**Environmental Science for Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Subject Code: 010720

Course & Unit Descriptions

**Course Description:**

Students will study relationships between organisms and their environment. Principles of biogeochemical cycles, air-water-land relationships, non-point pollution, and wetlands will be applied. Students will examine fundamentals of resource development, agriculture sustainability, energy needs and pollution control. They will analyze and interpret data gathered from studies on the ecosystem. Throughout this course, students will develop responses to environmental problems and develop management strategies for responsible conservation and resource development.

**Unit: Application of Research and Experimentation**

Studentswill develop a basic understanding of the scientific method and apply it to research and experiments with in the field of Environmental Science for Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Outcome 3.8

Conduct a problem-based study, applying scientific methodology and using descriptive statistics to communicate and support predictions and conclusions.

Competency:

3.8.1. Identify research problems and structure a statistical experiment, simulation or study related to the problem.

3.8.2. Design a research plan, including the significance of the problem, purpose, variables, hypotheses, objectives, methods of study and a list of materials.

3.8.3. Distinguish between dependent, independent and control variables in an experiment.

3.8.4. Establish and implement procedures for systematic collection, organization and use of data.

3.8.5. Select and apply sampling methods that appropriately represent the population to be studied.

3.8.6. Define the concepts of confidence limit and significant figures.

3.8.7. Document results of the experiment in a laboratory notebook, including a statement of purpose, experimental designs, observations, results, conclusions and next steps.

3.8.9. Describe the relationships among variables using correlations

and draw conclusions.

3.8.10. Create, interpret and use tabular and graphical displays and describe the data.

3.8.11. Draw conclusions based on observations and data analyses, recognizing that experimental results must be open to the scrutiny of others.

3.8.12. Prepare and present findings using scientific reports.

**Unit: Agriculture and Food Resources**

Students will identify world food issues, principle types of agriculture and challenges of Agricultural. Students willidentify solutions to agricultural problems anddevelop a restoration and/or land use plan.

Outcome 6.11

Habitat Management and Restoration: Develop a plan for the management and restoration of a specific habitat.

Competency:

6.11.1 Differentiate the properties and characteristics of habitats.

6.11.2 Examine sites and place them into ecological classifications.

6.11.3 Explain the impacts of an increasing human population on habitats.

6.11.4 Evaluate the current and historical interactions between human activities and habitats.

6.11.5 Differentiate threatened, endangered, extirpated and extinct species.

6.11.6 Survey and monitor species within a habitat.

6.11.7 Explain the role of various stakeholders, including individuals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations and governments in habitat restoration and conservation.

6.11.8 Implement techniques used in habitat management, mitigation, enhancement and restoration.

6.11.9 Implement practices to enhance biological diversity.

6.11.10 Develop a management plan for the sustainability of a specific habitat using environmental practices.

Outcome 8.3

Pest Management: Develop and implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan by scouting and identifying specific plant pests and the damage they cause and apply specialized control methods.

Competency:

8.3.2 Examine the interrelationships among plants, pests, humans and the environment.

8.3.4 Determine and implement pest management safety practices (e.g., safety data sheets [SDSs], United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA], personal protective equipment [PPE], worker protection standards [WPS], refuge management strategy).

8.3.5 Evaluate the effectiveness of a pest management plan.

8.3.9 Develop an IPM plan, based on pest life cycles, available treatments, application methods and the impact on the environment.

8.3.10 Select application methods and implement an IPM plan.

8.3.11 Evaluate IPM plans and applications for their impact on the environment and their effectiveness.

**Unit: Environmental Quality**

The student will determine air and water quality according to industry standards, and recommend protection and restoration techniques.

Outcome 6.2

Water Quality: Analyze, interpret and manage the biological, chemical and physical properties of water quality.

Competency:

6.2.1 Assess and explain the interactions between human activities and the Earth’s hydrosphere (e.g., septic systems, desalinization, point and non-point source pollution).

6.2.2 Measure pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand (BOD), temperature and macroinvertebrate populations to determine water quality.

