Dear BioSci 130 Students,

Welcome to **Contemporary Issues in Environmental Biology**. This letter will provide you with important information regarding the course.

**This class is a 100% online class using Blackboard**
https://bb9.canyons.edu/webapps/login/

**The required text** for the class is: *Environmental Science* by G. Tyler Miller and Scott Spoolman, 2013 14th ed., ISBN 9781111988937

**Course Summary:**
In this course we will explore several current environmental issues resulting from the degradation of natural resources and services that support life and economies. The class introduces basic ecological principles, current environmental issues such as pollution (air, water, and soil), global warming, deforestation, the impact of human population growth on the earth’s environment, and possible solutions to these problems. Following analysis of the problems, scientific progress in achieving sustainable solutions will be evaluated for effectiveness and efficiency.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
1. Analyze and explain the composition and functioning of ecosystems.
2. Evaluate major environmental issues and possible solutions to problems.

**Exams:** 2 midterms and 1 final will be given online.
**Assignments and Discussion Boards daily and/or weekly**

**Important Information:**
Please plan to visit the course’s website every day. This is a 3 unit class that meets for 48 hours in a face to face class over 16 weeks. In college level courses you are expected to spend additional time per each hour of class time. Therefore, please plan to spend approximately **12-18 hours per week** on the readings and assignments for this shortened 5 week winter class.

Technology requirements for the course are basic. You must have an email address, regular access to the Internet, a web browser, and a word-processing program such as Microsoft Word.

Our 5 week winter class begins January 6th and ends February 6th, 2014. **The first day on which you can access the class via Blackboard is January 1st. To confirm your place in the class, you should log in to the website below and begin participating no later than Wednesday, January 6th by 11:59 p.m.**
https://bb9.canyons.edu/webapps/login/
If you do not access the class website and begin participating by January 6th by 11:59 p.m., then you will be dropped from the class as a no-show.

**Useful Links:**
Distance Learning home page: [http://www.canyons.edu/distancelearning](http://www.canyons.edu/distancelearning).

Counseling 070 information: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/info/COUNS070.asp](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/info/COUNS070.asp)

More information about the course will be detailed in the class syllabus, which you’ll find at the Blackboard course website.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the course, don’t hesitate to contact me. I look forward to our semester together.

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