ENVR E-101 Web Assignments

All students are required to submit short weekly assignments. This requirement keeps you connected to the course, reinforcing readings and opening up opportunities to pursue topics of interest. Each week you have the option of submitting a summary of the readings or lectures in addition to submitting a question (multiple choice or short answer) along with the correct answer as fulfilling your weekly requirement. Alternatively, you can do a web based search of topics we assign. We require you to list the web links you use and to provide a brief description/summary of your research as documentation that you have actually learned something.


Have fun searching for the following topics.

A. Activism & Ideology
B. Current Events
C. Air Pollution
D. Water Pollution
E. Energy
F. Waste
G. Sustainable Cities and Development
H. Government & Legislation

A. Activism & Ideology

1. Tell us about the conservation programs/policies of the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy and other organizations.
   http://www.sierraclub.org/
   http://nature.org/

2. Find out and tell us about John Muir. What issues did he care about, and how did he act on them? Why are his accomplishments still important to us today?
   http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/index.html

3. What is the lasting legacy of Rachel Carlson?
   http://rachelcarson.org/

4. What are the historical roots of Arbor Day, what does it accomplish, and how does it continue to be celebrated today?
   http://www.arborday.org/

5. Give a chronological overview of what you consider to be key events in the development of the American Conservation Movement during the mid-to-late 19th century and early 20th century (the industrial period).
   http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html
6. What are “environmental ethics”? Briefly compare and contrast two different approaches to activism (enlightenment, phenomenology, bioregionalism, social ecology, deep ecology, ecofeminism, for example).

http://www.cep.unt.edu/novice.html
http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/e/environm.htm

B. Current Events

1. What resolutions were agreed upon at the world congress in Johannesburg, South Africa? What is the position of the US on NGO’s? What is the position of developing countries?

http://www.undp.org
http://www.who.org
http://worldbank.org

2. The United Nations Development Programme just reported results of an international survey. The survey ranks countries on various indicators. Find your home country’s ranking for several political, economic, corruption and sustainability environmental indicators.

http://www.undp.org
http://worldbank.org/data/countrydata/countrydata.html
http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html
http://csf.colorado.edu/isee

C. Air Pollution

1. Find your home town and report the sources of toxic air pollution released. How does your country or state rank? Learn about the health risks.

http://www.scorecard.org/
http://www.epa.gov/air/data/index.html

2. How large was the ozone hole over Antarctica this past year? In what months is the area of depleted ozone the largest?

http://www.noaa.gov/
http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Observatory/datasets.html

3. What are the emissions from your car?

http://www.epa.gov/otaq/

4. Find out about pesticides. What is integrated pest management (IPM)?

http://www.reeusda.gov/agsys/nipmnn

5. What pesticides are banned for residential use? For commercial use?

http://www.epa.gov/pesticides
6. What are natural pesticides called biopesticides and their active ingredients?  
http://www.epa.gov/pesticides

D. Water Pollution

1. What percentage of your home state is classified as wetlands?  Generally speaking, what is the current status of wetlands nation-wide?  
http://www.nwi.fws.gov

2. What is the status of our rivers?  Give the classification of a major river in your state or country.  
http://www.friendsoftheriver.org  
http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/atlas/states.html

3. What are the water resources in your state?  
http://www.epa.gov/surf3/locate

4. Report the latest water quality test results for the water supply in your town.  Your local water management agency should post test results, or else try the EPA, WHO or other web sites hosted by your state.

E. Energy

1. How important is coal to the US energy supply?  What are the implications of this?  
http://www.energy.gov/

2. What percentage of the US electrical energy is generated by wind power?  What are some advantages/disadvantages of increasing dependency?  
http://www.energy.gov/  
http://eande.lbl.gov/eap/eap.html  
http://www.eia.doe.gov/fueloverview.html  
http://www.awea.org

3. What is the million solar roofs program?  Describe the technologies available for solar collection.  
http://www.eren.doe.gov

F. Waste

1. Identify superfund sites in your state and describe one in detail.  From the list of hazardous compounds found at the site you selected, describe the health risks.  
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/  
http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/atsdrhome.html
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2. Define “environmental justice” and the implications for minority health.
   http://ehis.niehs.nih.gov/topic/minority.html

3. Look over your waste and come up with a list of items you could purchase to increase recycling.
   www.uneptie.org/sustain
   www.unesco.org/education
   http://www.obviously.com/recycle/

G. Sustainable Cities and Development

1. What is Chattanooga, Tennessee doing to make their city an example of sustainability?
   http://www.chattanooga.net/environet/members.html

2. HUD, EPA and DOE announced a program in affordable energy savings for homes called the Energy Star Program. What are the elements of this program?
   http://www.hud.gov

3. Select three countries you have visited and describe their ranking for ecological impact.
   http://www.ecouncil.ac.cr/rio/focus/report/english/footprint/ranking.htm

4. What are the design principles for sustainable cities?
   http://www.sustainable-city.org
   http://www.geocities.com/soho/2278/index.htm (link not valid)

5. Calculate and describe your “ecological footprint.”
   http://www.lead.org/leadnet/footprint/intro.htm

6. How did the ideals of Frederick Law Olmstead impact urban environments and city planning?
   http://www.fredericklawolmsted.com/

H. Government and Legislation

1. What is the origin of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?
   What is its mission today?
   http://www.epa.gov

2. What type of environmental protection policies and strategies does the United States Department of Energy employee for protecting the public and the environment, and for achieving environmental compliance with internal and external environmental requirements?
   http://tis-nt.eh.doe.gov/oepa/