

BIOL 2306: Environmental Biology - Lecture

Class: 3 Semester Credit Hours

BIOL 2306

BIOL 2106: Environmental Biology - Lab

Lab: 1 Semester Credit Hours

BIOL 2106

Clarendon College

Division of Science and Health

Summer 2026 Course Syllabus (12 Week)

Instructor: Mrs. Rachel Randall

E-mail: rachel.randall@clarendoncollege.edu

Virtual Office Hours: Contact me through email or Blackboard to schedule a meeting.

The "Blackboard Journal" system within the online platform is the main method you should use to contact me. I will make every effort to check the course website every weekday and respond to your message requests within 24 hours on business days.

Instructor's Plan for Regular and Substantive Interaction

Students can expect regular and timely interaction with the instructor throughout the course. All assignments have posted due dates in the calendar, syllabus, or module. Communication will occur through email, announcements, discussions, office hours, and virtual meetings as needed. The instructor will provide feedback on assignments within 7 days and respond to student questions within one business day.

BIOL 2306 Course Description: Principles of environmental systems and ecology, including biogeochemical cycles, energy transformations, abiotic interactions, symbiotic relationships, natural resources and their management, lifestyle analysis, evolutionary trends, hazards and risks, and approaches to ecological research.

Co-requisite: BIOL 2106 Environmental Biology Lab

BIOL 2106 Course Description: This laboratory-based course accompanies BIOL 2306, Environmental Biology.

Laboratory activities will reinforce principles of environmental systems and ecology, including biogeochemical cycles, energy transformations, abiotic interactions, symbiotic relationships, natural resources and their management, lifestyle analysis, evolutionary trends, hazards and risks, and approaches to ecological research.

Pre-/Co-requisite: BIOL 2306 Environmental Biology

Required Instructional Materials Supplies: This course utilizes chapters from multiple free online textbooks (OER), and no purchase is required. All reading materials will be provided as printed copies or embedded PDFs within Blackboard. Lab activities will be completed using instructor-provided materials, documents, and case studies.

Methods of Instruction: This course will utilize readings from the text, PowerPoint presentations, forum discussions, audio-visual materials, and research.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: The full Student Rights and Responsibilities policy has been downloaded as a PDF and is available as a viewable document within Blackboard.

Course Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, all life and physical science courses at Clarendon College will address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication Skills** – including effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – including application of scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Teamwork** – including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Specific **Student Learning Outcomes** for the class and lab has been downloaded as a PDF and is available as a viewable document within Blackboard.

Grading Policies:

Environmental Biology Class (Biol 2306)

1. **Required Enrollment Verification Activity (Syllabus Quiz):** You must complete the **Syllabus Agreement EVA** located in the Class Orientation section. This confirms that you understand and agree to the course policies.

Students who do not complete the EVA by the official census date may be dropped from the course, which can result in an **F** and loss of **Financial Aid**.

2. **Class Notes count as 10%** of your final course grade. Class Notes count as 10% of your final course grade. Each chapter includes a set of guided notes, which you are expected to complete and submit. These notes support class discussions, help prepare you for quizzes, and serve as a study resource for exams. All note assignments are posted in Blackboard.
3. **Chapter quizzes and assignments will count as 45%** of your final course grade. No quiz grades will be dropped.
4. **Class exams will count as 45%** of your final course grade.
 - a. The exams will utilize a variety of question formats (objective, matching, multiple choice, true/false, etc.)
 - b. You will only have one attempt for each exam. Once you begin the exam, you must complete it within the allotted time.
 - c. All class exams, including the final, will be weighted equally.
 - d. Each exam covers the material covered since the last exam (not comprehensive).
 - e. No exam grades will be dropped.

Grading Policies:

Environmental Biology Lab (Biol 2106)

1. **Required Enrollment Verification Activity (Syllabus Quiz):** You must complete the **Syllabus Agreement EVA** located in the Class Orientation section. This confirms that you understand and agree to the course policies.

Students who do not complete the EVA by the official census date may be dropped from the course, which can result in an **F** and loss of **Financial Aid**.

