



<http://www.dmacc.edu>

**CAMPUS NAME:** Ankeny

**COURSE TITLE:** Environmental Conservation

**COURSE NUMBER:** ENV 115

**SECTION NUMBER & CRN:** A (20043), G (24686), H (24748), & I (25371)

- Sections G & I are from 8:00-8:55am in building 4 room 13B
- Sections A & H are from 9:05-10:00am in building 2 room 25A

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Curtis Eckerman

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** [cmeckerman@dmacc.edu](mailto:cmeckerman@dmacc.edu)

**PHONE NUMBER:** 515.965.7326

**FAX NUMBER:** 515.965.7083

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Building 04 Room 12

**OFFICE HOURS/APPOINTMENTS:** MWF 10:00am – 12:00pm

**INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION:** I have been teaching this course here at DMACC for 6 years as a full time instructor. Prior to my time at DMACC I taught various courses ranging from biology to Zoology at other campuses of DMACC, Grandview, Iowa State University, El Paso Community College and The University of Texas at El Paso. My primary interests lie in evolution, biogeography and herpetology (the study of reptiles and amphibians). My research focus has been on snakes and turtles with emphasis on endangered species. Environmental Conservation fits into my interests perfectly because all of the issues that threaten species are primarily human caused and can be prevented by humans. I consider myself to be a very active educator and find that my calling is to help people understand the things that they do and how it affects their environment. However, I think you will find that I have a very different approach to Environmental Conservation than other teachers. I am a scientist first and as such I always focus on facts and am not afraid of evidence that may be contrary to the way I think. One of the biggest lessons I hope you get out of this course is that you shouldn't be afraid to be wrong because in the arena of science it will be the only way you can progress. I would argue that this philosophy could carry you far in any endeavor you pursue including politics. I will certainly be practicing this in our classroom.

**INSTRUCTOR WEB PAGE ADDRESS:** <http://www.dmacc.edu/instructors/cmeckerman>

**COURSE WEBPAGE:** <http://www.dmacc.edu/instructors/cmeckerman/ENV115.html>

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**SEMESTER/YEAR:** Spring 2012

**DATE SYLLABUS CREATED AND/OR REVISED:** 08 January 2012

**DAYS & TIME & LOCATION:**

- Sections G & I are from 8:00-8:55am in building 4 room 13B
- Sections A & H are from 9:05-10:00am in building 2 room 25A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & CREDITS:** <http://www.dmacc.edu/courses/crsrod.asp>

“This course combines the basic principles of ecology with current environmental issues including energy, land use, pesticides, and pollution. Wildlife, fisheries, forestry, soil and water conservation practices are emphasized. It is designed for the non-science major.” This description comes directly from the DMACC website. I would like to also add that this class is about issues that are important to society at large and we will attempt to shed light on why these issues are often controversial and why there are different opinions on these subjects.

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COURSE COMPETENCIES:** <http://go.dmacc.edu/competencies/Documents/ENV115.pdf>

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** Make no mistake, this is a lecture class. There is a separate lab (ENV 116) that is meant to be a “hands on” learning approach to what is taught in this course. However, this course is of material that also lends itself to group and class discussions. I will utilize both lectures and discussions in the class to help you understand these issues presented. This is also a science class at its core. The level of science in this course can be intense at times but this is necessary to understanding the course content. However, I make the assumption that those in my class are not science majors and need background material to bring them up to speed. This class **IS** about science and it **IS** about politics. This class **IS NOT** about an easy science credit. A tentative lecture schedule is attached. You are responsible for all material presented to you in class that will mirror that which can be found in your text book. If you must miss a lecture it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a classmate when necessary. Attendance and attention in lecture is **vital** to your success.

**STUDY TIPS:** Study the assigned chapters that we are covering, which will help you follow the content of the lecture. It is best to do this reading before class but it will still help to read it after we have covered the material as a review. Review your lecture notes. Ask questions. Students are expected to devote three hours of study time for each contact hour. If you miss any lecture, it is your responsibility to obtain the notes from a classmate as soon as possible. You will also find that I post notes on the web so you will have access to those at all times. The content of this course builds on itself throughout the semester. Consequently, it is important that students master early concepts, as they will become building blocks for concepts introduced later in the course. Students should seek extra help (tutoring, come in to office hours, etc.) as soon as possible if they feel that they are getting behind on the course material.

