

**Saint Louis Christian College**

GSC212N Natural Science

Vann Sample

3 Credit Hours

Spring 2012

2/14/2012 – 3/13/2012

Tuesdays (6 – 10 pm)

MISSION STATEMENT

*Saint Louis Christian College pursues excellence in the Word and develops servant-leaders for urban, suburban, rural, and global ministry.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to focus attention on the forces at work in nature from a Christian worldview perspective. The interrelationships of living things to their environment and to each other are discussed, and in particular man's impact on these relationships. Man's use and abuse of renewable and non-renewable resources are also considered.

COURSE RATIONALE

**This course is to provide a foundational basis for considering environmental impacts in our everyday lives.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the design, balance, and interconnected nature of God's created order.
2. To explore trends and changes in the dynamics of the environment.
3. To understand man's role as a steward of nature and the environment.
4. To appreciate cultural differences and approaches to environmental issues.
5. To understand the philosophical differences in the current debate about environmental policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Attendance is expected and will be part of the student's grade. Points will be awarded accordingly for each class period (or portion thereof) attended and the quality of the student's participation in classroom discussions.**

**Each student will be required to complete the following:**

- 1) Case-study review (take home)
- 2) Final exam (take-home)
- 3) The choice of submitting one of the following:
  - 3a. Periodical review
  - 3b. Research paper

The Student has a choice of an oral presentation or written paper for either of these submittals. Should a student elect to give an oral presentation for one of these writings, the length of the written submittal will be reduced 50% (3 – 5 typewritten pages in lieu of 6 – 10 typewritten pages).

Presentations should be no more than 10 minutes in length. All written submittals must conform to the College's standardized format and criteria. The final exam will be *comprehensive* and will include a variety of question types such as true/false, multiple choice, matching, with an emphasis on short answer and essay questions. Criteria for the case-study review will be provided separately by the instructor

#### COURSE ASSESSMENT (EVALUATION)

*Grades will be assigned based on the following criteria and weighting scale:*

ACTIVITY	POINTS	% OF GRADE
Participation/Attendance	250	25
Case Study	250	25
Writing Submittal/Presentation	250	25
Final Exam	250	25

**St. Louis Christian College has established the following grading system:**

<b>Superior</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>96 – 100</b>	<b>4.00</b>
	<b>A-</b>	<b>94 – 95</b>	<b>3.67</b>
	<b>B+</b>	<b>92 – 93</b>	<b>3.33</b>
<b>Good</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>88 – 91</b>	<b>3.00</b>
	<b>B-</b>	<b>86 – 87</b>	<b>2.67</b>
	<b>C+</b>	<b>84 – 85</b>	<b>2.33</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>80 – 83</b>	<b>2.00</b>
	<b>C-</b>	<b>78 – 79</b>	<b>1.67</b>
	<b>D+</b>	<b>76 – 77</b>	<b>1.33</b>
<b>Passing</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>72 – 75</b>	<b>1.00</b>
	<b>D-</b>	<b>70 – 71</b>	<b>0.67</b>
<b>Failing</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0 – 69</b>	<b>0.00</b>

#### COURSE SCHEDULE

***Read Chaps. 1 – 3 “prior” to first class meeting (all assigned reading is found in the textbook, A Community Guide to Environmental Health)***

**Class 1** - Introduction/Orientation/Environmental History/Christian Worldview/Public Health Issues/Energy & Matter/Human Design/Micro- Macro-evolution ... Read Chaps. 4-5

**Class 2** - Biodiversity/Adaptation/Population Control/Sustainable Development/ Geology/Soil & Agricultural Issues/Water Resources ... Read Chaps. 6 & 9

**Class 3** - Aquatic Habitats/Hydrological Cycle/Pollution Issues/ Forestry/Land Use/Wildlife & Endangered Species ... Read Chaps. 15 & 16

- Class 4** - Climate/Atmospheric Concerns/Air Pollution/ Renewable Energy Sources/Environmental Economics **Case Study Review Due ... Read Chaps. 18, 20 & 23**
- Class 5** - Hazardous Chemicals/Toxicity Studies, Environmental Regulations, Policies & Law **Research-Periodical Reviews Due/Student Presentations ...**
- Class 6** - **Final Exam Due (NO CLASS MEETING)**

#### STUDENT LEARNING RESOURCES (BIBLIOGRAPHY)

#### TEXTBOOKS:

1. ***A Community Guide to Environmental Health, Conant & Fadem, Hesperian, 094236456-2 – Downloadable ([http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/en\\_cgeh\\_2008/en\\_cgeh\\_2008\\_enviroBook4DL.pdf](http://hesperian.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/en_cgeh_2008/en_cgeh_2008_enviroBook4DL.pdf))***

#### OTHER RESOURCES:

**Optional Reading - Persuaded by the Evidence, Doug Sharp & Jerry Bergman, 9780890515457, Masterbooks**

**Botkin, Daniel and Keller, Edward, 2004. Environmental Science, Student Review Guide: Earth as a Living Planet, Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.**

**Lomborg, Bjorn, 2004. *The Skeptical Environmentalist: Measuring the Real State of the World*, Cambridge: Cambridge University.**

**Botkin & Keller, 2005. *Environmental Science: Earth as a Living Planet*. New York: Wiley & Sons.**

**Schoch, Robert, 1996. *Case Studies in Environmental Science*. Minneapolis: West Publishing.**

**Miller, G., 2004. *Living In The Environment*. Pacific Grove: Brooks/Cole Publishing. Brooks/Cole Science Page ([www.brookscole.com](http://www.brookscole.com)) / Environmental News Service ([www.ens-newswire.com](http://www.ens-newswire.com)) / Ecological Society of America ([www.esa.org](http://www.esa.org))**

**Middleton, Nick, 2003, *The Global Casino: An Introduction To Environmental Issues*. New York: Oxford University Press.**

#### COURSE POLICIES

- *Unless an extenuating circumstance is involved, any missed exam must be made up within a week of the scheduled exam date, or a drop in one letter grade will result. Each assignment that is turned in late will be dropped a letter grade for the final, unless prior notification and a reasonable excuse is provided to the instructor.*
- *If you have a diagnosed learning disability, please see personnel in The Hundred (Student Center for Success) to discuss strategies that would enhance your ability to learn. The professor cannot implement any special accommodations without authorization from The Hundred.*
- *Please understand that the Professor reserves the right to modify this course plan by changing topics, due dates, or even an assignment as long as it does not add to the students' workload.*

- *Laptop computers and other electronic communication devices are prohibited from use while the class is in session. Such devices can be used during break periods only.*

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Phone Number:** 636/699-2915c 636/332/1424h  
**E-mail:** vann.sample@centurytel.net