

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
Faculty of Health Sciences
Department of Environmental Health

ENHL 200

ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

Spring 2023-2024

Course Syllabus

Course Description in the Catalogue:

ENHL 200 (3 credits): This course exposes students to major local and global environmental issues relating to air, water, land and energy and the importance of proper integrated management to promote and protect public health and achieve sustainable development. In addition, the course highlights the importance of environmental laws and policies as major tools in the management of environmental health issues. Environmental ethics is also emphasized as a critical core factor of the management process. The importance of environmental awareness of different stakeholders is exposed as a means to achieve proposed objectives.

Course Instructor:

Dr. Joumana Nasr

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Ext.: 4631

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays between 8.45 am and 10.00 am or by appointment

Time & Delivery Mode of the Course:

(N.B: the timings below should be reserved for the course, throughout the semester)

Days: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 12.30 -1.45

Location of the Class Sessions: Van Dyck Building- Room 203

Course Delivery Mode: The course abides by AUBs' announcements and updates relating to the AUB courses' delivery mode.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Explain the connections between what we as humans do to the environment and what the environment, in turn, does to our health.
- 2. Define the human activities that contribute to the improvement or deterioration of the environment.
- 3. Identify the interactions between the environment, society, economy and health.
- 4. Explain various ways to deal ethically with our environment.

Assessment of the Learning Outcomes:

Course Learning Outcome	Assessment of the Learning Outcome
1. Explain the connections between what we as humans do to the environment and what the environment, in turn, does to our health.	Exams, Project
2. Define the human activities that contribute to the improvement or deterioration of the environment.	Exams, Project
3. Identify the interactions between the environment, society, economy and health.	Exams, Project
4. Introduce various ways to deal ethically with our environment.	Exams, Project

Teaching Strategy:

- The course mainly consists of lectures. Moreover, to enhance the learning process, the course includes case studies and receives guest speakers.
- The course will be delivered as follows:
 - ✓ Lectures:
 - The lectures will be explained in class and will be posted on Moodle in the form of regular Power Point (PP).
 - Students are expected to attend the in-person class sessions and study using the posted regular power point lectures.
 - ✓ Case study:
 - The case studies will be discussed in class, as part of the course (as per the course outline on page 6).
- Timed Exams (midterm exam & final exam) and a project (outline & presentation) will be used to evaluate the students' performance.

Course Requirements, Policies & Evaluation:

Students' Background:

The course is a science elective for freshman students only.

Studying Method:

- Students should study for the course from/using the posted lectures (in the form of Power Points), which are extensively written.
- After a Power Point lecture is posted on Moodle, the student is required to check it, understand it and study it.
- For the case studies, students should go over their class notes, after the class discussions (as per the course outline on page 6).

Course Evaluation:

- Midterm Exam (timed exam): 35% (*individual grade*)
- Final Exam (timed exam): 30% (*individual grade*)
- Project: 25%
 - ✓ Outline: 5% (*group grade*)
 - ✓ Presentation: 20% (*10% individual grade & 10 % group grade*)
- Attendance: 5% (*individual grade*)
- Participation (class participation in discussions & case studies): 5% (*individual grade*)

N.B.

1) Failure to take a scheduled exam or submit any assignment (project's outline/power point presentation) on time will result in a **zero** being recorded for that exam/assignment. Make-up exams will be given only to students who ask for it and provide a very valid excuse. Midterm make-up exams will be scheduled within around 10 days of the original examination date.

2) A student who misses a class/course session, for any reason, is responsible for the material covered in class and for the announcements mentioned in class. Moreover, he/she is responsible to study the corresponding lecture/material posted on Moodle (in the form of regular power point, for the lectures) and get back to the course instructor in case of any question relating to the lecture/material.

