Instructor: Emmett N. Lombard  
E-mail: lombard@oakland.edu  
Office: 427 Varner  
Class Time: On-line course  
Office Phone: 2359  
lombard@oakland.edu

Course (Catalog) Description: Overview of inter-related environmental and resource issues at the regional and global levels and current institutions, laws and policies for addressing them. Issues include human population and consumption, climate change, biodiversity, trade/environment linkages, water resources, role of business and international organizations.

This class satisfies the General Education requirements in the Integration (Knowledge Applications) area.  
This class satisfies the General Education requirement either for a writing intensive course in the major or for writing intensive in General Education (but not both).

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites: none

General Education Learning Outcomes:

1. How knowledge in a field outside of the student’s major can be evaluated and applied to solve problems across a range of applications.
2. Knowledge of the personal, professional, ethical and societal implications of these applications.

Cross-Cutting Capacity: Social Awareness

Course Objectives:

Students will demonstrate in depth knowledge of human and ecological health issues at the global level.

Students will inform readers about risks to human and ecological health associated with current population and consumption patterns, biodiversity decline, and government and corporate behavior.

Required Text(s) and Supporting Course Material:

www.earthtrends.org  
Supplementary material will be available on-line.

Course Procedures: on-line course

Grade Determination: Evaluations of student performance will be based on three writing assignments (60%), bi-weekly discussion questions (20%), and the final examination (20%). The final exam consists of a series of essay questions that are to be answered in a minimum of two (2) typewritten pages per question. It is a comprehensive examination.
Papers are to be 7-10 typed pages in length, including bibliographic material. For these assignments, students are required to inform the public about “risks” to human and ecological health at the global level. These exercises are designed to prepare the student to help others understand global environmental issues by providing sound, basic information. The papers address the following questions: How serious is the actual risk? What specific health or environmental standards are in jeopardy? Who is responsible? What is being done about it (i.e. what policies are now in effect; how effective they are)? What are the professional, ethical and societal implications of these actions? Are there reasonable alternatives to conditions that pose risks? What are the trade-offs (or benefits), if any? What can readers do about it? Please see below for due dates. Grading of papers is based on the following: 33% organization (including introduction, body, and conclusion), 33% content (relevance of material used), 33% writing mechanics (including proper grammar, citation, bibliography, etc.).

Papers are to be submitted by 12:00 PM on the due dates listed below via Oakland University email address only. Federal law prohibits email communication of student data and information via any other than your Oakland University email account.

Weekly Discussion Questions:

Final Exam: Students also should submit their final exam no later than 12:00 PM on December 11. As with papers, proper citation is important (including full bibliographic info on all outside sources). Page length for each answer is a minimum of 2 typewritten pages.

Note: Final grades will be recorded based on the standard OU format (e.g. 98-100=4.0; 96-97=3.9; 94-95=3.8…, etc.).

Class Schedule and Topical Outline: The schedule below indicates specific topical material to be covered, and reading/homework assignments. The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to this schedule. Please consult your Moodle News Forum for information about discussion sessions and supplemental sources.

(Week of):

Part I: Global Scale Environmental Challenges

September 3
Speth and Haas, Chapters 1-2
Brown, Chapter 1

September 10
Brown, Chapters 2-6

September 17
Earthtrends (www.earthtrends.org): under Population, Health and Human Well-being
“Findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: How do the Poor Fare?”
“Health, Environment, and Poverty”
“Life on a Dollar A Day”
“The Dimensions of Poverty”
http://www.sierraclub.org/population/consumption/
“Population, Consumption, and Our Ecological Footprint”

Part II: The Natural World

September 24
Oswald Schmitz, chapters 1-4
Introduction: Ecosystem Conservation: The Need for Ecological Science
The Science of Ecology
Climate: Template for Global Biodiversity
Ecological Limits and the Size of Populations
September 29 (12:00 am): First Paper Due: “Risks to Human and Ecosystem Health: Population and Consumption.”

October 1
Oswald Schmitz, chapters 5-7
   Viability of Threatened Species
   Biodiversity and Habitat Fragmentation
   The Web of Life: Connections in Space and Time

October 8
Oswald Schmitz, chapters 8-10
   Ecosystem Services of Biodiversity
   Protecting Biological Diversity and Ecosystem function
   The Good of a Species: Toward a Science-Based Ecosystem Conservation Ethic

October 15
Earthtrends (www.earthtrends.org)
   All articles under Biodiversity and Protected Areas

   Part III: Myths, Markets, & Values

October 22
Frank Ackerman and Lisa Heinzerling, chapters 1-3
   Prices Without Values
   Myths and Markets
   The Unicorns of Deregulation

October 27 (12:00am): Second Paper Due: “Risks to Human and Ecosystem Health: Biodiversity Decline.”

October 29
Frank Ackerman and Lisa Heinzerling, chapters 4-6
   The $6.1 Million Question
   An Ounce of Prevention
   Dreadful Events

November 5
Frank Ackerman and Lisa Heinzerling, chapters 7-9
   Unnatural Markets
   Honey, I Shrunk the Future
   Values Without Prices

   Part IV: Global Environmental Governance

November 12
James Gustave Speth and Peter Haas, chapters 3-4
   From Stockholm to Johannesburg: First Attempt at Global Environmental Governance
   Environmental Accord: Treaties and International Environmental Law

November 19
James Gustave Speth and Peter Haas, chapters 5-6
   Key Actors, Expanding Roles: The UN, International Organizations, and Civil Society
   Paths to the Future: A Second Attempt at Global Environmental Governance?

November 26
Lester Brown, chapters 7-10

December 3
Lester Brown, chapters 11-13

December 3 (12:00am): Third Paper Due: “Risks to Human and Ecosystem Health: Corporate Behavior.”

Final Exam due December 11 (12:00am)