6.2.3 Measure hardness, nitrogen, phosphorus, vegetation and physical characteristics of lentic and lotic waters to determine water quality.

6.2.4 Explain the hydrological cycle (e.g., condensation, evaporation, transpiration) and how human and animal activity impacts the cycle.

6.2.5 Explain the biotic and abiotic factors affecting water quality.

6.2.6 Monitor and analyze water quality and quantity.

6.2.7 Implement procedures and management practices that maintain or improve water quality.

Outcome 6.3

Air Quality: Analyze, interpret and manage the biological, chemical and physical properties of air quality.

Competency:

6.3.1 Determine the chemical and physical properties of air (e.g., composition, density, pressure).

6.3.2 Explain biogeochemical cycles (e.g., nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur) and how they relate to the biosphere, geosphere and atmosphere.

6.3.3 Explain the effects of carbon dioxide sequestration on air quality.

6.3.4 Analyze the importance of air quality to humans and other living organisms.

6.3.5 Explain human and natural factors (e.g., volcanic eruptions, forest fires, greenhouse gases, farming practices, transportation) affecting air quality.

6.3.6 Monitor and evaluate air composition, quality and quantity with direct reading instruments (e.g., combustible gas indicator, oxygen meter).

6.3.7 Assess the potential for air contamination at a specific site.

6.3.8 Implement procedures and management practices that maintain or improve air quality.

Outcome 6.4

Water Use and Management: Collect, analyze and interpret data for a localized water use and management plan.

Competency:

6.4.1 Explain the domains of hydrology.

6.4.2 Describe the geological and meteorological principles affecting water supplies.

6.4.3 Conduct a pumping test to determine groundwater potential and discharge rates.

6.4.4 Identify the criteria for water well designs.

6.4.5 Measure surface water volume and discharge rates.

6.4.6 Conduct channel flow analyses.

6.4.7 Evaluate water collection, storage and distribution systems (e.g., wells, ponds, runoff, waterways, irrigation).

6.4.8 Define, delineate and assess the volume of watersheds and streams.

6.4.9 Assess the potential for surface water and groundwater contamination at a specific site.

6.4.10 Implement management practices that conserve and sustain water.

**Unit: Soil**

Students will determine and analyze the physical, biological and chemical properties of soils and other plant growing media. Students will utilize their knowledge of soil characteristics to overcome soil use limitations.

Outcome 6.1

Soils: Apply knowledge of soil characteristics and soil information resources to overcome any existing soil use limitations while maintaining or improving soil quality.

Competency:

6.1.1 Identify soil forming factors and explain how they produce variability in soils.

6.1.2 Describe the relationship among physical properties of soils.

6.1.3 Collect, test and analyze soil samples for physical and chemical properties.

6.1.4 Identify factors (e.g., climate, vegetation, soil texture, drainage, management practices, landscape) affecting organic matter and its function in soil quality.

6.1.5 Determine land use and identify land capabilities classes.

6.1.6 Apply soil conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and compaction.

6.1.7 Compare and contrast the causes and effects of soil erosion.

6.1.8 Describe soil limitations in agronomic, urban and natural resource practices.

6.1.9 Evaluate soil survey data and implement management decisions.

6.1.10 Assess basic processes of soil reclamation.

**Unit: Environmental Contaminants and Solid Waste Management**

Students will identify types of environmental contaminants and hazardous waste; determine treatment/disposal of contaminants and hazardous waste; indentify best practices to clean up contaminated sites; explain biomagnifications and relevant laws.

Outcome 1.12

Site and Personal Safety Procedures: Follow site and personal safety procedures in specific situations with specialized tools and equipment, evaluate the situation and take corrective action.

Competency:

1.12.2 Interpret safety signs and symbols.

1.12.5 Identify the location of emergency flush showers, eyewash fountains, Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), fire alarms and exits.

