



# FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE

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## **EVR 1001 – 011: Introduction to Environmental Science**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Ali Messenger, MPH, PhD

Department of Water Resources

Building 30, Room 007A

Office: 386-754-4278

Google Voice Number: 386-243-5441

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Email: [Ali.Messenger@fgc.edu](mailto:Ali.Messenger@fgc.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-1:00pm or by appointment. Note: These office hours will be virtual and conducted via Zoom, Google Hangouts, or Microsoft Teams.

**DELIVERY METHOD:** On-line via the Canvas Learning Platform (<https://fgc.instructure.com/>)

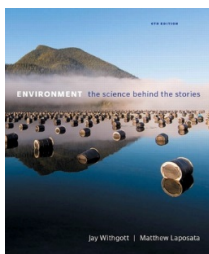
**LEARNING ACTIVITIES:** Weekly lectures, discussion board, quizzes, exams, journal, and final project.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course provides the student with an overview of current environmental concerns and the management of these concerns. Emphasis is on the application of biological, physical, and chemical methods to the understanding of and solutions to environmental problems. The student will gain insight into the natural interactions among living things and physical aspects of the environment.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES (Learning Outcomes):** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the abiotic and biotic components of ecosystems, including their function and interaction.
2. Evaluate the importance of ecosystem services and how we as a society affect the ability of the environment to provide such services.
3. Explain common and adverse impacts of human activity on the environment.
4. Suggest sustainable strategies to mitigate the adverse impacts of human activity on the environment.
5. Create interdisciplinary approaches to address environmental problems.

**REQUIRED READINGS/TEXTBOOKS:**



*Environment: The Science Behind the Stories, 6/e*

By Withgott & Laposata

ISBN: 9780134204888 (print text or ebook)

**GRADING SCALE & EVALUATION:**

**Grading Scale:**

- A: 100-90
- B+: 89-85
- B: 84-80
- C+: 79-75
- C: 74-70
- D+: 69-65
- D: 64-60

**Assignment Weights:**

- Module 1 (5%)
- Discussions (10%)
- Journal Entries (10%)
- Module Quizzes (20%)
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)
- Final Project (15%)

**\*DISCLAIMER** – This is a living syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus content and/or requirements to ensure better student learning. Students will be notified promptly of any changes.

### **EMAIL AND LEARNING PLATFORM ACCOUNTS:**

Student e-mail accounts are created once you are admitted to the college. To set up your email account:

- Go to: [FGC Website](#) → Students → Student Resources → Student Email Instructions

Check your college email frequently. Your professors, as well as other areas of the College will contact you during the term. This is the official means of communication from the college.

This course will be conducted on-line via Canvas (<https://fgc.instructure.com/>). If this link for Canvas does not work, you can login to Canvas by visiting the [FGC Website](#) and clicking on “MyCourses.” Your Username is your college @wolves email and the password is your MyFGC pin.

### **ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION POLICY:**

Online attendance is required. It is mandatory to visit the online classroom to participate in discussions, submit assignments, take quizzes, and check for announcements. The discussion forum is equal to “attending class.” You are expected to log in and participate in discussions as well as any assigned group work. If you are not able to participate during a given week due to personal or professional circumstances, arrangements must be made with the Instructor prior to the absence or as immediately as possible after the absence occurs.

If you do not log in and/or are not active in the online classroom (e.g., discussion forum posting(s), assignments, quizzes, etc.) during the Add/Drop period, you will be dropped from the course for non-attendance unless prior arrangements are made with the Instructor.

### **CLASS STRUCTURE & DEADLINES**

This is an online course using Canvas as the learning platform. The course will be conducted in 16 one-week modules. Each module begins Monday at midnight and ends Sunday at 11:59 pm. Make sure to be an active participant in the course at least four days during the week. The deadlines for assignments are as follows:

- Initial Discussion Post – No later than Wednesday by 11:59 pm for full credit. The topic and description will be posted by Monday at 8:00am EST.
- Discussion Response Posts – All responses to be concluded by Sunday at 11:59 pm for full credit.
- Assignments – Submitted no later than Sunday by 11:59 pm.

All course requirements must be completed by the end of term unless otherwise indicated or approved by the Instructor.

