

Oglala Lakota College  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2011

**Course Name & Number**

Integrated Environmental Science  
NSCI 303 – 3 credits

**Instructor**

Merle “Misty” Brave  
c/o Oglala Lakota College  
490 Piya Wiconi Road  
Box 490  
Kyle, SD 57752

Home: 605-685-1194  
Work: 605-455-6002  
e-mail [mbrave@olc.edu](mailto:mbrave@olc.edu)  
cell: 605-685-4098

**Office Hours**

- 1 hour before class begins
- You may also arrange other times at Piya Wiconi.

**Course Description**

This course will cover an interdisciplinary approach to the study of environmental sciences. The Western science of ecology and earth sciences, traditional Lakota and other indigenous knowledge and perspectives are examined. These topics are presented with consideration of the social, economic and political aspects of environmental issues. Field Trips are utilized to learn about current environmental issues on Pine Ridge.

**Required materials**

1. *Sacred Ecology* by Fikret Berkes
2. *Taking Sides* by Thomas Easton and Theodore Goldfarb
3. *In the Absence of the Sacred* by Jerry Mander

**Instructional Method**

Student lead lectures, assigned reading, reaction papers, quizzes, and field trips will be utilized in this course.

**Course Rationale**

This course will fulfill some of the coursework required for the Natural Science degree.

**Course objectives**

**Discipline/Department Objectives/Outcomes**

**Tribal:** Provide curriculum and academic experiences that infuse new knowledge to our stakeholders and to create new training opportunities for existing professionals in math and science.

**Community:** Offer formal and informal learning opportunities for students and community members to positively influence their beliefs regarding science and math.

**Cultural:** Create an environment that supports, encourages, and respects Lakota values in all aspects of our academic, research, and outreach efforts.

**Academic:** Establish a foundation of academic excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

## Instructor Objectives/Outcomes

- Demonstrate processes of environmental science
- Become familiar with both sides of current issues dealing with global environmental concerns
- Become familiar with the socio/political frameworks within these global environmental concerns
- Learn how these socio/political frameworks may be resolved
- Attend field trips and be able to make correlations between the Pine Ridge Reservation and the rest of Unci Maka

## Evaluation

Interview an elder	10%	90-100% =	A
Resolution one	15%	80-89% =	B
Resolution two		70-79% =	C
Hourly quizzes	15%	60- 69% =	D
		< 59% =	F
Reaction papers	15%		
Attendance	10%		
Field Trips	20%		
Final Exam	15%		

## Course Policies

### Attendance

Students are required to attend classes regularly. Instructors will submit attendance on-line weekly to the end of the semester.

- If a student wishes to be excused from a class, it is the student's responsibility to clear the absence with the instructor. At that time the student must arrange for a make-up assignment. However, an excused absence is the same as an absence until the student has completed work equivalent to being in class. Once the make-up assignment is completed, the instructor will then change the absent to present.
- A student may be dropped from a course after three consecutive absences and will be dropped by the Registrar after five total absences.
- There are **NO** reinstatements and **NO** exceptions for students who are dropped for five absences.

### Tardiness

In formulating this policy it is understood that unique problems exist for both students and faculty due to the decentralized nature of OLC. Since classes meet only once per week, it is important that they be held - even if they begin late.

- Generally speaking, if an instructor is going to be late getting to a college center for a class, the center staff should always be notified. The following policy applies to cases where this has not been done:

**If an instructor is late for a class, students must wait for one-half hour. After this time, the class will be considered cancelled for that week and must be made up.**

- A student shall be considered tardy for class, if he/she arrives late for class, but during the first hour of the class. A student arriving later than the first hour they may be marked absent. This policy will not interfere with the instructor's prerogative to grade for class participation.
- In the event that no students appear for class at the scheduled starting time, the instructor should wait at least one-half hour before deciding to cancel the class.
- All cancelled classes must be made up.

## **Withdrawal**

If you decide to not finish this class, it is the student's responsibility to make sure you are officially dropped from the class. If you do not drop yourself, you will receive your grade for work the amount of work completed.

## **Incomplete**

If you need more time to complete the course, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor to file for an incomplete. This will include getting the necessary incomplete forms with all the necessary signatures.

An "incomplete" grade held beyond the deadline requires approval by the Registrar, who shall consider the continuing availability of the instructor; the responsibility of the student involved' and the cause for the incomplete. In such cases where the instructor is not available, the "incomplete contract" will be utilized by the appropriate department chairperson and the chairperson will assign a letter grade to the student, if possible.

