

# Bemidji State University

## **BIOL 2925: People & The Environment: Biological Perspectives on the Environment**

### **A. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

Discussion and evaluation of current environmental biology topics, including biodiversity, ecosystems, biological resources, and human impact on the environment. This course fulfills Liberal Education requirements only and does not satisfy and Biology major or minor degree requirements. Liberal Education Goal Area 10.

### **B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 09/03/2002 - Present

### **C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS**

1. Introduction/ Easter Island
2. Tragedy of the Commons
3. Environmental economics
4. Human Population Growth
5. Ecological concepts - Biodiversity
6. Biodiversity/ invasive species
7. Agriculture
8. Water and conflict
9. Groundwater
10. Fossil Fuels: History and Future
11. Climate Change/ Ozone Depletion
12. Risk toxicology/ Fate of toxins in the environment
13. Hazardous wastes
14. Energy and renewable resources.

### **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. integrate various disciplinary perspectives on environmental problems and potential solutions
2. employ critical thinking skills in reflecting on values-based and ethical dimensions of environmental decision-making
3. gain an understanding of biogeochemical processes in the environment and of the social, cultural, and economic influences shaping human impacts on the environment.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
5. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
6. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted