-Instruction®: You *must* purchase an e-Instruction® “clicker from the OSU bookstore. (If you already have one from another course, you can use that.) I plan to gradually introduce their use into class as I learn to use them effectively.

Prerequisite: Introductory Biology (BIOL 1114 or equivalent); a modest level of science literacy is assumed.

Objectives: This course is designed primarily for non-science majors, as an introduction to basic physical, chemical and ecological principles with which you can make a reasoned, objective assessment of local, regional and global environmental issues. This is a science rather than a policy course, so the emphasis will be on scientific concepts and the strengths and limitations of the scientific method in helping to shape policy decisions. The course should improve your scientific literacy and consequently enable you to be more informed, concerned and involved citizens.

Class format: A large breadth of topics will be covered in a combination of discussion and lectures. This year I plan to place more emphasis on discussion, so come prepared. The discussion and learning process concerning complex environmental issues will benefit greatly if everyone reads **in advance** about the subject in the textbook, news sources, internet, etc. I will direct you as much as possible concerning what pages to read and which concepts/details are and are not essential. The pre-class assignments (see below) are designed to encourage you to prepare in advance for discussions. Courtesy while others are speaking and respect for others' opinions is mandatory, but this should not preclude lively debate! Although there are few absolute "correct" answers or solutions to complex environmental problems (despite what zealots of either extreme may claim), there are many scientific "facts" and concepts that you should learn through this process.

On occasion we also may have local experts as guest lecturers. I encourage each of you to bring up for discussion your personal experiences with environmental issues, as well as any relevant local, national or international news item. Preferably this would be at an appropriate point in the semester.

Online Classroom (<https://oc.okstate.edu>): You should be able to access OC from any computer with internet access. If you have not recently accessed an OC course on your computer, first do the following: From the login page, click on *Please click here for a System Check before you login* to test your browser for compatibility with OC. Beware that third-party programs such as firewalls and pop-up blockers may prevent some features of OC from working properly. All of you (except late adds) will be automatically subscribed to the course, accessible using your O-KEY (<http://okey.okstate.edu/>) user name and password. If you added late, let me know your userid and I can add you to OC manually. **If you do not know your userid and/or password**, click on *Forgot your OKEY Password?* on the login page, or as a last resort contact the IT Helpdesk (<http://help.okstate.edu/>).

I will use OC to post **assignments** that you must complete within a specified time frame, study guides, announcements (e.g. extra credit opportunities), reading assignments, essential information, etc. OC also has a “My Calendar” feature for posting events, and a classlist with email addresses; to avoid missing anything, **CHECK EVENTS AND YOUR EMAIL FREQUENTLY**, say 2–3 times weekly. I also encourage you to use the discussion link to ask questions and discuss issues among yourselves – don't be shy as others probably have similar questions and could benefit from your intellectual prowess.

Testing: Two full period exams (plus a comprehensive final) will combine multiple choice, short answer and short essay (1 - 2 paragraphs) questions. The latter will focus on issues such as those that we discuss in class, and you should include particular scientific principles in your answer, i.e. I am not simply asking for your opinion. Consult the old exams on the web page for examples of what to expect. Example good/bad essay answers and an excellent actual

student answer will also be on the web. I plan to give the same style of exams more or less as in the past, but **the information content of the exams will be modified according to this year’s coverage, which may differ significantly due to the change in style.** I will indicate on returned exams if I think you need extra help with a particular aspect, but it is YOUR responsibility to visit me or seek outside help (e.g. the university writing center).

Academic honesty: All forms of cheating or plagiarism (including signing in or “clicking” classmates who are absent) are strictly forbidden, and will result in a 0 score for the relevant item (exam, etc.) and possible disciplinary action as per university policy. **Hats will not be worn, and backpacks, etc. must be placed out of reach during any exam.**

Exam Schedule: Th 7 February EXAM 1 (in class – 103 LSW)
 (subject to change Th 13 March EXAM 2 (in class – 103 LSW)
 with advanced notice) Tu 29 April 8:00 – 9:50 am FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE) in 103 LSW

Drop dates: Last day to drop/withdraw* with no grade and full refund: Monday, 14 January
 Last day to drop/withdraw* with automatic grade of "W": Friday, 4 April
 Last day to withdraw* with assigned grade of "W" or "F": Friday, 18 April
 * Withdrawal is from ALL courses; drop means one course only.

Grading: Letter grades will be based on the following percentages out of the 478 point total:

A = 90-100%	B = 80-89%	C = 70-79%	D = 60-69%	F = 0-59%
2 unit exams @ 100 points each				200
Comprehensive final exam				150
Online assignments (to be announced)				100
<u>Participation (1 point/day excluding exams)</u>				<u>28</u>
TOTAL				478

Regular participation is expected and will be recorded via “clicker” use *throughout the class period* and/or a sign-in sheet, and rewarded with participation points. A missed assignment or exam will result in a grade of zero, except for an officially excused absence (e.g. illness with doctor's note) as per university policy, in which case the assignment or exam will not be counted toward your course grade. The remaining exams will then be weighted accordingly so that they total 350 points. Makeup exams will be given only in extraordinary circumstances on a case-by-case basis, and at my convenience.

Requests for correction of errors in scoring an exam must be made by the end of the next class meeting following return of the exam. However, I am always happy to discuss your answers to help you on future exams.

Computer labs: You can use any of several public access computer labs to access WebCT, email, the internet, word processing, etc. For locations and hours of operation, go to <http://it.okstate.edu/students> and click on *Computer Lab Locations & Hours*, then click on *More information on lab schedules, hours, etc.* followed by the appropriate link.

★ In the spirit of this course, handouts/tests will usually be printed on (partially) recycled paper. I will try to minimize paper handouts, instead posting messages via OC or email. However, my purpose is negated if you print everything!