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: 2-3 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 8 week summer 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 8 week summer class begins June 15th and ends August 8th, 2015. The first day on which you can access the class via Blackboard is June 14th. To confirm your place in the class, you should log in to the website below and begin participating no later than Monday, June 15th before 11:59 p.m.
https://bb9.canyons.edu/webapps/login/
If you do not access the class website and begin participating by June 15th 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.

Counseling 070 information:
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.

Amy Foote
amy.foote@canyons.edu