

EIU 4190G

Spaceship Earth: The Present State (Honors) Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. Matthew E. Brueseke (that's breeze-uh-key)

Office: 2030 Physical Science

Telephone: 581-2827

Email: mebrueseke@eiu.edu

Office hours:

M: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

T: 1:00 -3:00 pm

W: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

For the most part, if I am in my office, consider it an office hour. I am usually around all week, so just stop by! If, however, you would like to schedule a specific time outside of these hours, please talk to me after class or email me.

Class time: Tuesday 5:30-8:50 pm; 2060 Physical Science

Web sites

My website: <http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~mebrueseke/> Check here often for course related announcements and notes.

Scope of Course

During this course, we will discuss the Earth - its potentials and limitations. We will debate the effect that humans have on the planet, and how we are changing the world on which we are trying to live. This course will focus on how people's knowledge and values influence decisions about the conservation and management of natural resources. Through the use of local and international examples and case studies, the course will explore how we can incorporate information about people's beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors into the process of resource management. Students will develop practical skills in environmental communication and analysis of resource management issues, as well as an understanding of the nature of humans on the Earth. I hope that you'll gain an appreciation of science and the world around us - specifically how the Earth can, and does, relate to your life and community.

Students with Disabilities (Whether learning, physical, psychiatric, or sensory)

Eastern Illinois University promotes equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities. If you have a disability and may need any assistance, please notify your instructor and make an appointment immediately with the Office of Disability Services (9th Street Hall, or Office Phone: 581-6583, Voice TTY: 581-6583, Fax: 581-7208, or <http://www.eiu.edu/~disabltty>)

Make-ups, Missed, and Late Assignments:

Because this is a senior seminar, I expect you to attend class. If you do miss class (unless it is an unusual circumstance and you have talked to me ahead of time), **you will be docked 5% off** of your final grade for each missed class. Also, late assignments will not be accepted.

Classroom policy

You are in this class to learn, so disruptions will not be tolerated. Not only is this disruptive to me, but also to your fellow classmates. With this in mind, I ask that you arrive to the class on time and that there are no outside conversations or other distractions brought into class. Pagers, beepers, or cell phones are not allowed to ring in class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Grading

Grades will be based on writing (60%), participation (25%), and an oral presentation (15%). Weekly writing submissions will be critiqued each week and returned as feedback for subsequent assignments. A larger writing assignment will be completed for submission in partial fulfillment of the Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP) requirements. In class discussions will be based on the required reading and *your* quick thinking.

Class participation from everybody is vital for the course to be any fun, and this course will only work with active participation from all students. The more discussion, the better! Thus, you will be graded on your weekly participation which includes: contributions to course discussions and presentation of a topic(s). Contributions to course discussions will be assessed based on evidence of completing course readings as well as active participation

in discussions with the instructor and other students. In addition, students will lead (individually or in pairs) at least one discussion on a chosen topic based on the readings. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor if he/she has special circumstances and conditions which require absence(s). Make-up assignments may be required in the case of a missed class. **Just coming to class is not the same as participating in class!!!**

Reading Summaries: You have to read the assigned readings before the class they are listed for discussion in, and at the beginning of that class, turn in a two page summary of the readings. In each summary, I expect to find a summary of the assigned reading(s) and your reaction to the reading(s). There are a total of 12 summaries.

Term Paper: You will have to write one paper. Topics must be approved (**via email**) by the third class period (Jan. 23). A draft of the paper must be turned in by February 27 for initial comments (which will be turned around ASAP), and then revised before March 27 (which is when the final version is due). This paper will be submitted in partial fulfillment of the Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP) requirements (<http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/>).

So you are asking yourself, what am I going to write about? Well, there's really only one major guideline: Your paper should be about an environmental issue that affects you, the community that you associate yourself with, your major, etc. For instance, if you are an art major, you might discuss the types of problems that can occur by being exposed to the hazardous materials you work with on a daily basis. Or, maybe you grew up in an agricultural community and are interested in how an increased demand for ethanol could benefit your community. Whatever you choose, please choose a topic that is interesting to you. Also, it is up to you to decide the term paper/presentation topic. I'll certainly help you if you want, but I will not pick your topic for you (please come see me if you are having trouble deciding what to research). More details will be provided later.

Purdue University Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>. This website is a great resource and has guides for both APA and MLA formatting for references (including websites).

Oral Presentation: The last two course meetings will be set aside for each student to give a 10-minute oral presentation on the topic of your term paper. This presentation will be done on PowerPoint and will satisfy the Speaking Across the Curriculum (SAC) portion of your EIU assessment. More detailed information will be provided later.

<u>Percentage of Grade</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
25	Participation/presentation
30	Weekly summaries (12)
15	Final oral presentation
3	Term paper draft
27	Term paper

Total percentage that is based on writing: 60%. The grading scale will be based on the following:

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
0 - 59% = F

So what are we going to be covering?... Readings will be assigned/provided that correspond to the following topics:

- **January 9:** Introduction and overview of course; Earth's History/Geology.
- **January 16:** Environmental Policy and Practice. Readings: Issues 1 and 7 (Easton)
- **January 23:** **Term paper topic due.** Pollution. Readings: Issues 17 and 19 (Easton)
- **January 30:** Resource management issues- Oil and energy dependence.
 - #1: Safe, strong, and secure: Reducing America's oil dependence (from NRDC)
<http://www.nrdc.org/air/transportation/gasprices.asp>
 - #2: Congress bets on oil shale (from the High Country News)
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15976
- **February 6:** Resource management issues- Alternative energy. Articles from High Country News:
 - #1: The winds of change
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15466
 - #2: Magic Valley uprising
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=16262
- **February 13:** Resource management issues- Land. Articles from High Country News:
 - #1: Who will take over the ranch?
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=14648
 - #2: The big buyout
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15398
- **February 20:** Resource management issues- Water. Articles from High Country News:
 - #1: Arizona returns to the desert
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15361
 - #2: The perpetual growth machine
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=16350
- **February 27:** **Draft of term paper due.** Resource management issues- Mining & associated problems.
 - #1: Closing the wounds (from the High Country News)
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=10885
 - #2: In search of the glory days (from the High Country News)
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=13608
- **March 6:** Biodiversity.
 - #1: Reading: Issue 4 (Easton)
- **March 20:** Global climate change.
 - #1 Written in the Rings (from the High Country News)
http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.Article?article_id=15219
 - #2 Reading: Issue 9 (Easton)
- **March 27:** **Final draft of term paper due.** Global population issues. Reading: Issue 13 (Easton).
- **April 3:** Fair Trade. *Reading (s) to be announced.* Assessment period using Watson-Glazer Critical Thinking Test (30 minutes) and completion of Global Citizenship Survey if not already completed.
- **April 10:** Future perspectives - where do we want to go and how do we get there? Reading: Issue 2 (Easton).
- **April 17:** First half of class gives 10-minute presentations.
- **April 24:** Remainder of class gives 10-minute presentations. Final class summary