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES:**

Personal reflection and analysis is very important in the learning process. From module 2 forward, you will write journal entries during each module and answer the question: “How have humans impacted the environmental concept(s) we have discussed this week?” The journals will help you gauge your progress in this course and will be used in your final project.

### **FINAL PROJECT:**

An important component of this course is the final project. It is not enough to know about current environment issues unless we also learn how to take action and do something about them. The final project allows students a chance to apply concepts learned in this course to real world environmental issues. In a 1250-1500-word essay, describe how we got to this point on three environmental issues of your choice derived from three different modules covered in the course.

## **Florida Gateway College Policies and Statements**

### **COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE STATEMENT**

The Three W’s- For Everyone on Campus

Wash your hands

Watch your distance

Wear your mask

Masks must be worn in classrooms, in hallways and public spaces of the college. As you enter most of the busiest buildings on campus there will be student greeters that will have hand sanitizer for everyone entering the building. Student greeters will also be reminding everyone of the campus requirements of wearing masks, and also about hygiene and wellness. All frequently used buildings will have one entry point.

If you have had close contact (less than 6 feet apart for 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19, please report this to your instructor or Ms. Rebecca Golden 386-754-4271 **before** attending an on-campus class. As always, follow CDC guidelines recommended [here](#).

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING POLICY:**

You may not purposefully deceive any official of the College by cheating on any assignment, examination, or paper. Cheating is the use of anyone else's work, whether he/she is a student or not, as your own. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, and fabrication are not permitted and will be dealt with severely. Students should make themselves aware of the student code of conduct found in the Student Handbook.

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in the preparation of any essay, laboratory assignment, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course. No student shall take or attempt to take, steal, or otherwise procure in an unauthorized manner any material pertaining to a class, including but not limited to tests, examinations, laboratory equipment and roll books.

No student shall sell, give, lend, or otherwise furnish to any person material, which can be shown to contain the questions or answers to any examinations given at the College without authorization from the instructor.

You are to behave honorably. Remember that you will only get out of any course what you are willing to put into it. It is permissible for you to assist classmates in general discussions of computing techniques. General advice and interaction are encouraged. However, each person should develop his or her own projects, assignments, and tasks. Students should make themselves aware of the student code of conduct found in the [Student Handbook](#). All FGC students are held to a high standard of Ethics and require a clear understanding of such policies.

### **PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another, and the representation of them as one's own. Themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated and when the ideas of another are incorporated in the paper, they must be appropriately acknowledged. Plagiarism may result in reduced grade, failure of assignment, failure for course, or other actions by the college. Students caught plagiarizing will be given a warning and documentation will be placed on file. Any subsequent misrepresentations of work will result in removal from the program.

If plagiarism is found in any discussion posting or assignment, the following will be instituted:

- First instance- warning and 50% reduction of the assignment grade. Student will be required to complete a preventing plagiarism tutorial.
- Second instance- zero on the assignment.
- Third instance- behavior reported to the Director of Student Life for student discipline.

### **HONORLOCK STATEMENT**

The college has partnered with Honorlock, an online testing proctoring service. If off-campus remote proctoring is required during any course, Honorlock will be the online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam. You **DO NOT** need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension using Google Chrome. You can download the extension at [www.honorlock.com/extension/install](http://www.honorlock.com/extension/install). When you are ready to test, log into the LMS, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking **Launch Proctoring** will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact Honorlock by live chat, phone (844-243-2500), and/or email ([support@honorlock.com](mailto:support@honorlock.com)).

If you encounter a Canvas issue, please contact Canvas via the Canvas Help menu.

### **THE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC):**

The Student Success Center is located in Building 059. SSC offers a variety of resources for students and faculty. The Success Center has over 60 computers with internet and limited free printing for students (50 pages per day, campus-wide). Copies of reference books, textbooks, access to course specific software, and access to tutors for all levels of math

and writing are available in the Success Center. Students may submit academic papers to be reviewed by an in-house tutor by emailing to [college.success@fgc.edu](mailto:college.success@fgc.edu). Tutoring for other subjects such as Chemistry, Accounting, Anatomy and Physiology, Physics, Spanish, and Public Speaking is available. Please stop by Building 059 for the current tutor schedule. The center also provides space for students to study in subject specific Learning Groups, which provide opportunities for students to work with a Tutor on particular competencies and to focus on strengthening their foundational skills. SSC offers a PERT preparation Boot Camp for students to strengthen their skills with a personalized study plan. If you have any questions please call (386)754-4479 or 754-4382, or email [robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu](mailto:robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu).