**HOW THE COURSE FITS INTO THE CURRICULUM:** This course often serves as a core science course for many degrees here at DMACC. It is treated as a non-majors class but satisfies the 3 hours of science requirement many of you have.

## TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & ISBN:

Withgott and Brennan. 2009.

*Essential Environment: The science behind the stories*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Pearson/Benjamin Cummings.

\*\* This is a custom edition of the book.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** You will also need the Workbook that comes with the text.

## COURSE POLICIES

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:** In the past I have not required attendance to this class. However, in an effort to help you succeed in this class I now require attendance. Attendance will be treated as a grade based on your percentage of attendance. Considering that your attendance grade is worth 10% of your total grade this is not trivial.

**GRADING CRITERIA:** Your final grade will be determined from attendance, 4 lecture exams, and a final exam. Attendance will be worth 10% of your grade (see more information below) while lecture exams and the final will be worth 90% of your grade. The final exam **WILL** be comprehensive.

### Grading Scale:

**A 100-90%**

**B 89-80%**

**C 79-70%**

**D 69-60%**

**F less than 60%**

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** <https://go.dmacc.edu/handbook>

1) **No Food, drink, tobacco or gum** can be permitted in the classroom. This classroom also serves as a lab and OSHA and DMACC regulations stipulate that they are not to be allowed in the class. 2) Cell Phones **MUST** be turned off and put away before class. They are an incredible annoyance to me and your fellow students when they go off during lecture. Accidents happen but if phones continue to go off during class I will ask you to leave the classroom. This rule extends to the use of cell phones to text message or play games. If you can only occupy your time in class by texting or playing games then please do it somewhere else other than my class. 3) Laptops are allowed in my class as facilitators of the class for you. That is, you may use a laptop computer to help take notes or look up class material. They are not to be used to play games, surf the internet or instant message others while in my class. 4) Any other behaviors that are disruptive to the class that are not listed above are still subject to being asked to leave the classroom. I take the business of your education seriously and so should you.

**MISSED EXAMS:** NO makeup exams or in-class assignments will be given. However, your final exam can also replace the lowest exam score of the first 4 exams if it is higher than any of them. I will explain this more fully in class.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** I am generally pretty easy going about late assignments. However, I may announce a deadline on an assignment and reserve the right to refuse the assignment after that date. This is particularly important at the end of the semester where I have a deadline to enter grades.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** I will have several opportunities for extra credit. I will post them on the web and constantly remind you of their existence. I think you will find that I give you many opportunities to well in my class. However, I do not just give points for extra credit, instead I make sure that the extra credit I assign has meaning. I want you to learn something even when you are doing something extra.

**STUDY EXPECTATIONS:** There are many avenues for success in this class, but they all involve a commitment of time and effort which may be greater than that expected of you in a non-science class. Plan extra time for this class. Your attendance in all classes is very important; few students will have success in this class with a casual attendance ethic. Not everyone assimilates information in the same manner, try to vary your methods of study...work in a group, make charts and tables, quiz yourself, study out-loud. Don't get behind and if you are having trouble, seek help early. There is no substitute for effort.

**WEATHER POLICY:** "Individual circumstances such as health, childcare, rural roads, distance from the College, etc. can vary greatly among students and staff. It is always DMACC's goal to provide safe learning conditions, as well as provide the opportunity for students to attend classes when the vast majority is able to safely attend. The final decision to come to College can only be made by the individual student based on their specific extenuating circumstances that may make it unsafe for them to travel. During adverse weather, DMACC faculty is considerate of students who are unable to attend classes due to unique extenuating circumstances. It is the responsibility of each faculty member to notify their students (in addition to their dean or provost) through some predetermined means if they are must postpone or cancel a specific class due to weather or illness."

**CLASS CANCELLATION PROCEDURE:** If the class is cancelled for some reason you will see a pink sheet on the door announcing the cancellation. When possible I will email you ahead of time and you may even get a call from a secretary but that may not happen if the cancellation occurs at the last moment. Please be patient with me and the secretaries who work very hard to try and ensure that we don't waste your time.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/PLAGIARISM:** Academic integrity, based on the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is a fundamental principle of scholarship at DMACC. DMACC's Academic Misconduct Policy (ES 4670) prohibits: plagiarism (using another person's writing or copying any work without proper citation), falsification, unauthorized collaboration during a test or on an assignment, or substitution for another student to take an exam, course or test. If you are to benefit from this class and be properly evaluated for your contributions, it is important for you to be familiar with and follow DMACC's Academic Misconduct policy. Students are encouraged to review DMACC's Academic Misconduct Policy on-line at <https://go.dmacc.edu/handbook/polprocedures/pages/academicmisconduct.aspx>

or in the DMACC Student Handbook. Work that violates these values is incompatible with the goals of this class and will not be tolerated. Students who are found responsible for a violation of the Academic Misconduct Policy will receive a F for the assignment or exam. Continued misconduct will result in an F for the course. Students have the right to appeal and may do so by following the procedures described in the Academic Misconduct policy.

