

ENV 6002: Physical & Chemical Principles of Environmental Engineering

Homework #1

Fall 2008

Due Thurs., Sept. 4, 2008

J. A. Cunningham

- (1) (10 pts) Write a short professional autobiography. It should probably be about $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 page in length. Please write it in the style of a short biography, and answer most/all of the following questions (not necessarily in this order; you decide what sounds best). From what state, province, or country do you come? How long have you been at USF? For what degree are you studying? With which department or division are you affiliated? In what field is your undergraduate degree? Do you have any professional or work experience that is related to water resources or environmental engineering? Why are you interested in learning about environmental engineering? What do you hope to gain from this class? Please be aware that you will be graded on the *quality of your writing* as well as the content of your answers. Part of the point of this assignment is to have you practice some writing, of the type that you might have to do in engineering practice.

- (2) Read the course syllabus. Use the most recent edition available.
 - (a) (10 pts) After reading the syllabus, send an e-mail to the instructor stating that you have done so. If there is anything that you did not understand, or would like clarified, indicate that in your e-mail. If you have questions about the syllabus, now is the time to ask them!
 - (b) (5 pts) In the same e-mail, indicate to the instructor any time periods that you are **not** available for class office hours due to **academic or family commitments**. As a courtesy to your fellow students, please don't block off time for reasons like "I like to nap at 1 in the afternoon" or "it's too hot after 10 AM." You know what's reasonable.

In the past, many students have found personal attendance at office hours to be a valuable part of the learning process, so I recommend it if possible. However, I understand that many FEEDS/APEX students may not be able to attend office hours in person. We will make use of other tools (e.g., on-line chat via BlackBoard, maybe Elluminate software if I can learn how it works) to offer "virtual office hours" to APEX students.

- (3) (25 pts) Write a short report about an instance where the environment has been contaminated by hazardous chemicals. For instance, you could write about a “Superfund” site (if you are familiar with that term), or about environmental contamination near your home city, or about a famous case in the past. You will probably want to discuss the following: What chemicals are involved? How did the contamination get there, e.g., what activity led to the contamination? Who is potentially impacted by this contamination? What is being done about it now, and/or has been done about it already? When will the contaminated area be considered “safe” or “clean” again?

Your report must be written **in your own words**. Be sure to cite your sources. Internet sites are acceptable, but you *must* cite the URL address(es). Your report will be graded on three criteria: (1) the content; (2) the writing, i.e., if it is clear and easy to understand; and (3) how well you cite appropriate references. If it is determined that most of your report was just copied from another source, you will not receive credit for the problem. Please type your report with reasonable font size, margins, and spacing. Your report should be 1–5 pages in length. Please don’t exceed 5 pages.