



Academic Year 2016-2017
Syllabus
Environmental Quality Engineering
6 CFU
Prof. Giulia Costa

Course Description

The course will focus on some of the key global environmental challenges that our Planet is currently facing and on the strategies that are being developed to address them both from a policy/legislative perspective and from a technological one.

The main objective of this course is to provide students with a fundamental understanding of complex environmental problems and of the main legislative and technical measures for mitigating human impacts on the environment. To this aim, the students will be provided with scientific and technical background for understanding and discussing complex environmental issues and possible solutions. In addition, the main aims and contents of international protocols, standards and framework directives, as well as of the main procedures and tools developed to manage and assess environmental impacts related to systems, processes or products will be examined.

Based on the knowledge acquired in the course, the students will be able to form their own opinions on global environmental issues and communicate them effectively.

Teaching Method

The course will be carried out mainly through lectures and power point presentations prepared by the instructor. However, the active participation of the students will be sought for through class discussions. One or two field visits to water or waste treatment plants may also be planned, on the basis of the interest of the students. Experts may also be invited to provide lectures on specific topics.

List of Topics

Topic 1	Introduction: overview of environmental sustainability, contamination phenomena in different environmental compartments (air, water and soil), environmental measurements and environmental cycles.
Topic 2	Integrated waste management strategies and technologies.
Topic 3	Water quality issue, management and treatment: EU water framework Directive, traditional treatment processes in developed countries and approaches/technologies for the developing world.
Topic 4	Contaminated sites issue, management and remediation strategies. Case of Brownfield regeneration.
Topic 5	Urban air quality issue and treatment strategies; Mitigation strategies for global issues: stratospheric ozone depletion and climate change.
Topic 6	Environmental impact assessment tools (life cycle assessment and environmental footprint).
Topic 7	Environmental quality management tools (environmental management systems, EMAS, Eco-label).

Textbook and Materials

Reading material on each course topic which will include handouts, reports, scientific papers and links to websites, will be made available to the students by the course instructor.

Main textbook (not to be purchased): “Environmental Engineering: Fundamentals, Sustainability, Design” by Mihelcic and Zimmerman, Wiley, 2014.

Assessment

Assessment will be carried out through a written exam, an oral discussion and a group presentation prepared on a topic selected together with the course instructor. In order to pass the exam each student will have to attain a sufficient grade in all three types of examination. The final grade will be based on the grades of the three types of examination as follows: written exam (50%), oral discussion (25%) and group presentation (25%).

During the course, three written mid-term exams, consisting in multiple choice questions and two or three open questions will be carried out; tentatively, the first will regard topics 1 and 2, the second topics 3 and 4 and the third topics 5-7. The grade of the written exam will be calculated as the average of the grades obtained in the three midterms. The grades of all three midterms will have to be sufficient in order to pass the written exam.

Students that do not take or fail one or more of the mid-term exams will have the opportunity of taking a final written exam regarding the entire course program, both during the winter session and in the September session.

The oral discussion will be held after the written exam and will consist in a discussion of the written exam and include 1 or 2 questions on the course program.

As for the group presentation, the class will be divided in groups of 3-4 students that will each select together with the course instructor a topic to study and prepare a Power Point presentation on. The presentations prepared by each group will be given by the students in front of the whole class in an event that will be scheduled at the end of the course.

Office hours

costa@ing.uniroma2.it

Office hours: Monday-Friday 10 A.M.-6 P.M (upon appointment by e-mail).

NOTE: Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus students** who would like to attend this course and take this exam need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail global.governance@uniroma2.it for registration.
