

Environmental Studies 126 / Integrated Liberal Studies 126

Spring 2016, 4 credits

Welcome! In this course, we position ourselves with our feet on the UW-Madison campus and ask questions about the energy we use to heat and cool our buildings, the food we eat, the air we breathe, the electricity to run light bulbs and appliances, the goods we purchase, and the waste we create.

On campus, you will learn about sustainability-related initiatives, including those of the Office of Sustainability. Furthermore, your laboratory will meet in the "dream" collaborative teaching spaces of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery that showcase sustainable building design.

Off campus, you will travel to places in Madison that can help you see the bigger picture of energy, food, and waste.

This course rests on core principles from environmental science, a multi-disciplinary field:

- We live on a finite planet.
- On this planet, our actions connect across space to neighbors near and far.
- Our actions connect across time to past and future generations.
- Even though the connections may be difficult to perceive, they have profound implications and are worthy of our attention.

Ultimately, the goal of this course is to give you the tools to see the world around you in new ways, noticing things you may have missed and encouraging you to seek paths that both care for yourself and for all with whom you share this planet.

Your instructors will engage you in learning about these connections with the best knowledge they can provide (which admittedly can be frustratingly incomplete). Again, welcome.



Lake Mendota, 2014, a few weeks before freezing

Laboratory

We have assembled a set of weekly activities that will coordinate closely with what you learn in lecture.

Each Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, your laboratory section begins at 3:30 pm sharp. Most weeks, lab will last until 6:30 pm. Check the calendar so that you know where it will meet. The Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery is the usual venue.

Laboratory notebooks containing the activities (3-hole punched) are required. Bring your notebook each week to lab to record answers to the questions.

Each week's activity will be collected the following Thursday in lecture. Please turn in only one week at a time. Your responses to several (but not all) questions will be graded each week. You will earn up to 25 points each week.

Feel free to turn in your weekly activity early on Tuesday. The penalty on Thursday for late work is 10 points. Anything after 1:05 pm is late. You may still get partial credit until 1:00 pm on Friday.

The questions in lab activities are fair game for the quiz in lecture the following Tuesday. No surprises! Questions from your lab manual will be taken word-for-word except for small changes in style to fit the format of a quiz.

Before each lab, find the Top Hat survey question in the write-up. Answer the question and hand in the sheet at the beginning of lab. When you arrive in lab, first thing use your device (phone, tablet, or laptop) to enter your response. Do this no later than 3:35 pm. Note the 5-minute grace period; lab starts at 3:30 pm.

Arriving on time counts! We need everybody assembled to launch the activities of the day. A late arrival means after 3:35 pm, and the penalty is 5 points. If for some reason you know you will arrive late, please inform your TA. Do this at least 24 hours before your lab period.

Attendance counts! We cannot provide makeup labs. If for some reason you need to miss lab, please tell your TA at least 24 hours before your lab period. With enough lead time, you may be able to attend on another day or make other arrangements.

Attendance counts! If you miss 2 lab periods, the highest grade you can earn is a D. For missing 3 or more labs, it is an F. Check the grading section for details.

Safety counts! Each week, check carefully the different safety precautions. For example, with the trash audit we will provide Kevlar gloves and eye protection for you to wear. Also check the need for proper dress. Some field trips and lab activities require proper clothing and shoes.

Grading

Yep, you found it. This section provides an overview of grading practices. Read the sections on surveys, quizzes, and exams for the specifics.

This course is set up to promote your success! For example, grades are assigned on a point scale. If you earn an A, you receive an A. This means that you are not competing with your classmates. Instead, we hope you will work together, enjoy each other's company, and perform well.

This course is set up to promote your success! As another example, your instructors will give you feedback via a short quiz in lecture each week. The questions are pre-announced, that is, no secrets. You will get clear signals about what is important.

This course is set up to promote your success! As one last example, your TAs are available each week in lab to answer your questions. Feel free to consult with them if you need help.

Attendance in lab counts! This is a UW rule. If you miss 2 lab periods, the highest grade you can earn is a D. For missing 3 or more labs, it is an F. Check the lab section for more details about lab.

Please keep in touch. During the semester, things unexpectedly may happen that will affect your ability to study. Let us know when problems arise, and we will work with you to find solutions.

This table summarizes details that you will find in the next three sections. The two surveys (week #1 and week #16) are not included because there are only two of them, and full credit is awarded simply for taking them.

	...Quizzes...Exams.....Final....
Points	25 points	150 points	250 points
When held	in class	in class	May 12
Number	11	2	1
Material covered	~1 week	~1.5 month	semester

Questions pre-announced	yes	no	some
Drop lowest	yes	no	no
Early exam	yes	yes	yes
late exam	no	no	no

Surveys

Week 1 and Week 16

The first week of the semester (Week #1), you can earn 15 points by answering 15 survey questions. All responses receive full credit. Same thing for the last week of the semester (Week #16).

Why a survey?

We would like to learn more about you. We'll tabulate your responses and report them anonymously.

Where do I find the survey?

Look under Quizzes in the menu to the left. The first one is available at the start of the semester; the second one will become available during the last week.

Quizzes

Why quizzes?

Quizzes provide an incentive for you to keep up. Starting Week #2, quizzes will be held during class - usually on Tuesdays - but perhaps a Thursday, now and then. Quizzes are designed to be quick to take (~15 min) and are worth 25 points each. As an example of "low stakes testing," quizzes provide you with timely feedback.

Can you drop your lowest quiz?