1.12.6 Identify procedures for the handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials.

1.12.7 Select, use, store, maintain and dispose of personal protective equipment (PPE), appropriate to job tasks, conditions and materials.

1.12.8 Identify safety hazards and take corrective measures.

1.12.9 Identify, inspect and use safety equipment appropriate for the task.

1.12.10 Follow established procedures for the administration of first aid and contact emergency medical personnel when necessary.

Outcome 6.5

Potable Water Treatment: Monitor the water treatment processes for potable water at a specific site.

Competency:

6.5.1 Identify and assess the characteristics of potable water treatment and the sources of water.

6.5.5 Monitor the control and treatment of chemical and biological contaminants (e.g., trihalomethanes, lead, bacteria, nitrates) in water.

6.5.7 Identify methods for backflow prevention.

Outcome 6.6

Wastewater Operations: Monitor the wastewater collection and treatment methods for a specific site.

Competency:

6.6.1 Identify the components of a wastewater treatment system.

6.6.2 Collect and analyze wastewater samples.

6.6.3 Identify, analyze and reconcile the components of wastewater.

6.6.4 Troubleshoot wastewater collection and treatment systems.

6.6.5 Describe the processes in wastewater treatment (e.g., mixing, coagulation, flocculation, disinfection, treatment system, effluent disposal, solids management).

6.6.6 Analyze process optimization and treatment processes for the treatment train, effluent disposal and bio-solids management in wastewater treatment.

6.6.7 Compare methods for cross-connection and backflow prevention.

Outcome 6.7

Solid Waste and Renewable Resource Management: Control and process solid waste using current and alternative technologies.

Competency:

6.7.1 Collect, analyze and treat solid waste materials (e.g., mortalities, manure, garbage).

6.7.2 Distinguish the risks associated with solid waste accumulation, utilization and disposal.

6.7.3 Determine an acceptable site for solid waste disposal.

6.7.4 Compare the processes of aerobic and anaerobic waste decomposition.

6.7.5 Describe and monitor solid waste disposal procedures (e.g., landfill, compost).

6.7.6 Describe and implement solid waste management methods (e.g., composting, incineration, recycling, burial).

6.7.7 Explain the control processes and potential uses for solid waste byproducts (e.g., leachate, ash, landfill gas, sludge, methane, manure).

6.7.8 Describe standard operating procedures and identify design requirements for specific purposes (e.g., landfill, lagoon, leachate treatment).

6.7.9 Evaluate site closure methods and post-closure monitoring.

6.7.10 Determine type and volume of solid waste generated by an operation or facility.

Outcome 6.8

Contaminants and Pollution Control: Assess an affected area, determine the source and type of contaminant and respond.

Competency:

6.8.1 Collect, record and analyze environmental samples and interpret the results.

6.8.2 Determine the types, sources and impact of natural and man-made contaminants.

6.8.3 Monitor, analyze and quantify levels of contaminants from point and non-point sources.

6.8.4 Monitor radioactive contamination.

6.8.5 Monitor noise and light pollution and recommend abatement measures.

6.8.6 Describe the environmental impact from both industrial and nonindustrial processes.

6.8.7 Identify, comply with and implement contaminant control, remediation and prevention practices (e.g., biological, sanitation, buffer strips).

6.8.8 Recommend a remediation strategy for a release of contaminant to soil, surface water or groundwater.

6.8.9 Monitor and conduct remediation activities.

6.8.11 Identify and contact local emergency response teams.

Outcome 6.9

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management: Follow and apply handling, storage and recording procedures for hazardous materials and waste.

Competency:

6.9.1 Identify and differentiate solid waste, hazardous waste, toxic waste and radioactive waste streams.

6.9.2 Describe health and safety practices for reducing risks from hazardous materials (e.g., safety data sheet [SDS], employer notification forms, personal protective equipment [PPE]).

6.9.6 Perform site assessments to detect and identify the presence and storage of hazardous materials.

6.9.7 Collect and evaluate samples of hazardous materials and waste.

6.9.10 Identify hazardous materials that can be recycled.

**Unit: Ecosystem Structure**

Students will identify the components of an ecosystem and determine conservation and restoration practices according to specific ecosystem characteristics.