2. **Lab assignments will make up 100% of your final lab grade.** These assignments may be completed in class or through Blackboard using free resources such as virtual lab simulations, projects, and other activities. No grades will be dropped.

You will receive a separate letter grade for BIOL 2306 and BIOL 2106. This grade comes from the components described above. **Student grades and course averages are viewable in Blackboard**

Grading Policies: The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60- 69 = D 59 or Below = F

Your official final course grade will appear in your Student Portal.

Grades earned for each graded activity will be available in Blackboard. However, in your Blackboard gradebook, assume that any activity you did not complete is a zero, even if a hyphen appears beside the activity in the gradebook. The current course average shown in the Blackboard gradebook will not be correct until I have replaced the hyphens with zeroes.

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS: Excerpt from Clarendon College's Student Handbook
Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion;
2. discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;
4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. taking an examination for another

person; **7.** completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; **8.** altering grade records; **9.** using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or, **10.** plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Class Policies:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is required for BIOL 2306 and BIOL 2106. Attendance is reported weekly and on the census date; failing to meet this requirement may result in loss of Financial Aid.
2. **Late work:** Assignments submitted after the published due date will receive a **10-point deduction**. Any assignment submitted **more than 15 days late** can earn a **maximum score of 60%**, regardless of quality. Waiving the late penalty is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

No late work will be accepted after the day before your final exam closes.

Please check the course schedule and note the final exam due date, as this deadline is firm.

Example: If your final exam is due on **May 12th**, then **no late work** will be accepted after **May 11th at midnight**. It is your responsibility to monitor due dates and submit work on time. If you experience an issue or need assistance, please contact me immediately.

3. **Scholastic Honesty:** I adhere to a strict policy regarding academic honesty. Anyone who is dishonest in any way will receive a zero on that assignment or exam with no opportunity to make up the zero and may be dropped from the course with a grade of F. Assignments identified as AI-generated will be recorded as a zero, and the burden of proof falls on the student to demonstrate the work was not produced by AI
4. **Grievance Policy:** If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.
5. **Accommodations:** REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact Director of Correctional Education who can then advise on contacting the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.
6. **Nondiscrimination Policy:** Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status. It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender,

age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

7. **Withdrawal:** Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrolment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

Environmental Science (Lec and Lab) Tentative Schedule - Summer 2026

Tentative Course Schedule: The course schedule is subject to change. Late will receive a **10-point deduction**. Any assignment submitted **more than 15 days late** can earn a **maximum score of 60%**, regardless of quality. Waiving the late penalty is solely at the discretion of the instructor. **No late work will be accepted after the day before your final exam closes**

Week	Module / Topic	Key Assignments (Lab + Lecture)	SLO Alignment (Course / Lab)
Week 1	Intro to Environmental Science Population Ecology	Ecological Footprint, Tragedy of Commons Growth Calculations, Survivorship Lab	C: 4,5 / L: 2,7,8 C: 3,8 / L: 1,11
Week 2	Community Ecology	Food Web, Symbiosis, Keystone Project	C: 2,3 / L: 3,5,6
Week 3	Biomes & Ecosystems	Adaptation Activity, Aquatic Lab, Case Study	C: 3,6 / L: 6,9
Week 4	Biodiversity & Conservation	Biodiversity Lab, Case Study	C: 4,6,7 / L: 1,3,9,10
Week 5	Human Population	Population Pyramid, Demographics	C: 5,7 / L: 2,8
Week 6	Atmosphere & Air Pollution	Carbon Cycle, Acid Rain Lab	C: 1,7 / L: 4,10
Week 7	Climate Change	CO ₂ Graphing, Impact Analysis	C: 5,7,8 / L: 1,2,10,11
Week 8	Forestry & Resources	Carbon Sequestration, Deforestation Case	C: 4,7 / L: 7,10
Week 9	Agriculture & Soil	Nitrogen Cycle, Soil Lab, Eutrophication	C: 1,4,7 / L: 4,7,10
Week 10	Energy + Water	Energy Project, Water Lab	C: 1,4,5,7 / L: 1,7,8,10
Week 11	Waste & Urbanization	Waste Project, Urban Planning	C: 4,5,7 / L: 2,8,10
Week 12	Final Exam		