

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** Planet Earth: Critical Topics

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** BIO 2600

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will examine critical issues affecting humanity and the global environment, from an in-depth, three-part perspective. Students will investigate the science of selected topics of global environmental significance, explore their causes and consequences within contemporary culture, and evaluate the impacts and importance of the mass media in public perception concerning these issues.

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ENG 1530.

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Evaluate and critically analyze the interdependence of science, culture, and interpersonal and mediated communication concerning environmental issues facing the world today.
  2. Critically analyze and evaluate current issues such as mass consumption of goods and resources and their impacts upon food security, environmental justice, and citizens' access to accurate information.
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**Topics Covered:**

- Perspectives of Science, Culture, and Communication
  - Biodiversity and Habitat Loss
  - Conservation and Sustainability
  - Human Population Growth, Affluenza, and Poverty
  - Waste and Garbage
  - Water
  - Food and Food Security
  - Global Climate Change
  - Energy and Energy Choices
  - Politics, Power, and Media
  - Environmental Justice, Race, and Poverty
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**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
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**Effective Date:** Fall 2021