Marshall University Syllabus

Course Title/Number:    IST 320 Nature of Environmental Problems CRN 3693 Section 201

Semester/Year:  Spring 2017

Days/Time:          Online only. No class meetings.

Location:               WEB

Instructor:            Samuel T. Colvin

Office:    Morrow 111

Phone:   304 696 5432

E-Mail:   colvin8@marshall.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1230 – 145 p.m. By prior appointment only, 930 – 1045 a.m.

University Policies:            By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below.  Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.”  Or, you can access the policies directly by going to <http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/>.  Academic Dishonesty/Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/Computing Services Acceptable Use/Inclement Weather/Dead Week/Students with Disabilities/Academic Forgiveness/Academic Probation and Suspension/Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/Affirmative Action/Sexual Harassment

Course Description: From Catalog

The effects of human activity on ecological, political, and cultural systems are examined. Particular attention is given to present human population growth, industrial activities, and energy availability.

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| Learning Outcomes                                          How Practiced                            How Assessed |
| 1.       Students will analyze real-world,       text                                            journal entries, papers |
| environmental problems and |
| formulate plausible estimates of |
| the size and scope of those |
| problems. |
| 2.       Students will generate possible          text                                           journal entries, papers |
| solutions to selected environmental |
| problems by applying the scientific |
| method, the comparative method, |
| modeling or other organized |
| pattern of thinking. |
| 3.       Students will evaluate solutions         text                                            journal entries, papers |
| and situations using objective |
| criteria and information |
| 4.       Students will identify and describe        text                                        journal entries, papers |
| preferred solutions or actions and |
| predict likely outcomes if the |
| preferred solutions or actions are |
| implemented. |
| 5.       In gathering information, students     text                                           journal entries, papers |
| will formulate questions, choose |
| appropriate research tools, integrate |
| relevant information from reliable |
| sources, question and evaluate the |
| information, and use information |
| in an ethical manner to develop |
| cohesive written communications. |

Required Text

Title: Collapse    Author: Diamond   Publisher: Penguin    ISBN: 9780143117001  Copyright: 2011

OR

Digital Format: Adobe Digital Editions       Publisher: COPIA LLC     ISBN: 9781101502006

Course Requirements

10 papers issues from the text each worth a maximum of 90 possible points due by 11:59 p.m. to MU Online on Mondays as follows:

Paper 1 - 1/23    Paper 2 - 1/30    Paper 3 - 2/6    Paper 4 - 2/13     Paper 5 - 2/20

Paper 6 - 2/27    Paper 7 - 3/27    Paper 8 - 4/3    Paper 9 - 4/10     Paper 10 - 4/17

4  Blackboard Journal entries on topics selected by each student from a provided list of potential topics from the text. Each entry will be worth a maximum of 25 possible points and will be due by 11:59 p.m. to MU Online on Mondays as follows:

Entry 1 - 1/16       Entry 2 - 3/6      Entry 3 - 3/13     Entry 4 - 4/24

Late submission of an assignment (a paper or a journal entry) will be accepted with late penalties assessed for seven (7) days after the due date (the next Monday by 11:59 p.m.to MU Online) which will be the cutoff. After the cutoff, no submissions will be accepted.

Grading Policy

A total of 1000 points is possible.

Percentages and Points

Grades: A 90-100% 900 to 1000 points                      B 80-89% 800 to 899 points

C 70-79% 700 to 799 points               D 60-69% 600 to 699 points      F < 60% 0 to 599 points

Plagiarism or cheating will result in no credit for that activity and may result in further University sanctions.

Work not in the prescribed format will be penalized, or at the discretion of the instructor not accepted for grading. MU Online will be the only acceptable vehicle for submission of work unless the instructor announces or approves a different vehicle. Submission to MU Online is required so that submissions become part of the permanent record of the class. Late submissions to MU Online will be accepted with penalty until the cutoff. After the cutoff, MU Online will not allow submissions. Please do not e-mail submissions to me.

No work received after the class ends will be graded.

