

# BIOL 2406 — Environmental Biology

## Frank Phillips College

---

### General Course Information

Credit Hours: 4

### Prerequisite

MATH 1314 College Algebra. Successful completion of College Algebra or concurrent enrollment in higher-level mathematics is recommended with a C or higher.

### 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. (Designed mainly for biology majors.) Must be taken concurrently with a laboratory section.

THECB Approval Number .....03.0103.51.01

### Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

### Core Objectives Required for Life and Physical Sciences Courses

Courses in this category focus on describing, explaining, and predicting natural phenomena using the scientific method.

Courses involve the understanding of interactions among natural phenomena and the implications of scientific principles on the physical world and on human experiences.

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Teamwork** – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

<b>Required Core Objective</b>	<b>Activity Related to Core Objective</b>
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	Short essay – Students will write an essay either as a standalone assignment or as an exam or quiz question to effectively communicate a considerate analytical response to a critical thought prompt.
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	In-class discussion
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	Lab Manual/Journal – Lab activities include communicating the collection and analysis of quantitative data.
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	Short essay – Students will write an essay either as a standalone assignment or as an exam or quiz question to effectively communicate a considerate analytical response to a critical thought prompt.
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	In-class discussion
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	Lab Manual/Journal – Students will complete assigned lab activities designed around data collection and analysis.
Empirical and Quantitative Skills – To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions	Lab Manual/Journal – Lab activities include communicating the collection and analysis of quantitative data.
Empirical and Quantitative Skills – To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions	Scientific Method Activity – Laboratory activity covering basic concepts in the process of science. Activity will include data collection and analyses as part of journal entry.
Empirical and Quantitative Skills – To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions	Exam Questions – A number of questions covering curriculum over the process of science including quantitative methodology.
Teamwork – To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal	Lab Manual/Journal Students will work in groups to complete laboratory exercises to be reported in a lab journal.
Teamwork – To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal	Lab Manual/Journal Students will work in groups to complete laboratory exercises to be reported in a lab journal.
Teamwork – To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal	In-class discussion

## Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the structure and impact of biogeochemical cycles.
2. Describe energy transformations across trophic levels.
3. Illustrate abiotic/biotic interactions and symbiotic relationships.
4. Identify various types of natural resources, human impact on these resources, and common resource management practices.
5. Quantify and analyze the impact of lifestyle on the environment.
6. Depict evolutionary trends and adaptations to environmental changes.
7. Describe environmental hazards and risks and the social and economic ramifications.
8. Describe ecological and statistical techniques and approaches used in the study of environmental biology.
9. Apply scientific reasoning to investigate questions and utilize scientific tools such as microscopes and laboratory equipment to collect and analyze data.
10. Use critical thinking and scientific problem-solving to make informed decisions in the laboratory.
11. Communicate effectively the results of scientific investigations.

## Methods of Evaluation

Exams (Three lecture)	60%
Daily Grades (quizzes, discussions/participation, assignments)	40%

Overall grade will be based upon 3 lecture exams (60%) and daily grades (40%) consisting of quizzes, discussions/participation, and assignments.

Examinations given may include items in the following format:

Essay questions, Multiple choice\*, True/False, Fill in the blank\*

Short answer\* (\*may include labeling)

Quizzes and assignments will be given at the instructor's discretion, but typically no more than 1 per week

## Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students attending Frank Phillips College are expected to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, collusion (working with anyone else to produce work for which you take credit without the professor's permission), utilizing resources such as books and notes for a test without the professor's permission, and plagiarism is considered a serious offense and may result in disciplinary actions including:

- A grade of 0 for the test or assignment
- A semester grade of F for the course
- Administrative withdrawal from the course
- Academic suspension
- \*\*\*Faculty members have the right to assign a failing grade to a student who is guilty of academic dishonesty at any point during a semester. Faculty members

may prohibit a student from dropping a course when academic dishonesty is discovered. However, if a student has dropped the course in accordance with the rules and dates applied to dropping a course and prior to the discovery of academic dishonesty, the grade of W will stand. Students currently enrolled in a course and students who have completed a course (A, B, C, D, CT, and I) may have a grade changed to an F if academic dishonesty is discovered. The faculty member must notify the student of the change to the final grade within one week of facilitating the change. The student will have the opportunity to appeal the final grade change according to the college policy stated in the catalog.

### **Class Attendance**

Regular attendance is necessary for satisfactory achievement. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the student to attend class in accordance with requirements of the course as established by the instructor.

Students will be excused from class without penalty when either representing the college in an approved activity or having an approved reason for not attending. Reasons for absences must be approved by the instructor of the course. These exceptions do not relieve the student of the responsibility of making up the missed work as designated by the instructor concerned.

**Students who enroll in one or more college-preparatory course(s) because of TSI deficiency will be administratively withdrawn from all classes if the course in which they are excessively absent is their only preparatory course.** For a student enrolled in more than one preparatory course, the student may be dropped from only the course affected by absences.

Any student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day, provided that proper notification of the absence is given to the instructor of the course missed. The student should notify the instructor within the first fifteen (15) days of the semester that he or she intends to be absent on the specified holy day.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices Procedure:**

Cell phones and electronic devices in the classroom create a distraction for both students and faculty. Cell phones are also considered suspicious during test taking. Therefore, Frank Phillips College outlines the procedure for handling cell phone usage in a classroom as follows:

1. **First Offense:** the student will be warned verbally by the instructor to turn off the cell phone or electronic device or by appropriate administrative personnel at distance sites. The instructor will make a notation of the infraction.
2. **Second Offense:** the student will be asked to leave the class period for the day and will receive zeros for any work done in class on that day; a student receiving instruction through remote connection at an off-campus site will be required to attend the class face to face in Borger from this class date forward.
3. **Third Offense:** the student will be administratively withdrawn from the class in which the infraction occurred and will receive no refund for the class.

Students should leave the college's main number with an appropriate contact in case of an emergency.

Borger: (806) 457-4200, ext. 0 or 886-5047 after hours

Dalhart: (806) 244-7669

Perryton: (806) 648-1450

### **Grievance Policy**

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is your responsibility to FIRST contact the instructor, either by e-mail or in person, to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved after this initial contact, please follow the procedures described in the Academic Policies section of the Frank Phillips College Catalogue. In the vast majority of cases, the matter can be resolved at the instructor/student level, and learning to communicate your concerns in a civilized manner is part of the college experience.

### **Important Information**

Frank Phillips College is a Microsoft Office Campus. You must submit your electronic assignments in Microsoft Office programs only. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you may use one of the computer lab sites on campus for your class work.

### **Scans/Or Core Competencies That Will Be Addressed in the Class**

#### **Resources:**

Allocates Time

Allocates Money

Allocates Material & Facility Resources

#### **Information:**

Acquires & Evaluates Information

Organizes & Maintains Information

Uses Computers to Process Information

#### **Interpersonal:**

Participates as a Member of a Team

Teaches Others

Serves Clients/Customers

Exercises Leadership

Negotiates to Arrive at a Decision

Works with Cultural Diversity

#### **Thinking Skills:**

Creative Thinking

Decision Making

Problem Solving

Seeing Things in the Mind's Eye

Knowing How to Learn

Reasoning

#### **Technology:**

Selects Technology

Applies Technology

Maintains & Troubleshoots Technology

#### **Systems:**

Understands Systems

Monitors & Corrects Performance

Improves & Designs Systems

#### **Basic Skills:**

Reading

Writing

Arithmetic

Mathematics

Listening & Speaking

#### **Personal Qualities:**

Responsibility

Self-Esteem

Sociability

Self-Management

Integrity/Honesty