

MWF 10-11 am Arter 111

Instructor: *Richard Bowden*, Dept. of Environmental Science
Steffee B203 e-mail: richard.bowden@allegheny.edu
Office hours: MWF 10-11; TR 9:30-11; and by appointment

Course Description

The environment: Everyone is for it; No one is against it. So, why is the environment so often in the headlines and why is environmental protection and resource use so frequently controversial? In this class, we will examine a number of important current environmental issues, exploring scientific, economic, political, and cultural forces that underpin environmental conflict. Importantly, we will examine means to work through environmental issues and move toward more sustainable means for human beings to dovetail environmental resources and the quality of human existence.

Office hours and visits

A sign-up sheet exists outside my door for your convenience in scheduling appointments with me. In the event that my office hours do not align with your schedule, please e-mail me or see me after class so that we can arrange another time to meet. I am usually in my office during much of the day; however it is highly advisable to contact me by E-MAIL, prior to arranging a meeting. You are free to drop by outside of my office hours, although scheduled classes, meetings, and other commitments may negate my ability to meet with you without notice.

Texts: None. The syllabus contains the websites and PPT files that have the information you need to read.

Grading: Two exams, a final, and a bunch of assignments. Class participation counts. Bumps on logs will be graded as such. Extra Credit assignments will also be given during the semester. *All assignments will be turned in during class. Do not e-mail them to me unless you have specific permission and have a very good reason for doing so.*

E-Mail Alert! I will use e-mail to communicate with you. Please check your e-mail daily. I will also, from time to time, *place material on my web page* (<http://merlin.alleg.edu/employee/r/bowden/>). Assignments and class information will be posted on this site. Reaching students by *telephone* can be very challenging, so e-mailing is the means for us to communicate.

Readings: *BEFORE* each class, you must complete the assigned readings. I will assume that you will have read this material for class each day, and I reserve the right to occasionally give an unannounced quiz to assess your preparation for class.

Class Participation: I have purposely structured the course to accommodate and encourage your active engagement of the course material. Participation in discussion is encouraged and desired during our lecture meetings, and it is *required* during discussion sections. I will be guided by the following standards when assessing your discussion:

Participation Grading:

- A** Awarded for regularly *initiating* discussion and questions. This means coming to class thoroughly familiar with the assigned reading and, therefore, prepared to raise questions, to open discussion, to identify topics of interest in the reading, and to engage other students in the discussion. (This does not mean monopolizing discussions or talking for its own sake).
- B** For participating regularly and productively in class discussion. For those who are prepared, and are willing to engage.
- C** For participating on a regular basis, though less frequently than the **B** student. **C** discussants will be prepared for class, but their contributions will indicate that less thought has been given to assigned materials.
- D** Infrequent contributions to discussion; contributions do not arise from thoughtful consideration of assignments.
- F** An **F** grade results from non-participation in class discussion.

Honor Code: Strictly Enforced. If you have any questions regarding Honor Code policies, please see me.

Name _____
(please print)

Major _____ Year _____ Hometown, State _____

Reason for taking this course:

What are your contacts with the natural environment? Do you hike, camp, go for walks, swim in lakes, fish, walk through parks, backpack, etc? Tell me a little about them, and how your experiences influence your views of the environment and environmental issues.

What three particular environmental issues would you like to know more about?

1.

2.

3.

On a *weekly* basis, how much time (IN MINUTES) do you spend gathering NEWS from each of the sources below?

_____ Radio
_____ TV
_____ Internet News Services
_____ Newspapers
_____ Weekly magazines
_____ Friends
_____ Other
_____ Total

If you have any physical or learning challenges that you would like me to know about, please either indicate below, or come to see me about them. I will be happy to accommodate you in any way that I can.