SSC also provides 24 hour online tutor services through Tutor.com. This service is accessed directly through students' Canvas courses. Online tutoring is limited to five hours per student per semester. If additional online tutoring time is needed, you must contact Robert Dawson in the Student Success Center by email: [robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu](mailto:robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu). Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case review of online tutoring sessions.

The TRiO program is also housed in the Student Success Center offering coaching to enhance, navigate, and simplify the college experience. Qualified students may participate in workshops, travel, individualized tutoring sessions and other educational experiences. The SSC is open during the following hours:

- Monday – Thursday 8 am to 6 pm (All year)
- Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm (Fall/Spring)
- Saturday 10 am to 2 pm (Fall/Spring)

If you have any questions, you may contact the center by phone at (386)754-4437, 754-4305, or 754-4307, or by email at [robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu](mailto:robert.dawsonjr@fgc.edu)

### **GRADESFIRST:**

The Student Success Center, located in Bldg. 59, offers early alert to the entire campus through GradesFirst/EAB. Twice during the semester we provide instructors with the opportunity to ALERT students of their course progress. This is done through the FGC Wolves email account. Students may receive an email stating their success may be at risk in a specific course. If you receive this email, DO NOT PANIC. Please contact your instructor directly, your Academic Advisor, and the Student Success Center. Your instructor's information is provided in the email.

Please do not allow yourself to struggle. We are here to help you achieve success. The mission of the Student Success Center is to help encourage and promote your educational journey here at FGC and beyond.

### **RESOURCE INFORMATION:**

If you think you might benefit from the guidance of a professional counselor for any school, work, or life issue, take advantage of the **free, confidential resources of BayCare Behavioral Health**. If you would like to speak to a Counselor over the phone, please call **(800) 878-5470**. It is a safe and secure way to get short-term counseling (up to 3 sessions) on issues including: managing stress/ school, work or life issues/ relationship issues/ family concerns/ anxiety, depression/ grief, trauma, loss/ self-esteem/ substance abuse. **Counseling sessions are completely confidential**. If you are in the need of additional resources please contact the Director of Student Life, Building 7.

### **COLLEGE COURSE WITHDRAWAL & DROP PROCESS:**

Students who register for classes are responsible for all fees associated with those classes. Students who decide not to attend or wish to withdraw from a class are responsible for dropping or withdrawing from class by the appropriate published date (see [Academic Calendar](#)). Students, who have not been identified by their instructor as never attending, will not be automatically dropped or withdrawn. Any student not dropped or withdrawn by the published dates will remain officially registered, liable for all fees, and assigned an earned grade at the end of the semester.

A course may be dropped only during the published add/drop period. The student may drop the course online through MyFGC or by submitting a form through the office of Enrollment Services. Dual Enrollment students should follow the established dual enrollment drop process.

To withdraw from a course, the student must complete the following before the published withdrawal deadline:

1. Complete the Withdrawal form and submit it to your instructor. The instructor should sign the form and fill in the last date of attendance.
2. The student must then meet with an academic advisor, who will sign the form. (Advising Services, Building 014).
3. Submit the form to the Director of Financial Aid or one of the Director's designees for signature.
4. Take the signed Withdrawal form to the Office of Enrollment Services for processing before the deadline for withdrawal.

A student will be permitted a maximum of two (2) withdrawals per course. Upon the third attempt, the student will not be permitted to withdraw and will receive a grade for the course. Students, who take courses off campus or have extenuating circumstances that prevent submission of Withdrawal form in person, must:

1. Obtain the instructor's authorization and last date of attendance via email
2. Email the advisor a statement requesting a withdrawal from the course and include the instructor's email with the last date of attendance.
3. The advisor will complete a withdrawal form, attach the emails from the student and instructor in lieu of signatures and forward the form to Financial Aid.
4. A Financial Aid representative will complete and sign the form and forward the form to Enrollment Services to be processed.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the required documents are submitted to the advisor in sufficient time to be completed by all offices and processed by Enrollment Services prior to the designated withdrawal deadline and to understand all financial and academic implications of the withdrawal. Absence from class or merely notifying the professor does not constitute withdrawal. A student who stops attending class without withdrawing will receive a grade from his/her instructor.