Grades will be reported in MU Online allowing students to determine their grade status anytime, especially prior to course withdrawal deadlines and prior to the final. Assignments will be marked, graded and comments returned through MU Online within two weeks after the due date. It is the student's responsibility to check grades and comments (if any) to assure the proper receipt of and credit for assignments.

Final grades are based on the number of points earned out of 1,000. Only point calculations prepared by the instructor are official.

There is no extra credit or re-testing. Scaling may be used at the discretion of the instructor in grading the submissions.

If you need to earn a certain grade in this class for any reason (scholarship, aid, graduate school, etc.), I am willing if requested at the beginning of the semester to help you devise a personal plan to work toward the desired grade.

At the end of the course, the instructor may, in his discretion, consider awarding extra points to a student less than five points (actual, not percentage) away from the next grade level provided that student has completed all assignments in a timely fashion.

Below is the current University policy related to incompletes for courses. It will be strictly followed.

"Incomplete: The grade of I (incomplete) indicates that the student has completed three-quarters of the course, but cannot complete the course for a reason that accords with the university excused-absence policy. Students must be in good standing in the class prior to requesting an incomplete. The course instructor decides whether or not an incomplete will be granted and specifies in writing what work the student must complete to fulfill the course requirements. The student has until the end of the next fall or spring semester from the date of receipt of the incomplete grade in which to complete the course, or the instructor may establish an earlier deadline. If special circumstances exist, which prevent the student from completing the course in the prescribed time, the incomplete may be extended with approval of the instructor, the instructor's chair or division head, and the instructor's dean. If the student satisfactorily completes the course in the prescribed time he/she will receive a letter grade. If the student fails to complete the course requirements during the stipulated time, the grade of I changes to a grade of F."

- The Greenbook, Marshall University

Attendance Policy

Online class. No class meetings or attendance.

Due Dates

Due dates and assignments are subject to change. Due dates will only be moved back, not forward.

Copies / Copyright

Submissions will not be returned. Please keep copies of all work submitted.

Some materials used in this class may be copyrighted and should not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course.

Contact The Instructor

Questions from students about the class may be sent by e-mail to colvin8@marshall.edu.

colvin8@marshall.edu is the only e-mail address to which I respond. Please do not send e-mails to any other address or through forums.

Because of the phone system, I can only return local phone calls and often cannot return some cell phone calls. I normally check and return phone calls and e-mails only when on campus, but I do respond if at all possible.

I strive to respond to phone calls and e-mails within 24 hours of receipt and will respond if at all possible.

I can also be contacted in person at or between classes and during posted office hours.

Instructor Schedule – Spring 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Classes

8 – 915 a.m. IST 111 Sections 203 and 205 Science 276

11 a.m. – 1215 p.m. IST 321 Section 201 WAEC 1227

2 – 315 IST 111 Section 204 WAEC 2235

IST 320 Section 201 Online only – No class meetings

Office Hours

1230 – 145 p.m.

By prior appointment only, 930 -1045 a.m.

Faculty Meetings

9 a.m. Wednesdays

Important Dates Spring 2017

January 9, Monday -- January 13, Friday Late registration/schedule adjustment (add-drop)   
  
January 16, Monday Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - University closed   
  
February 27, Monday, Noon Freshmen/Sophomore mid-term grades due   
  
March 17, Friday Last day to drop an individual course   
  
March 20, Monday -- March 25, Saturday Spring Break Classes dismissed   
  
April 24, Monday -- April 28, Friday "Dead Week"   
  
April 28, Friday Last day to completely withdraw from spring semester   
  
May 4, Thursday Exam Day   
  
May 6, Saturday, TBD at Big Sandy Superstore Arena Commencement   
  
May 9, Tuesday, Noon Final Grades due

Course Schedule

Week 1 starting 1/9 - Students should review syllabus in the course content on MU Online which will be posted on 1/10/17. All instructions for the papers and journal entries will be posted on MU Online later in the week. Students should email questions about the syllabus and assignments to the instructor at colvin8@marshall.edu. Students should view a video of the author of the text at <https://www.ted.com/talks/jared_diamond_on_why_societies_collapse> .