Outcome 6.10

Ecosystems: Evaluate biotic and abiotic components and relationships in ecosystems to apply restoration and conservation practices that maintain functionality.

Competency:

6.10.1 Describe ecological levels, including population, community, ecosystem and biosphere.

6.10.2 Distinguish the flow of energy through ecosystems.

6.10.3 Identify and classify interactions among organisms, including predation, symbiosis and competition, to determine species interdependent relationships.

6.10.4 Describe the process of succession and its impact on ecosystems.

6.10.5 Connect biotic interactions with the abiotic environment.

6.10.6 Describe biogeochemical cycles (e.g., carbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, hydrological) and their roles in maintaining equilibrium in an ecosystem.

6.10.7 Identify interactions of ecosystems to differentiate biomes.

6.10.8 Select and implement restoration ecology practices to repair damaged ecosystems.

6.10.9 Determine the impact of native and non-native invasive species on ecosystems.

6.10.10 Describe the relationship between evolution and ecosystems.

**Unit: Sustainable Energy**

Students will identify energy use, alternative energy sources, energy conservation, environmental ramifications and end-use efficiency improvements that will allow for sustainability of resources.

Outcome 9.1

Energy Sources: Identify energy sources according to their economic viability, sustainability and environmental impact.

Competency:

9.1.1 Identify, compare and contrast fossil fuel sources and the technology used to generate energy.

9.1.2 Identify, compare and contrast renewable energy sources and the technology used to generate energy.

9.1.3 Identify, compare and contrast alternative energy sources and technology used to generate energy (e.g., fuel cells, hydrogen, nuclear).

9.1.4 Identify the social, economic and environmental drivers and barriers that influence the development and use of energy sources.

9.1.5 Calculate fuel equivalents among energy sources.

9.1.6 Trace the transformations of energy within a system (e.g., mechanical to electrical, chemical to mechanical).

9.1.7 Determine best management practices (e.g., carbon sequestration, conservation, animal safety, efficiency) that lessen environmental impact.

9.1.8 Perform an energy evaluation to determine the best social, economic and environmental solution.

**Unit: Forest Management Practices**

Students will identify sustainable forest management practices and develop stewardship practices that maintain forest productivity, biodiversity, relevant ecological and economic function.

Outcome 6.10

Ecosystems: Evaluate biotic and abiotic components and relationships in ecosystems to apply restoration and conservation practices that maintain functionality.

Competency:

6.10.9 Determine the impact of native and non-native invasive species on ecosystems.

**Unit: Population Studies**

Using industry standards, students will use identification tools to manage populations in a habitat. Students will follow all local, state, and federal guidelines to manage ecosystems and habitats.

Outcome 1.3

Business Ethics and Law: Analyze how professional, ethical and legal behavior contributes to continuous improvement in organizational performance and regulatory compliance.

Competency:

1.3.1 Analyze how regulatory compliance (e.g., United States Department of Agriculture [USDA], Food and Drug Administration [FDA], United States Department of Interior [USDI], Ohio Livestock Care Standards, water quality standards, local water regulations, building codes) affects business operations and organizational performance.

1.3.5 Access and implement safety compliance measures (e.g., quality assurance information, safety data sheets [SDSs], product safety data sheets [PSDSs], United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA]) that contribute to the continuous improvement of the organization.

Outcome 1.11

Principles of Business Economics: Examine and employ economic principles, concepts and policies to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.

Competency:

1.11.7 Describe how economic performance and culture are interdependent.

1.11.8 Identify the relationships between economy, society and environment that lead to sustainability.

1.11.9 Describe how laws and regulations influence domestic and international trade.

Outcome 2.3

Care and Management: Apply animal care and management procedures to ensure animal husbandry and welfare, including managing environmental conditions to ensure animal health and performance.