### **INCOMPLETE POLICY:**

Students will not be given an incomplete grade in course without sound reason and documented evidence as described in the Student Handbook. In any case, for a student to receive an incomplete, he or she must be passing and must have completed a significant portion of the course.

### **EQUITY AND DIVERSITY:**

Florida Gateway College does not discriminate in education or employment related decisions on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, disability, age, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other legally protected status in accordance with the law. The equity officer is Sharon Best, Executive Director of Human Resources, Building 001, Room 116, 149 SE College Place, Lake City, FL 32025, and may be reached at [sharon.best@fgc.edu](mailto:sharon.best@fgc.edu) or (386) 754-4313.

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) is a resource for both students with disabilities as well as faculty. Students with disabilities in need of academic accommodations must first be registered with the Accessibility Services Office to verify the disability, establish eligibility, and determine reasonable academic accommodations..

After registering with the OAS, students must request their academic accommodation letters be sent each semester to their instructors. Upon receipt of the letter, the instructor will be available during office hours or via email to discuss the accommodations a student will need during the course.

Students with disabilities who are not registered with the OAS or faculty who may have questions or concerns regarding an accommodation, please contact the office at the following:

In person: Building 14, Room 102  
Phone: (386) 754-4393  
Email: [Accessibility.Services@fgc.edu](mailto:Accessibility.Services@fgc.edu)

### **FERPA STATEMENT:**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides certain privacy rights to students related to educational records. This information can be found in the College Catalog, at the Office of Enrollment Services in Building 015 or on the College Web site.

### **SACSCOC STATEMENT:**

Florida Gateway College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the baccalaureate and associate degrees. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Florida Gateway College.



**ACADEMIC APPEAL; GRIEVANCES; GENERAL COMPLAINT:**

If a student wishes to file an academic appeal, grievance, or general complaint, please visit the college's website ([www.fgc.edu](http://www.fgc.edu)) for more information. Under Student Resources and Student Complaints/Appeals, information regarding policy, procedure, and forms related to these topics is provided.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Coursework and Assignment(s)</b>
1	8/17-8/23	<i>Introductions &amp; Syllabus Review</i>	Library Skills Assessment Understanding Plagiarism Introductory Materials Quiz Discussion Postings
2	8/24-8/30	<i>Science &amp; Sustainability: An Introduction to Environmental Science Earth's Physical Systems: Matter, Energy, &amp; Geology</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
3	8/31-9/6	<i>Evolution, Biodiversity, &amp; Population Ecology Species Interactions &amp; Community Ecology Environmental Systems &amp; Ecosystem Ecology</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
4	9/7-9/13	<i>Ethics, Economics, &amp; Sustainable Development Environmental Policy: Making Decisions &amp; Solving Problems</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
5	9/14-9/20	<i>Human Population</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
6	9/21-9/27	<i>The Underpinnings of Agriculture Making Agriculture Sustainable</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
7	9/28-10/4	<i>Biodiversity &amp; Conservation Biology Forests, Forest Management, &amp; Protected Areas</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings <b>Midterm Exam</b>
8	10/5-10/11	<i>The Urban Environment: Creating Sustainable Cities Environmental Health &amp; Toxicology</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
9	10/12-10/18	<i>Freshwater Systems &amp; Resources Marine &amp; Coastal Systems &amp; Resources</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
10	10/19-10/25	<i>The Atmosphere, Air Quality, &amp; Pollution Control Global Climate Change</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
12	10/26-11/1	<i>Fossil Fuels: Sources, Uses, Impacts &amp; Conservation Minerals &amp; Mining</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
13	11/2-11/8	<i>Conventional Energy Alternatives New Renewable Energy Alternatives</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
14	11/9-11/15	<i>Managing Our Waste Sustainable Solutions</i>	Journal Entries Discussion Postings Module Quiz
15	11/16-11/22	Final Project	<b>Final Project</b>
16	11/23-11/24	Review	<b>Final Exam</b>