Week 2 - 1/16 – Journal Entry 1 due

Week 3 - 1/23 - Paper 1 due, Cutoff for Journal Entry 1

Week 4 - 1/30 - Paper 2 due, Cutoff for Paper 1

Week 5 - 2/6 - Paper 3 due, Cutoff for Paper 2

Week 6 - 2/13 - Paper 4 due, Cutoff for Paper 3

Week 7 - 2/20 - Paper 5 due, Cutoff for Paper 4

Week 8  2/27 - Paper 6 due, Cutoff for Paper 5

Week 9  3/6 – Journal Entry 2 due, Cutoff for Paper 6

Week 10 3/13 - Journal Entry 3 due, Cutoff for Journal Entry 2

Spring Break

Week 11 3/27 - Paper 7 due, Cutoff for Journal Entry 3

Week 12  4/3 - Paper 8 due, Cutoff for Paper 7

Week 13  4/10 – Paper 9 due, Cutoff for Paper 8

Week 14  4/17 – Paper 10 due, Cutoff for Paper 9

Week 15  4/24 - Journal Entry 4 due, Cutoff for Paper 10

                    5/1 - Cutoff for Journal Entry 4, End of class, No final exam

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sam Colvin received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from WVU. He has taken postgraduate courses at Marshall.

Sam has worked on environmental issues since the first Earth Day in 1970. He was appointed as the first WV Youth Adviser to the newly-formed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As a student, he worked on a federally funded environmental education grant developing and testing course materials from elementary school to college level. He served a six-month internship with the WVU Extension Environmental Education Specialist.

Sam has been employed at the city, county and state levels in West Virginia. He was an Extension Agent for two years, administrative assistant for admissions to the MU School of Medicine for six months, and the Community Development Director of Huntington for three years. He served as Executive Director of the WV Resource Recovery-Solid Waste Disposal Authority for eleven years. He was a market development representative for a major environmental company for one year. He has operated an environmental consulting business since 1990.

Sam has been a member of the WV Solid Waste Management Board and the WV Water Quality Advisory Committee. He served two years as Executive Director of the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education.

Sam's major environmental emphasis is solid waste, including recycling and composting. He is a certified yard waste facility operator and has received the National Backyard Compost training and the Compost Facility Best Management Practices training.

Sam has taught at Marshall since the spring of 2000. He has taught First Year Seminar 100, Integrated Science (ISC) 211 Living on Earth, Integrated Science and Technology (IST) 111 Living Systems, IST 120 Connections I, IST 220 Connections II, IST 212 Energy, IST 320 Nature of Environmental Problems, and IST 321 Resolution of Environmental Problems. He has been involved in two Campus Compact service learning grants. He has completed Quality Matters for online teaching, critical thinking and service learning training.

Sam has completed Sustainability Awareness, Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management System training sponsored by WV Department of Environmental Protection, the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable and Bridgemont Community & Technical College.

His current research and service projects include: (1) Monitor and modify as needed the IST 320 online course; (2) Continue to develop proposed new baseball field; (3) Continue evaluation of state-mandated waste reduction goal of 50%; (4) Monitor the reclamation of the former City of Huntington landfill; (5) Study the WV solid waste management system.

Sam lives in rural Wayne County, WV with his wife, Prudence. Prudence graduated from Marshall with bachelor's and master's degrees and is now retired after 34 years as an educator – 27 as an elementary teacher and 7 as a reading coach. They are active as volunteers in church and community activities. Sam is a volunteer assistant high school baseball coach.

They have two sons.

Andrew is a May, 2013 environmental engineering graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, an August, 2014 honor graduate of the Naval Dive School and a graduate of the Army Air Assault Course. He is currently a first lieutenant in the Army serving as an engineer dive officer and professional diver. In 2015 he returned from deployment in the Middle East.

Samuel graduated in May, 2014 with honors from the University of Charleston and was selected as Senior of the Year. He served as battalion commander of the Army ROTC combined programs for WV State, Glenville State, WVU Tech and the University of Charleston and was named Cadet of the Year. He is currently a first lieutenant in the Army serving as a military intelligence officer, is a paratrooper and graduated from the Army Reconnaissance Course in 2015. He is a licensed private pilot.

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