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**COURSE PREFIX/NO:** EVT 201  
**COURSE TITLE:** ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
**LEC HRS/WEEK:** 3.0  
**LAB HRS/WEEK:** 0.0  
**CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER:** 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)  
[Textbook Information](#)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of environmental science, including ecology, energy, resources, waste management, air, water, and soil pollution.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES/PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate their understanding of environmental/ecological concepts as they:

### **Module 1: Understanding the Environment**

- Determine the difference between precision and accuracy by distinguishing between them.
- Determine the difference between deductive and inductive reasoning by recognizing examples of each.
- Use the scientific method to study environmental issues and correctly design scientific studies and interpret data.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of conservation and environmentalism by correctly communicating the significant events of these movements.
- Describe and give examples of energy and nutrient flow in ecosystems and identify the correct pathways of each.
- Describe and give examples of populations and communities.
- Explain the significance of the “human footprint” on the environment.
- Distinguish between the different types of ecosystems and how human beings impact them.

### **Module 2: Agriculture, Conservation, Health, and Toxicity**

- Describe how human beings use and abuse soil resources.
- Describe the effectiveness of the various methods of conservation.
- Distinguish between the severities of various environmental health issues, including pandemics and their effect on human health.
- Describe the effects of toxic substances and how various environmental factors influence their effects

### **Module 3: Air, Water, and the Earth**

- Identify air, water, and geological resources and current and predicted human effects on these resources.
- Correctly identify existing problems and predict new ones based on data analysis to understand the consequences of human actions and natural processes on the health of air, water, and geological resources.
- Communicate how hazardous Earth processes, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, affect human activities and the consequences of ignoring these hazards.
- Describe how human behavior through conservation and recycling can postpone deleterious effects on economies and human well being by citing examples.

### **Module 4: Environmental Science and Societal Issues**

- Describe and distinguish between current renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Describe the effect of human behavior on the consumption of resources by correctly communicating the result of poor leadership and lack of individual accountability for the improper conservation of energy resources.
- Identify resource friendly alternative energy sources and the realistic impact they have on pollution, the economy, and other societal issues.
- Identify current solid and hazardous waste practices and the impact they have on resources.
- Identify the issues with altering current solid and hazardous waste practices and known solutions to current problems.
- Describe the economics of urbanization including the problems created by urban sprawl by distinguishing between unsustainable and sustainable policies and activities in urban communities.

## **MINIMAL STANDARDS**

Minimal standards of performance for receiving 3 hours of semester credit from York Technical College are indicated by achieving a 60% average on all evaluation instruments used in the course performance evaluation strategy. Students must achieve a 70% average for this course to transfer to other programs, such as the Environmental Science or Analytical Chemistry program.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are responsible for attending meetings in the course until they have completed all course requirements. Students are responsible for all material covered and for all assignments made in all classes. Students who are absent from a course more than 10% of the total contact hours assigned may be withdrawn in accordance with the attendance policy of York Technical College. See Instructor's Individual Policy for more information.

### **Withdrawal from the Course**

A student may withdraw from a course after the drop/add period until midterm with a grade of "W" (withdrawn). Students who withdraw after midterm may receive a "W" at the discretion of the instructor if performance has been satisfactory to the point of withdrawal. Otherwise, such withdrawals will receive a grade of "WF."

## **Student Conduct**

Students are expected to conform to all standards of conduct as specified in the York Technical College Handbook and Catalog. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism will be given a grade of zero and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

## **EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING**

**Grades will be determined as described below:**

<b>Modules 1-4</b> (Module Tests, Reports, Presentations, Bulletin Board Discussions and/or Quizzes)	60% of course grade (15% per module)
<b>Forum Presentation, Service Project, Research Project, Website, or Internship</b>	15% of course grade
<b>Cumulative Proctored Final Exam</b>	25% of course grade

### **Grading Scale:**

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

A statement of your instructor's additional requirements and/or policy will be provided.

**ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS:** None

**PREREQUISITES:** CHM 105

**CO-REQUISITES:** None

**Disabilities Statement:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.