

ENS 101 Prospects for Planet Earth

Spring 2022

Credits: 3

General education designations: DEC: E, SBC: SNW

Course Number: 51511

Course Time and Location: Tue. & Thur. 9:45-11:05 AM, Humanities 1006

Instructor: Alyssa Stansfield (alyssa.stansfield@stonybrook.edu)

Office: Challenger 103 (South campus)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4 PM on Zoom (or by appointment)

Office Hours Zoom Link:

<https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/94132019178?pwd=TERRUVQxVVg0ZzdNUHBrSkZQUTM5dz09>

TAs: Tatum Eigenberger (tatum.eigenberger@stonybrook.edu)

Stephanie Arsenault (stephanie.arsenault@stonybrook.edu)

Course Description

An introduction for non-science majors to global environmental change. Exploration of the natural science of Earth's environment; the scientific, socioeconomic, and political issues that influence human impact on the global environment and responses to environmental changes; the strategies for humans to live in greater harmony with planet Earth. Global issues are related to the particular issues of the United States, the Northeast, and the greater metropolitan New York City-Long Island area.

Reading Materials

Articles and reports distributed via Blackboard

Learning Objectives

1. Identify components of the “spheres” of the Earth System and understand basic interactions between them
2. Explain the major ways humans are impacting the Earth System through pollution and climate change and the implications for resource management
3. Understand the evidence of anthropogenic climate change and counter common disinformation surrounding this evidence
4. Understand the processes and tools used to project future climate change
5. Discuss possible solutions to human-caused environmental problems
6. Develop and practice communications skills through in-class activities, written homework assignments, and presentations

Student Expectations

- **Class attendance:** Attending class regularly will help you succeed in this course. You are expected to attend all classes. If you are unable to attend due to illness or emergency, be sure you get any important information you missed from me or a classmate. Excused

absences are granted with a doctor's note or verified official university events. At least 3 days prior notice is required for excused absences, except in the case of illness.

- **Class participation:** This course requires thoughtful and engaging participation in class discussions, which may occur both in class and online. Expressing your diverse ideas and voices are important for your success in this course.
- **Classroom environment:** It is important for everyone that we maintain a positive and respectful learning environment both in class and online. We treat others and their ideas and experiences with respect and tolerance and refrain from distracting other students. If you have concerns about the material or class discussions, please contact me. All students are expected to abide by the Stony Brook Academic Integrity Code.

Instructor Expectations

- Start and end class on time
- Conduct class in a manner that is unbiased and respectful
- Present relevant material to the course and course objectives
- Notify any changes to the syllabus in a timely manner
- Give and return exams and assignments in a timely fashion
- Make lecture materials available on Blackboard by midnight the day of the lecture
- **Instructor email and office hours:** I am accessible via email and will make every effort to respond as quickly as I can. When sending emails please include the course number in the subject line. If you would like to speak to me, you may come to my office hours or schedule an in-person or virtual (Zoom) meeting.

Late Work/Retake Policy

For discussion posts, homework assignments, and quizzes, 2 points will be deducted off the grade for each day it is late. Make-up exams will only be allowed if I am notified ahead of time through email.

Technical Requirements

Having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the term will benefit you.

Caution! It may not be possible to submit the files required for your assignments using a smartphone or tablet. Blackboard, for example, has limited functionality on mobile devices. If you need to borrow a laptop, please visit [SBU's Laptop Loan Program](#).

Technical Assistance:

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you can:

- Phone: 631-632-9800 M-F 9:00-5:00 (device support, Wi-Fi, software, hardware, logins)
- Submit a help request ticket: <https://it.stonybrook.edu/services/itsm>
- Email blackboard@stonybrook.edu

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment/Assessment	Due Date
Jan 25	Course Introduction: The Earth System	Intro. Discussion Post	Jan 27
Jan 27	Atmosphere		
Feb 1	Geosphere		
Feb 3	Hydrosphere		
Feb 8	Biosphere		
Feb 10	Air Pollution	Quiz 1 on Blackboard	Feb 17
Feb 15	Aquatic Pollution		
Feb 17	Soil and Biological Pollution		
Feb 22	The Basics of Climate Change	Homework 1	Mar 1
Feb 24	Evidence of Climate Change: Paleoclimate		
Mar 1	Evidence of Climate Change: Atmosphere		
Mar 3	Evidence of Climate Change: Oceans and Cryosphere		
Mar 8	Impacts of Climate Change		
Mar 10	Midterm	In-class exam	
Mar 15	No class		
Mar 17	No class		
Mar 22	No class	Final Project Topic Due	
Mar 24	Future Projections of Climate Change		
Mar 29	Climate Adaption vs Mitigation	Homework 2	Apr 5
Mar 31	The Politics of Climate Change		
Apr 5	Environmental Justice		
Apr 7	Resource Management: Energy	Quiz 2 on Blackboard	Apr 14
Apr 12	Resource Management: Water		
Apr 14	Resource Management: Food		
Apr 19	Resource Management: Minerals	Homework 3	May 6
Apr 21	Communicating about Environmental Issues		
Apr 26	Moving towards a Sustainable Future		
Apr 28	Student Presentations	*Extra-credit opportunity	
May 3	Student Presentations	*Extra-credit opportunity	
May 5	Final Exam	In-class exam	

** The possibility exists that unforeseen events will make schedule changes necessary. Any changes will be clearly noted in course Announcements and/or through Stony Brook email.

Assessments and Grading

Activity/Assignment	Percentage
Discussion board posts & participation	5%
Homeworks (3)	5% each (15% total)
Quizzes (2)	12.5% each (25% total)
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	15%
Final project	25%
Total	100%

Letter Grades

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93%+
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	66-69%
D	60-65%
F	<60%

Stony Brook University Policies:

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, Stony Brook Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and the Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/fire-safety/emergency-evacuation/evacuation-guide-people-physical-disabilities> and search Fire Safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

***Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Academic Judiciary.

Critical Incident Management:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

Course Policies:**Understand When You May Drop This Course:**

If you need to drop or withdraw from the course, it is your responsibility to be aware of the tuition liability deadlines listed on the registrar's [Academic Calendar](#). Before making the decision to drop/withdraw you may want to refer to the University's policies:

- [Undergraduate Course Load and Course Withdrawal Policy](#)

Incomplete Policy:

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. Circumstances must be documented and significant enough to merit an incomplete. If you need to request an incomplete for this course, contact me for approval as far in advance as possible. You should also read the University's policies that apply to you:

[Undergraduate Bulletin](#)