Competency:

2.3.1 Identify species-specific terminology based on gender and age.

2.3.5 Perform species-specific animal identification techniques (e.g., chipping, tagging, branding, notching, tattooing).

2.3.6 Use identification techniques for record keeping and traceability.

2.3.7 Estimate an operation’s or environment's carrying capacity and its impact on animal health.

2.3.8 Identify and recognize predator-prey relationships and implement control measures.

Outcome 2.4

Recognizing Diseases and Disorders: Evaluate animal conditions for species-specific diseases and disorders to assess an animal’s health and welfare.

Competency:

2.4.7 Identify and describe zoonotic diseases.

2.4.8 Explain the health risk of zoonotic diseases on humans and their historical significance and future implications.

Outcome 2.6

Population Management: Manage reproduction practices in animal populations across habitats to achieve the desired outcomes and specific goals.

Competency:

2.6.4 Determine the factors that influence estrus, gestation and parturition and employ appropriate management practices.

2.6.8 Describe ethical and responsible animal population management practices (e.g., spaying, neutering, birth control, relocation, reintroduction, hunting, containment, culling, euthanasia).

Outcome 6.10

Ecosystems: Evaluate biotic and abiotic components and relationships in ecosystems to apply restoration and conservation practices that maintain functionality.

Competency:

6.10.8 Select and implement restoration ecology practices to repair damaged ecosystems.

6.10.9 Determine the impact of native and non-native invasive species on ecosystems.

Outcome 6.11

Habitat Management and Restoration: Develop a plan for the management and restoration of a specific habitat.

Competency:

6.11.6 Survey and monitor species within a habitat.

**Unit: Public Relations**

Using communication skills, students will facilitate presentations to local and community groups on the importance of responsible conservation and resource development.

Outcome 1.1

Employability Skills: Develop career awareness and employability skills (e.g., face-to-face, online) needed for gaining and maintaining employment in diverse business settings.

Competency:

1.1.1 Identify the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to succeed in careers.

1.1.2 Identify the scope of career opportunities and the requirements for education, training, certification, licensure and experience.

1.1.3 Develop a career plan that reflects career interests, pathways and secondary and postsecondary options.

1.1.4 Describe the role and function of professional organizations, industry associations and organized labor and use networking techniques to develop and maintain professional relationships.

1.1.7 Apply problem-solving and critical-thinking skills to work-related issues when making decisions and formulating solutions.

1.1.8 Identify the correlation between emotions, behavior and appearance and manage those to establish and maintain professionalism.

Outcome 1.2

Leadership and Communications: Process, maintain, evaluate and disseminate information in a business. Develop leadership and team building to promote collaboration.

Competency:

1.2.1 Extract relevant, valid information from materials and cite sources of information.

1.2.2 Deliver formal and informal presentations.

1.2.3 Identify and use verbal, nonverbal and active listening skills to communicate effectively.

1.2.4 Use negotiation and conflict-resolution skills to reach solutions.

1.2.5 Communicate information (e.g., directions, ideas, vision, workplace expectations) for an intended audience and purpose.

1.2.6 Use proper grammar and expression in all aspects of communication.

1.2.7 Use problem-solving and consensus-building techniques to draw conclusions and determine next steps.

1.2.9 Identify advantages and disadvantages involving digital and/or electronic communications (e.g., common content for large audience, control of tone, speed, cost, lack of non-verbal cues, potential for forwarding information, longevity).

1.2.10 Use interpersonal skills to provide group leadership, promote collaboration and work in a team.

1.2.11 Write professional correspondence, documents, job applications and resumés.

1.2.12 Use technical writing skills to complete forms and create reports.

1.2.13 Identify stakeholders and solicit their opinions.

Outcome 1.4

Knowledge Management and Information Technology: Demonstrate current and emerging strategies and technologies used to collect, analyze, record and share information in business operations.

Competency:

1.4.2 Select and use software applications to locate, record, analyze and present information (e.g., word processing, e-mail, spreadsheet, databases, presentation, Internet search engines).