3) Plagiarism & Academic Integrity: The American University of Beirut has a strict anti-cheating and anti-plagiarism policy. Please familiarize yourself with definitions and penalties. "Students who fail to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another commit plagiarism. Putting your name on a piece of work—any part of which is not yours— constitutes plagiarism, unless that piece is clearly marked and the work from which you have borrowed it is fully identified. Plagiarism is a violation of the university's academic regulations and is subject to disciplinary action". (AUB Catalogue). *Moreover, Kindly note that all work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else- including AI sources constitutes an academic integrity violation.*

Course Material Included in the Exams:

Course Material Included in the Midterm Exam: (Date of the Midterm Exam: **Tuesday March 5, 2024**)

- ❖ Ambient Air Pollution
- ❖ Indoor Air Quality: The Building Related Illness & Sick Building Syndrome
- ❖ Water Scarcity: Causes, Implications and Management Strategies
- ❖ Drinking Water Quality & Control
- ❖ Food Quality & Control
- ❖ Sustainable Management of Food
- ❖ Case Study 1
- ❖ Case Study 2

Course Material Included in the Final Exam: (Date of the Final Exam: **to be assigned by the registrar**)

- ❖ Urbanization and Sustainable Development
- ❖ Toxicology and Occupational Health Hazards
- ❖ Politics, laws and the Environment
- ❖ Economics and the Environment
- ❖ Ethics and the Environmental Worldviews
- ❖ Case Study 3

The Projects (outline & power point presentation):

- The project entails (1) *an outline and (2) a power point presentation (to be presented by all group members, in class)*, relating to a specific topic.
- Students will divide themselves/be divided into small groups to work on their project. The list of students registered in this course will be shared on Moodle to facilitate the students' groups' members' selection process.
- The topics of the projects will be posted on Moodle, early in the semester. The groups will be given the chance to select the topic of their interest (as much as possible), during the class session of Tuesday February 6, 2024. During that session, the remaining topics will be distributed using a draw.
- The Projects' Guidelines (grading scale, power point presentation content and duration...etc.) will be posted on Moodle, early in the semester and then will be discussed and explained during the class session of Tuesday February 6, 2024.
- After the discussion and explanation of the Projects' Guidelines, during the class session of Tuesday February 6, 2024, the groups will have to work on their projects, throughout the semester. The groups will submit the outlines first (on: Thursday February 15, 2024), get feedback on their outlines (on: Tuesday February 20, 2024/Thursday February 22, 2024) and then proceed from their in preparing the power point presentations.
- In case any of the groups got further specific questions relating to the project, at any point during the semester, the group can get back to me with the specific questions.

- If group members feel that one of them is not doing his/her part of the work, in the group, and is not being cooperative, they should inform the course instructor, by sending a clear and detailed e-mail (copying all group members), early in the semester.
- Outline Submission Date & Power Point Presentations Dates: The date of the submission of the outline, on Moodle, is **Thursday February 15, 2024** and the in class power point presentations' dates are **Tuesday April 9, 2024- Thursday April 11, 2024-Tuesday April 16, 2024-Thursday April 18, 2024** (Check the course outline on page 6)

Course Drop Date:

The last day for a student to withdraw from this course is **Thursday April 11, 2024**. By that time, any student with a grade below 60 is advised to withdraw.

Code of Conduct:

Any attempt of cheating, plagiarism, disruption, dishonesty or any other misconduct would be dealt with according to the AUB rules and regulations (check the AUB Students' Code of Conduct).

Students' Comments on Course Procedures and Policies:

Students' feedback on any aspect of this course is welcomed. It is recommended to discuss your comments with me individually.

Students with Special Needs:

AUB strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (such as ADHD, learning difficulties, mental health conditions, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please do not hesitate to inform the Accessible Education Office. In order to ensure that you receive the support you need and to facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you must register with the Accessible Education Office (AEO) as soon as possible: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; [+961-1-350000](tel:+961-1-350000), x3246; West Hall, 314”.

Non-Discrimination – Title IX – AUB:

AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to, and protects, all students, faculty, and staff. If you think you have experienced discrimination or harassment, including sexual misconduct, we encourage you to tell someone promptly. If you speak to a faculty or staff member about an issue such as harassment, sexual violence, or discrimination, the information will be kept as private as possible, however, faculty and designated staff are required to bring it to the attention of the University's Title IX Coordinator. Faculty can refer you to fully confidential resources, and you can find information and contacts at www.aub.edu.lb/titleix. To report an incident, contact the University's Title IX Coordinator Ms. Mitra Tauk at 01-350000 ext. 2514, or titleix@aub.edu.lb. An anonymous report may be submitted online via Ethics Point at www.aub.ethicspoint.com.

