Introduction to Environmental Sciences

Last Updated: Thu, 01/08/2026

Course prefix: EAS

Course number: 1600

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):
20821

Instructor First Name: Wing

Instructor Last Name: Chu

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Introduction to how the Earth functions as an integrated system through exploration of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and the biosphere. Laboratory exercises will supplement the lecture material.

Course learning outcomes:

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following

Learning Outcome:

- Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

Required course materials:

None.

Grading policy:

Your grade in this course will be based on your performance within the following categories:

- **Attendance (20%):** Grading is based on presence and active engagement (polls, discussions, questions). Professional conduct and consideration for classmates are expected.
- **Quizzes (30%):** Closed-note, timed quizzes administered via Canvas. These test previously discussed topics. Check the schedule for dates.

- **Labs (25%):** See the separate Laboratory Syllabus for grading details.
- **Final Exam (25%):** Cumulative exam covering all lectures. *Note: Your final quiz average can replace your Final Exam score.*

Attendance policy:

Attendance will be taken in class and is worth 20% of your course grade. We will discuss how to report your attendance when you arrive to the classroom

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the STEM area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I ask scientific questions or use data, mathematics, or technology to understand the universe?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will use the scientific method and laboratory procedures or mathematical and computational methods to analyze data, solve problems, and explain natural phenomena.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Inquiry and Analysis
- Problem-Solving
- Teamwork