

**EVS 6920: ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM (ERIC)**

**Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering**

**University of South Florida**

**Prof. Cunningham**

**Fall 2016**

**Course Description** (*from USF course inventory*)

Interdisciplinary seminar series that exposes students to a variety of environmental topics through presentations and interactive discussions with scholars and practitioners.

**Course Objectives**

The purposes of this course are as follows.

1. Students will develop a breadth of exposure to topics in environmental engineering and closely related fields.
2. Students will become familiar with up-to-date approaches to analyzing and solving environmental problems.
3. Students will become part of a community of scholars, scientists, and engineers working towards the solution of important problems.

**Time & Place:** Wednesdays, 4:00–5:00 PM, in CPH 1023B, except as announced otherwise

**Instructor:** Professor J A Cunningham  
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**Credit:** 1 unit, letter grade (if allowable – S/U grading if not)

**E-Mail:** Outside of class, I will use e-mail to disseminate information (e.g., a change in the seminar location for a particular week). This will be done through the Canvas program so I can reach all students at once. If you use more than one e-mail address, make sure Canvas forwards to your primary e-mail address.

### **Requirements**

1. Each student must attend all regularly scheduled seminars. Up to two absences can be made up by attendance at another seminar of an appropriate topic (subject to *prior* approval of the course instructor). Absences that are made up will not be counted against the student.
2. Each student must complete an independent literature review on *one* of the topics discussed this semester. This literature review should provide background on the problem discussed by the speaker, describe why it is an important problem worth addressing, describe the current state-of-the art methods for addressing the problem, describe and discuss the important engineering challenges still remaining, and include any other information that the student deems particularly relevant. Papers must be written in the students' own words, and must include proper citations and a reference list with complete bibliographic information. *Students who plagiarize will be given a failing grade for the class.* Additional details for the requirements of the literature review will be provided in separate documentation.

### **Grading**

- It is my intention to provide letter grades this semester. There is some possibility that the USF e-grades system will restrict me to assigning S/U grades only.
- Assuming that letter grades are allowed, I will assign grades as follows:
  - A: no more than 1 absence, *and* 40/50 (or better) on the literature review
  - B: no more than 2 absences, *and* 30/50 (or better) on the literature review
  - C: no more than 3 absences, *and* 20/50 (or better) on the literature review
  - D: no more than 4 absences, *and* 10/50 (or better) on the literature review
  - F: more than 4 absences *or* a literature review worse than 10/50
- In the event that I am restricted to S/U grading, a satisfactory grade will require *no more than 2 absences* *and* 25/50 (or better) on the literature review.
- A rubric for scoring on the literature review will be provided separately.

### **USF Policy on Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, e-mail messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, e-mails, and MoBull messages for important general information. (*Instructor's note:* examples of "emergency" could be a hurricane, outbreak of contagious disease, etc.)

### **USF Policy on Academic Accommodations for a Disability**

Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation.

(*Instructor's note:* The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact SDS as soon as possible.)

### **USF Policy on the Observance of Religious Days by Students**

Students are expected to attend classes and take examinations as determined by the USF System. No student shall be compelled to attend class or sit for an examination at a day or time prohibited by his or her religious belief. However, students should review the course requirements and meeting days and times to avoid foreseeable conflicts, as excessive absences in a given term may prevent a student from completing the academic requirements of a specific course. *Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination* [emphasis added], in accordance with this policy. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed. In the event that a student is absent for religious reasons on a day when the instructor collects work for purposes of grading (homework, pop quiz, etc.), the student shall be given a reasonable opportunity to make up such work or shall not have that work averaged into the student's grade at the discretion of the instructor. Any student who believes that he or she has been treated unfairly with regard to the above may seek review of a complaint through established USF System Academic Grievance Procedures (found in the Graduate and Undergraduate Catalogs) and those provided by the University's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity.

[<http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf>, accessed 11 Sept 2014]

**Instructor's Policy on Academic Honesty**

- Materials presented or disseminated in this class should be considered copyrighted and should not be reproduced or distributed without the permission of the speaker.
- Seminars should not be recorded by students without the permission of the speaker. Any recorded seminars are *only* for the private use of students registered for the class.
- Notes and/or recorded lectures may not be sold.
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. ***It is the responsibility of each student to know and understand what constitutes plagiarism.*** Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to complete USF's tutorial on academic integrity via the following web site.

<http://usfweb2.usf.edu/ethics/splash.html>

Also, USF's library maintains a web page to help students avoid plagiarism.

<http://www.lib.usf.edu/guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>

- Violation of these rules -- ***even unintentionally!*** -- can result in disciplinary action including an unsatisfactory grade in the course, suspension, dismissal, and expulsion from USF.
- *Students who plagiarize any portion of the literature review will be given a failing grade for the class.*
- If you have any questions regarding plagiarism or other forms of scholastic dishonesty, please consult the relevant sections of the USF student catalogs, and/or ask the instructor.