An incomplete grade is given only when the instructor feels that special circumstances warrant it. In addition to the faculty providing all information necessary to determine an appropriate grade for the student, the student with the instructor and department chairperson must sign a contract. Unless stated in the contract, any incomplete grade must be made up within one calendar year.

## **Academic dishonesty**

Plagiarism (i.e. passing off another author's work as your own) will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty is the taking of an examination or the preparation of papers for credit wherein the student knowingly represents the work of another as his/her own; and/or knowingly breaks stated examination rules. A student may be expelled and barred from further classes upon proof in a hearing set up by the Vice President for Instruction.

## **Academic Freedom**

The academic community is committed to education that looks beyond the narrow confines of the present. Education must initiate the challenge to old and new ideas. It must seek to develop the habit of free inquiry and investigation.

Academic freedom is the absence of restrictions placed upon the spirit of investigation, free inquiry and open discussion. In this spirit, the instructor exercises a professional judgment to select and interpret ideas, and the student has the right to challenge ideas and interpretations.

## **Student Discipline**

### **Rights**

Students at Oglala Lakota College have the right to the highest quality education possible and to a fair and just treatment by all departments of this college. Students records and transcripts are confidential. Students have the right to a timely and accurate financial statement and billing.

Students are to be treated with respect and to be fairly graded. Students can participate in the governance of OLC by active involvement in their local student organization and boards, Piya WiconiOkolakiciye and may visit any College Board meetings. Students have the right to appeal any actions against them through the grievance procedures outlined in the policy manual.

OLC students will abide by the standards of conduct while on college premises. Every student has the right to a safe learning environment. To ensure this safety, OLC applies the following as acts of misconduct subject to disciplinary action:

- Any actual or threatened physical violence
- Gross disorderly conduct
- Verbal abuse or harassment
- Vandalism of OLC premises
- Attending classes under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Failure to properly supervise children on college premises
- Any other student conduct that causes a disruption in classes or business transactions on college premises

**ADA Statement**

If you have a disability that interferes with your ability to learn and in need of assistance please contact the OLC Coordinator of Support Services at 455-6040 See OLC Policy 85-600 for further details.

**Lakota Perspective:**

This course stresses **Wolakotakiciapi** of “learning Lakota ways of life in the community”. Introducing Lakota perspective is as much a responsibility of the student as the instructor. Class interaction is important. Using the virtues/virtues of respect, wisdom, generosity, responsibility, integrity, fortitude and courage will be beneficial for all classmates and the instructor.

**Disclaimer**

Information contained in the syllabus and topical content developed for the Integrated Environmental Science (NSci303) class was, to the best knowledge of the instructor correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. However, the syllabus should not be considered a contract between Oglala Lakota College and any student. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in course content or instructional technique without notice or obligation.

## Topical Content

### Week One

Syllabus

Go over Interview an Elder assignment

Assign oral reports on chapters

### Week Two

Interview an Elder - reports

### Week Three

Movie – Standing Silent Nation (reaction paper)

Interview an Elder - reports

### Week Four

Field Trip to OST Parks – Kyle – Birgil Kills Straight

### Week Five

Movie-Fate of the Earth (reaction paper)

IN THE ABSENCE OF SACRED – CH. 11

CH. 6

### Week Six

Resolution writing

CH. 9

### Week Seven

Resolution presentations

CH. 12

CH. 13

### Week Eight

EPILOGUE

APPENDIX

### Week Nine

EPA Field trip – Pine Ridge – Bob Pille

### Week Ten

Quiz One - Ch. 11, 12, 13

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE ONE

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE FOUR

### Week Eleven

Field Trip – Kiza Park - Alex & Deb White Plume

### Week Twelve

Quiz Two - Ch. 6, Ch. 9, Epilogue, Appendix,

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE FIVE

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE SEVEN

### Week Thirteen

Quiz three – Issue One, Four, Five and Seven

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE EIGHT

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE THIRTEEN

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE SIXTEEN

TAKING SIDES – ISSUE EIGHTEEN

Homework – resolution two

Week Fourteen

Quiz Four – Issue Eight, Thirteen, Sixteen and Eighteen  
Second Resolution Presentation Due

Week Fifteen

Final Exam