Welcome!
Before we discuss the course itself, a few details to keep in mind:

- This is a 100% online course. You will not be required to take exams at the TLC, and there is no requirement that you meet on campus at any point. However, this is not a self-paced course so you will need to keep up with the deadlines for assignments and readings. The first deadline is Aug. 29, so it is very easy to fall behind, and it will harm your grade.
- If you do not log on to the course blackboard page by 11:59pm Aug. 25 you will be dropped as a no-show, and your spot will be forfeit unless you contact me prior to that date. Students who miss more than two deadlines for weekly assignments may be dropped at my discretion.
- You will be expected to check the course blackboard nearly every other day and regularly participate in discussion boards – failure to do so will result in a reduced grade.

Now…about the course
BioSci 130 is designed to provide a basic understanding of modern issues in environmental biology, including (but not limited to) ecosystems, populations, and conservation. We will discuss human impacts on our environment, and ideas on how to mitigate them. You will be required to do outside research. Application of knowledge, not just memorization will be emphasized in my class, however, this is a biology course, so there will also be lots of new vocabulary to learn. There will be weekly quizzes as well as three exams and one cumulative final, all open-book but timed. All exams will include essay questions.
Things you will need:

1. **Textbook**: Miller, G.T. *Environmental Science* (14th Ed)
2. Dependable **access to a computer** with internet capabilities. Phones, no matter how smart, are insufficient. Technical problems are not a valid excuse for missing deadlines, so make sure you have a back-up plan(s). This course will be taught using Blackboard. If you are unfamiliar with this system, please go to [https://bb9.canyons.edu](https://bb9.canyons.edu) and follow the instructions on how to log on, and explore the resources. Even before the course webpage is available on Aug. 24 it would be a good idea to make sure you have access. Also confirm you have a current contact email address listed as I may periodically send out messages via email.
3. **Motivation**. This course is directly equivalent to an on campus three hour lecture course, and will be equally rigorous. You should be prepared to set aside approximately six hours (possibly more) per week to go over lecture material, participate in class discussions, and complete assignments.

Be aware that you have a variety of additional resources at your disposal. The distance education website offers resources to help students excel in online courses: [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/default.aspx) as does counseling (Couns 070): [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Counseling/Pages/Courses.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/Counseling/Pages/Courses.aspx).

If you require accommodations, please see DSP&S for further steps [http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DSPS/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DSPS/Pages/default.aspx).

The TLC ([http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc/Pages/default.aspx)) and MESA ([http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/MESA/Pages/studentstudycenter.aspx](http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/MESA/Pages/studentstudycenter.aspx)) Centers offer computers, printers, tutoring, and study space. You are highly encouraged to communicate with your classmates on course discussion boards, and should feel free to form study groups and meet ‘in real life’ if you wish. And you can always email me with questions, before or during the semester.

I look forward to working with you this fall!