YES. Although we expect the quiz grades to run high, you still may drop your lowest score. In return for this, we are not offering make-up quizzes for any reason.

What if you need an early quiz?

We know that you cannot be in two places at once. So here's the deal. If you know ahead of time

that you cannot attend lecture, you are welcome to take an early quiz at 7:30 am the day of the quiz. Arrange this with your TA at least 2 days ahead of time (= by 6 pm Sunday for a Tuesday quiz). If you miss a quiz for any reason, use this as the quiz you drop.

Where do the quiz questions come from?

Quiz questions are drawn from two sources: (1) questions in the lab manual, and (2) a pre-announced set of questions posted on the calendar date that shows the quiz. Each quiz is closed-book, but you will have seen all of the questions previously.

Where to find help

Answer keys will not be posted. If you have questions, seek help from your TA, use office hours and your lecture materials, or work together with your classmates.

Cheating

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Period. Any instances will result in failure of the quiz or exam, possibly failure of the course, and a letter placed in your file at the Office of the Dean of Students. Read the statement on academic integrity from the Dean of Students.

Exams

Timing and coverage

This course has two in-class exams worth 150 points, each covering material from the weeks that precede it:

Exam 1: Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Exam 2: Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Although these exams are not intended to be cumulative, some topics build upon those learned previously. Exams are designed to take 1 hour, but the entire 75-minute class period will be available.

Will last year's exam help me?

Yes, to some extent, because the format of exams stays the same year to year. But the content will vary. Use the answer keys with this disclaimer: Determining the correct answer to past exam questions is your responsibility. We do our best to write an answer key that is error-free. In spite of this, you may find a glitch.

A minimum of trickiness

In writing exam questions, your instructors aim to be straightforward and to send clear signals about what you need to know. We do not intend to be tricky.

This said, it is nearly impossible to construct an exam that is 100% clear and fair. Even with our best efforts, a question or two will miss the mark, meaning that somebody will think that it is unfair or tricky. After each test, your instructors will inquire about any glitches and find ways to address them.

What if you need an early exam?

Consult with your TA at least a week before the exam. We'll work with you to arrange something. No late exams.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative, worth 250 points, and designed to take 1.5 hours. You will have 2 hours to complete it. This exam, scheduled by the registrar, is on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:05 pm. If you have three exams scheduled in a 24-hour period, and if this exam is one of the three, please consult with your professor by May 1 for rescheduling.

Final Exam: Take-Home activities

On the final exam, 75 points are take-home activities. Select any three, each worth 25 point, from this list:

- A. Energy & your shower (Due Monday, February 29, 2016 at 1 pm)
- B. What Does the Fox Say (Due Monday, February 29, 2016 at 1 pm)
- C. Bike Trail Clean-up (Due Monday, May 9, 2016 at 1 pm)
- D. Move Out Day (Due Friday, May 13, 2016 at 1 pm)

These assignments also are posted on the calendar.

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No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Period. Any instances will result in failure of the quiz or exam, possibly failure of the course, and a letter placed in your file at the Office of the Dean of Students. Read the statement on [academic integrity](#) from the Dean of Students.

Assigning Final Grades

Your point total determines your grade. Some points, such as those for quizzes, are easier to obtain because the questions are pre-announced. Strive to get all of them! Same thing for lab activity points. Your instructor will assist you in lab to properly answer some questions in the write-up; others will be answered in lecture.

Exam points are harder to earn. Even so, most students perform quite well on them. Exam scores typically average around 80% (in contrast to quizzes for which the average is closer to 90%).

Here is the full picture of point distribution in the course. It includes dropping lowest quiz score.

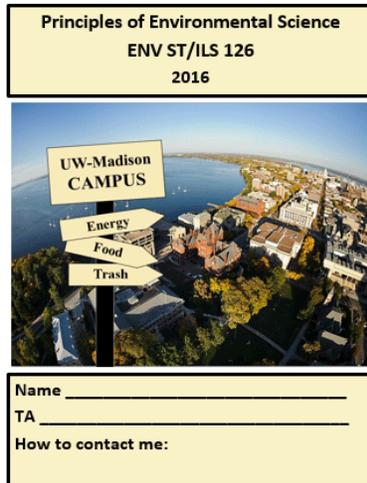
In-class quizzes	275 points (11 @25 each)
Surveys (weeks 1&16)	35 points
Laboratory activities	350 points (14 @25 each)
Exams	300 points (2 @ 150 each)
Final Exam	250 points
TOTAL	1210 points

Grade	% of the points
A	>92%
AB	90-92%
B	82-89.9%
BC	80-81.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	< 70% or missing 2 labs
F	< 65% or missing 3 labs

Given unforeseen circumstances (e.g., a blizzard one week), your instructor reserves the right to modify the grading scheme and/or correct any errors in it.

Textbooks

2016 Laboratory Investigations Manual for ENV ST / ILS 126



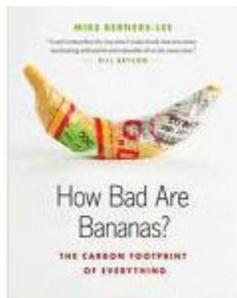
Cathy Middlecamp

with contributions from Tom Bryan, Tim Lindstrom, and Kata Dosa.

2016

3-ring binder \$40

Required and available for in the Chemistry Building (WiscCard only)



How Bad Are Bananas? The Carbon Footprint of Everything

Mike Berners-Lee

Greystone Books

2011

Paperback \$16.95

Kindle edition available

Instructors



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