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Educational Background

B.S. Geology, University of Texas at Arlington

M.S. and Ph.D. Geology, Colorado School of Mines

Welcome to Foundations of Environmental Science!

This is a course I designed for the first time 18 years ago at MSU and have been updating ever since. Previously, it has been offered as a face-to-face course, and I have been offering the online version since I retired from full-time teaching seven years ago. I believe that I have preserved the content – and intent – of the original course. I hope that you are challenged and engaged by the assignments and the communication opportunities. I look forward to participating with you and learning along with you throughout the semester. I am not located on campus, but I am readily available via email and by phone or ZOOM, if necessary – we can set up a time for a call if you email me with a request to do so. **This may be helpful as you begin the labs, many of which require you to use unfamiliar Geographic Information Software (GIS).**

During the face-to-face version of this class, quizzes were typically taken during the content lecture they covered. That's not practical in the online version. However, you have access to a weekly review for each week of lectures, and if you fill it out while you watch the lectures, you will be well prepared for the weekly quizzes – and for each test. I strongly recommend that you use the reviews in this way.

The online discussion forum is designed to involve all of us in communicating and sharing our new learning and our ideas. I intend that you use the discussion questions as a starting point to encourage further investigation of current environmental issues. I can't wait to read your contributions. Most of the discussion assignments require you to find and share links related to the topic, and to contribute informed responses to other students' postings (open and read their links). Take this seriously.

The laboratory for this class will use materials and activities available through free online educational resources developed by ESRI, IRIS, and the Switch On Energy Project. Many of these involve using geospatial resources and software tools (GIS). You will do the exercises online and take a quiz to assess your learning. You can take this quiz in another browser as you do the online exercises using your student data sheets; I recommend this approach. The laboratory activities reinforce and extend the issues and concepts covered in the lectures, readings, and discussions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, ideas, and concerns. I like to hear from you!