

**ENV 201 Lab– Conservation Biology and Ecology**  
Summer 2017

**Instructor:** Mindy McDermott, PhD  
**E-mail:** [mindy.mcdermott@chaminade.edu](mailto:mindy.mcdermott@chaminade.edu)  
**Office Hours:** By appointment or via email  
**Course Location:** T.C. Ching Hall, Room 253, Chaminade University  
**Course Meeting Times:** MWF: 9:30-11:35AM

**Required textbook:** no required textbook; rather, a lab notebook/folder is required. The instructor will also provide handouts for each lab exercise.

**ENV 201L:** Students perform laboratory and field research techniques used in conducting conservation biology and ecological research and restoration. Analyses are conducted in the laboratory and the field.

**Welcome.** This course is an introduction to Environmental Science and the study of our relationship to the natural environment. We will study environmental issues related to conservation and ecology. We will also study different resource management strategies that will include information from both the natural sciences (i.e. biology, physics, chemistry, etc.) and the social sciences (i.e. economics, politics, ethics, etc.). An aim of this course is to gain an understanding of human impact on the environment and how it has changed as civilization has evolved. In this course we will define practical applications in preserving biodiversity, protecting landscapes, sustainable resources, and the actions that must be taken to ensure our environment can continue to support us. We will also explore the impact of cultural beliefs and ethics behind decisions related to policy making and a sustainable future.

**Learning Outcomes.** On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the scientific method to design/conduct experiments and to understand how it is used to gain knowledge.
2. Understand the complex relationships among all living things and their non-living environment.
3. Examine the importance of ethics and worldviews of environmental issues both past and present.
4. Identify the environmental issues facing us today and present some solutions to these problems.
5. Utilize enhanced knowledge and awareness of environmental problems to enable more informed political and economic decisions.
6. Communicate knowledge, both orally and in writing, of environmental concerns, impact upon society, and possible solutions.
7. Interpret and create graphs and tables.
8. Determine career opportunities related to the field of Environmental Sciences.

**Course Website.**

Chaminade University uses the on-line Canvas platform. The Canvas link can be found on the Chaminade University homepage: [www.chaminade.edu](http://www.chaminade.edu). There you will find media including copies of any lecture slides used in the course, links to readings and other materials, and additional information to support the learning process.

**Course Assessment.**

1. Laboratory Assignments and lab write-ups: You will complete a lab write-up along with any assigned questions for each lab. This will be either written or via PowerPoint presentation.
2. Lab Presentations: You will work collaboratively to present various topics. Assessment will be based upon research conducted, depth of knowledge, problem solving, and creativity.

3. **Debate:** Groups will be assigned a position for a topic of current interest related to Environmental Conservation and Biology. Groups will research the topic, write a position paper (3 pages, single-spaced along with a list of references). The groups will participate in a debate at the end of the semester. Debates consist of presentation of position, critique, and rebuttal between the various groups for a topic.
4. **Attendance: Attendance is mandatory.** Assignments, quizzes, and tests cannot be made up without a valid excuse. Arrangements should be made *before* your absence.
5. **Grading Procedure:** Grades will reflect an overall understanding of topics covered in lecture. Attendance, completion of assigned readings, and attentiveness in lecture will ensure satisfactory performance in the class. Demonstrating a thorough understanding of course material and intelligent engagement in class discussions constitutes high achievement in the course. We will have in-class work to do to facilitate class discussion, which may range from Internet searches, reviews of video, and/or group activities. Group activities may consist of brief oral reports or short written reports. For written coursework, you will be graded on your ability not only to answer the question, but also in how effectively you can defend your answer/position using your knowledge of the subject & applying what you learned through the use of appropriate facts and examples.

Grades will be based on the following system & scale:

**Grade Scale:**

90% & above = A  
 80 - 89% = B  
 70 - 79% = C  
 60 - 69% = D  
 59% & below = F

**Grading System:**

Lab Write-ups/Assignments	50%
Lab Presentations	20%
Position Paper/Debate	30%

**Policy Reminders and Notices.**

1. It is the general policy of Chaminade Natural Science & Mathematics Department that personal electronics are not permitted in the classroom, but discretion is permitted to the instructor. As your instructor, I encourage you to bring your laptops, tablets, or smartphones, subject to restrictions imposed by Schofield Barracks policy. The use of electronic devices is to facilitate and enhance your learning about subjects in the class. Other uses of electronic devices is discouraged.
2. You are also expected to have read and to abide by the "Student Rules of Conduct" which are available in your copy of Chaminade University's Student Handbook. See also the PACE website for more information.
3. You will not be provided access to a computer for this course. You may bring and use your laptops or tablets to lecture for the purpose of taking notes. However, on exam days, you may not use any electronic devices including smartphones, tablets, or laptops.
4. You may not record audio, images, or video in the classroom without expressed permission of the instructor.
5. The University provides a Chaminade email address for all students. Official Chaminade communications will be sent to the students' Chaminade email address, and instructors will use only this email to communicate with students. It is the responsibility of the student to check their email frequently. Report email-related problems to the Helpdesk at 808-735-4855 or [helpdesk@chaminade.edu](mailto:helpdesk@chaminade.edu).
6. You are encouraged to work together; however, all graded material must be your own. Cheating in the form of plagiarism (offering of work of another as one's own, SH, p. 33), collusion, and deception will not be tolerated and will negatively affect your grade. The University is an academic community with high professional standards. Academic dishonesty seriously disrupts and subverts a teaching environment. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating defined by giving/receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination, obtaining information about an examination before it is given, using inappropriate/prohibited sources of

information during an examination, altering answers after an examination has been submitted, and altering the records on any grade. (Refer to the CUH catalog for further information).

7. Title IX Declaration: Chaminade University of Honolulu (CUH) recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical abuse, or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical abuse, and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment. Should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical abuse, and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you want to speak to a confidential source, you may contact the following: Chaminade Counseling Center at 808-735-4845, any priest serving as a religious confessor, or any ordained religious leader serving in the sacred confidence role.
8. In accordance with several federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination on the basis of disability and are eligible for reasonable accommodations or modifications in the academic environment to enable them to enjoy equal access to academic programs, services, or activities. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Counseling Center at 808-735-4845 for further information. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from CUH Counseling Center (Dr. June Yasuhara, 808-735-4845) by the end of the third week of classes. Failure to provide written documentation will prevent your instructor from making necessary accommodations.