Course Outline:

Session Number	Lecture Number	Day	Date	Topic	Corresponding Learning Outcomes
1	-----	R	18.1.24	Syllabus	-----
2	1	T	23.1.24	Ambient Air Pollution	1-2
3	2	R	25.1.24	Indoor Air Quality: The Building Related Illness & Sick Building Syndrome	1-2
4	3	T	30.1.24	Water Scarcity: Causes, Implications and Management Strategies	1-2
5	4	R	1.2.24	Drinking Water Quality & Control	1-2
6	-----	T	6.2.24	Projects (Distribution of Topics & Discussion/Explanation of Guidelines)	-----
7	5	R	8.2.24	Food Quality & Control	1-2
8	-----	T	13.2.24	Case Study 1	1-2-3-4
9	6	R	15.2.24	Sustainable Management of Food Outline Submission (On Moodle)	1-2
10	-----	T	20.2.24	Feedback on Outlines	-----
11	-----	R	22.2.24	Feedback on Outlines	-----
12	-----	T	27.2.24	Case Study 2	1-2-3-4
13	-----	R	29.2.24	TBA	-----
14	-----	T	5.3.24	MIDTERM EXAM (at 12.30 p.m) <i>Timed exam</i>	-----
15	7	R	7.3.24	<i>Guest Lecturer: Energy: A Global Challenge</i>	1-2
16	8	T	12.3.24	Urbanization and Sustainable Development	1-2-3
17	9	R	14.3.24	Toxicology & Occupational Health Hazards	1-2-3
18	10	T	19.3.24	Politics, Laws and the Environment	1-2-3
19	11	R	21.3.24	Economics and the Environment	1-2-3
20	12	T	26.3.24	Ethics and The Environmental Worldviews + Case Study 3	1-2-3-4
21	13	R	28.3.24	<i>Guest Lecturer: Environmental Awareness and Education</i>	1-2-3-4
22	14	T	2.4.24	<i>Guest Lecturer : Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</i>	1-2-3
23	-----	R	4.4.24	Critical Thinking Exercise	1-2-3-4
24	-----	T	9.4.24	Power Point Presentations	1-2-3-4
25	-----	R	11.4.24	Power Point Presentations	1-2-3-4
26	-----	T	16.4.24	Power Point Presentations	1-2-3-4
27	-----	R	18.4.24	Power Point Presentations	1-2-3-4
28	-----	T	23.4.24	TBA	-----
29	-----	R	25.4.24	TBA	-----

* This is the best forecast I can make for the course, for the time being. Changes (delivery mode, course outline...etc...), if any, will be introduced in due time.

* The date and time of the timed Final Exam will be assigned by the registrar.

* TBA: To be assigned. / *T: Tuesday/ *R: Thursday

Important Information:

- The Midterm Exam is a timed exam, which will be held on **Tuesday March 5, 2024** (in class/during class time).
- The Final Exam is a timed exam (date, time and location will be assigned by the registrar)
- Checking the AUB e-mail and Moodle on daily basis is a must. Students are responsible for any announcement/information sent to them by e-mail or posted on Moodle.
- This is the best forecast I can make for the course, for the time being. Changes (delivery mode, course outline ...etc....), if any, will be introduced in due time.
- The course instructor reserves the right to do group members' changes, after students decide on their project's groups, if need be.
- Make sure to familiarize yourself with the students' code of conduct and AUB rules and regulations.
- Online sessions may be scheduled whenever needed.
- The course, in all its aspects, follows AUB rules and regulations and abides by AUB's announcements and updates relating to the AUB courses' delivery mode.
- By signing up for this course, you confirm that you have read and accepted the information mentioned in this syllabus.

Some Important Dates:

- Outline Submission: *Thursday February 15, 2024*
- Midterm Exam: *Tuesday March 5, 2024*
- Power Point Presentations: *Tuesday April 9, 2024- Thursday April 11, 2024 -Tuesday April 16, 2024- Thursday April 18, 2024.*

Lectures' References:

The references used in every lecture are listed at the end of the lecture.

*Enjoy the Semester
&
Good Luck*