**COURSE SPECIFIC (LAB) SAFETY PROCEDURES:** There are no lab safety procedures to follow for this course.

## DMACC INFORMATION

**INSTRUCTOR HOME PAGES:** <http://www.dmacc.edu/instructors>

Click & type. Select and delete row if not applicable.

**ADD/DROP DATES:** [https://go.dmacc.edu/registration/pages/add\\_drop.aspx](https://go.dmacc.edu/registration/pages/add_drop.aspx)

Click & delete row if addendum being used and no additional information is needed.

**REFUND POLICY:** <https://go.dmacc.edu/registration/Pages/refund.aspx>

Click & delete row if addendum being used and no additional information is needed.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

**SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

[https://go.dmacc.edu/student\\_services/disabilities](https://go.dmacc.edu/student_services/disabilities)

Any student with a documented disability who requires reasonable accommodation should contact the Disability Services Coordinator at **515-964-6850V** or [hlcoon@dmacc.edu](mailto:hlcoon@dmacc.edu) or the counseling & advising office on any campus to apply for services.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**DISCLAIMER:** “This syllabus is representative of materials that will be covered in this class; it is not a contract between the student and the institution. It is subject to change without notice. Any potential exceptions to stated policies and requirements will be addressed on an individual basis, and only for reasons that meet specific requirements. If you have any problems related to this class, please feel free to discuss them with me.”

**NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:** Des Moines Area Community College shall not engage in or allow discrimination covered by law. This includes harassment based on race, color, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, and disability. Veteran status in educational programs, activities, employment practices, or admission procedures is also included to the extent covered by law. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against may file a complaint through the College Discrimination Complaint Procedures. Complaint forms may be obtained from the DMACC Web site, the Ombudsperson, Judicial Officer, Human Resources Department, the campus Provost's Offices, and Academic Deans' Offices.

Students who wish additional information or assistance may contact the **Executive Dean, Student Services, Laurie Wolf**, Bldg. 1 on the Ankeny Campus, 515-964-6437 or the **Judicial Officer, Debbie McKittrick**, Bldg. 1 on the Ankeny Campus, 515-964-6574 or they may refer to Student Services procedure ES 4645 located at [https://go.dmacc.edu/student\\_services/int](https://go.dmacc.edu/student_services/int). Click Policies & Procedures.

Employees and applicants who wish additional information or assistance may contact the **EEO/AA Officer, Dr. Sandy Tryon**, Human Resources, Bldg. 1 on Ankeny Campus, 515-964-6301 or refer to HR Procedures 3000, 3005, 3010, 3015, and 3020 at <http://www.dmacc.edu/hr/hrpp.asp>

Program Development/Academic Support Services Director, Sharon Bittner, is the official Student Accommodation Office/Section 504/ADA Coordinator for DMACC. The ADA Coordinator's office is located in Bldg. 6-10e on the Ankeny Campus and may be contacted by voice (515-964-6857) or [sgbittner@dmacc.edu](mailto:sgbittner@dmacc.edu). The ADA Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the college complies with federal regulations that guarantee qualified students with disabilities equal access to all programs and services. Any student, faculty, or staff member may contact the ADA Coordinator's office for clarification of federal regulations, appeal of a grievance, or resolution of a disability-related problem.

## **SYLLABUS ADDENDUM**

To access additional information related to DMACC policies and procedures that impact the classroom (i.e. use of technology, weather-related cancellations, classroom conduct, etc.), the DMACC student handbook, registration information (including add/drop dates and refund dates), student service information (including counseling and advising), the DMACC academic calendar, and campus-specific resources (i.e. Academic Achievement Center, library, computer, labs, etc), go to <https://go.dmacc.edu/handbook> and click "Syllabus Addendum" in the left navigation.

If you do not have access to a computer and need a printed version of any of the information described above, contact your instructor.

