Course Description
This course is “an investigation of the effect of humans on the Earth’s environment and on the other species that inhabit our planet. The course will look at the impact that an increasing human population has on the resource utilization, pollution production, habitat degradation, and the extinction of species. It will include a brief look at the policies and laws that specifically relate to environmental problems.”

The goal of this course is to give the students an overview of the environmental issues facing our planet. In this course, the students should also expand upon skills needed for the environmental scientist of the future: critical thinking, articulation of an idea, team approach to problem solving, use of environmental resources, data collection and analysis, basic laboratory skills, etc. A variety of instruction methods will be used to promote a highly interactive course.

Student Learning Objectives
• To demonstrate an understanding of current topics in environmental science.
• To use the scientific method to approach environmental investigations.
• To communicate environmental issues in both written and oral form.
• To evaluate various perspectives and opinions about environmental debates.
• To demonstrate practical working knowledge of basic field ecology.

Academic Integrity
The College’s Academic Integrity Policy (AIP) will be strongly enforced. Violations of the AIP include cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, and providing false information. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The first citation for academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for the specific assignment. The second citation will result in a failing grade for the course. All citations for academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College, in accordance with college policy. Details of the AIP can be found in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog. TurnItIn.com may be used to evaluate papers for plagiarism.

Attendance Policy
• Students will not be permitted to make up an exam or a lab unless permission is granted from the instructor prior to the scheduled exam/ lab time.
• Attendance to class and laboratory is mandatory.
  o 3 unexcused absences result in lowering of the student’s final grade by 1 letter grade.
  o 5 unexcused absences result in lowering of the student’s final grade by 2 letter grades.
  o More than 5 unexcused absences may result in a failing grade for the course.
• Students are responsible for all class work, quizzes, homework, and lectures whether in attendance or not.
• Work handed in late will be penalized 20% for each day that it is late.
• If you are not in class, you are absent.
Grading System

Grade Scale (out of 100%)

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Point Distribution (pts) - TENTATIVE

- Practical Lab (2) 50 pts each
- Leaf Project (1) 30 pts
- Participation 20 pts
- Total 100 pts

Laboratory

Lab work will be done in both laboratory and field settings. Long pants and closed-toed shoes are required when working in the lab. Weather-appropriate attire and shoes should be worn for outdoor activities.

This is a course about the environment, therefore, it is very appropriate for us to be outside as often as possible. Sometimes this means that we will get rained on, snowed on, it will be cold, and you may find yourself very uncomfortable. It may also mean that our lab my get rained out or snowed in!

Our day to day schedule will change and we will not be able to follow everything in our schedule verbatim. We do our best to predict and record the weather but we do not make it – such is life.

Flexibility on your part is not only appreciated but also necessary. Commit yourself to being open-minded and be prepared for class. We will have an excellent experience.

Week 1 Lab:
Dr. Sue Witt - meet at the Field Station, 2:00.

Week 2 Lab:
Tree Lab #1 w/ S2

Week 3 Lab:
Tree Lab #2 w/ S2

Week 4 Lab:
Mining & Reclamation w/ S2

Week 5 Lab:
Kick netting & Macroinvertebrates

Week 6 Lab:
Bird Blind and Mason Orchard Bees w/ S2

Week 7 Lab:
Ground Water Monitoring and Remediation w/ S2

Week 8 Lab:
Estimating DBH and Height using sticks w/ S2
Week 9 Lab
AMD @ Jennings

Week 10 Lab
Understanding Watersheds w/S2

Week 11 Lab
Republic Services w/ S2

Week 12 Lab
Composting

Week 13 Lab
Thanksgiving break

Week 14 Lab
Planting Trees

Week 15 Lab
Bluebird Boxes w/ S2

Week 16 Lab
Al Gore - Wrapping up ideas