I. INTRODUCTION
A. Environmental science is an interdisciplinary study that draws from the physical, biological, and social sciences. It attempts to understand how life on Earth is sustained, what leads to environmental problems, and how to manage these problems.
B. This course satisfies the science requirements in most curricula. As a 4-credit hour course, there is a lecture and laboratory component.
C. Prerequisite: basic math skills

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:
A. Understand scientific principles pertinent to environmental science.
B. Understand ecology and evolution.
C. Identify natural resources and ecological services.
D. Identify root causes of environmental problems.
E. Acquire knowledge of environmental processes and how human systems can affect them.
F. Use scientific knowledge and critical thinking skills to understand and assess environmental problems.
G. Elaborate on environmental issues related to population growth, land and water use, fishing and agriculture, biodiversity, air and water pollution, environmental health and toxicology, energy, and waste management.
H. Define environmental sustainability and the precautionary principle.
I. Work independently and cooperatively in a laboratory setting.
J. Develop questioning, investigating, and analyzing skills.
K. Apply the scientific method.
L. Convey information in a scientific, coherent and concise manner.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
A. Required Textbook: The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE PARTICIPATION
A. Class Participation: Students are expected to attend lecture and lab during their scheduled time. Leaving class early will be counted as an absence, unless it has already been excused. See section VII below for information on consequences of insufficient attendance. You may be able to attend a later lecture if your absence is excused. Otherwise, you should get the notes from another student.

B. Laboratory Activities: Participation in lab is required. There may be an occasional outdoor lab exercise. You may be able to attend another lab section if your absence is excused—you must make arrangements with instructor first.

V. COURSE WORK
A. Lecture Exams: You will take 4 lecture exams during your scheduled lecture time. These exams consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Exams cover lecture material and related readings from assigned chapters. If you do not take the exam during the scheduled time, you will get a zero for it. Any student may take the optional comprehensive lecture exam that will be given as the final lecture exam. If the grade on this exam is better, it will replace the grade of your lowest-scoring lecture exam.

B. Lab Quizzes: Lab quizzes will cover material covered in lab exercises. It is your responsibility to check answers to questions in lab manual. If you do not take the exam during the scheduled time, you will get a zero for it. Any student may take the optional comprehensive lab quiz that will be given as the final lab quiz. If the grade on this quiz is better, it will replace the grade of your lower-scoring lab quiz.

C. Extra Credit:
   1. You may do one article review worth 20 points. See ‘ii Article Review Guidelines’ in the lab manual for more information.
2. You may also earn up to 20 participation points depending on instructor’s observations made throughout the semester – of class attendance, contribution to discussions, involvement in lab exercises, interactions with classmates, civility, overall attitude, etc.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

Your course grade is based on a total of 1000 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>000-599</td>
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</table>

You are expected to keep track of your grades as you receive them. Your course grade is based on a total of 1,000 points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Grade (%)</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 5</td>
<td>lecture exam 1</td>
<td>130</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 - 9</td>
<td>lecture exam 2</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>12, 15, 16</td>
<td>lecture exam 3</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>10, 13, 14</td>
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<td>130</td>
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<td>lab quiz 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>lab quiz 3</td>
<td>160</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Course Withdrawal: It is the student’s responsibility to officially withdraw from a course if circumstances prevent attendance. To do so, complete and sign the Central Texas College Application for Withdrawal (CTC Form 59) any time prior to Friday the 12th week of classes during the 16-week fall and spring semesters. The deadline for withdrawal is published each semester in the Schedule Bulletin. A student may not withdraw from a class for which the instructor has previously issued the student a grade of “F” or “FN” for nonattendance.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: An administrative withdrawal may be initiated when the student fails to meet College attendance requirements. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course if the student has more than 4 absences. For example, I may withdraw you from this course if you miss 2 lectures and 2 labs. Such insufficient attendance may result in a grade of “FN” if the deadline for withdrawal has passed.

C. Incomplete Grade: If a student has made satisfactory progress in a course with the exception of a major quiz, final exam, or other project, the instructor may – after reviewing documentation showing the reason for missed work – grant a temporary grade of incomplete, “IP”. See current college catalog for more information.

D. American’s With Disabilities Act (ADA): Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at [www.ctcd.edu/disability-support](http://www.ctcd.edu/disability-support) for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

E. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and be respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Examples of uncivil conduct in class include, but are not limited to: eating or drinking; talking; using inappropriate language; use of electronic media for communication or entertainment; tardiness, leaving class early. Note that all of these activities distract other students and disrupt their learning experience. The offending student may or may not be given a warning before a CTC Counseling and Disciplinary Referral Form is filed and may receive disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. See Student Handbook for more information.

F. Cheating: It will not be tolerated and may result in a grade of zero for that assignment. You may not leave the room until your exam is turned in. The instructor will judge whether copying has occurred and determine the proper consequence. A formal charge against the student may be made to the College Disciplinary Board.

G. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

H. Courtesy: Students are expected to discuss any course-related issue or problem with their instructor first. If the problem has not been resolved at that level, students may contact the Head of the Science Department.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE on BlackBoard