

NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Science & Mathematics

ENSC 1003 Environmental Science

Catalog Description: A course focusing on the interrelationship between man and his environment. The first half of the course is an abbreviated study of basic ecological and conservation principles. The second half focuses on environment topics of special interest. These topics may include air and water pollution, environmental ethics, policy and decision-making, waste management, attracting and preserving wildlife or other requested topics. ENSC 1001L is a co-requisite.

Prerequisite: There are no prerequisites for this course. Enrollment in ENSC 1001L is a co-requisite for ENSC 1003.

Credit hours/ Contact hours/ Load hours: 4/6/5

Target Audience/ Transferability: Successful completion of this course should prepare students for successful further study in environmental and regulatory science. This is a required course for the Environmental & Regulatory Science AAS Degree. ENSC 1003 will transfer to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the Environmental, Soil, and Water Science as elective credit. ENSC 1003 will also transfer to Missouri Southern State University and Northeastern Oklahoma State University at Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students completing this course will:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the need for “scientific literacy” in coping with the world of the present and better understand the world in their future.
- Explain the scientific method and how it is used to acquire information about the world around them.
- Relate scientific approach to understanding challenges and issues affecting their environment.
- Describe GIS (Global Information Systems) and how it applies to the scientific community in today’s workplace.

Topics:

- Critical Thinking about the Environment
- Earth as a System of Change
- The Human Population and Environment
- Biogeochemical Cycles
- Ecosystems and Ecosystem Management
- Biological Diversity
- Biogeography
- Biological Productivity and Energy Flow
- Ecological Restoration
- Sustaining Living Resources
- Effects of Agriculture on Environment
- Environmental Health, Pollution, and Toxicology

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- Fossil Fuels and Environment

Forms of Assessment: Assessment quiz at the end of the semester.