

# MINNESOTA WEST COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

DEPT. NSCI

COURSE NUMBER: 1100

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

Lecture: 3 Lab: 0 OJT: 0

<b>Course Title:</b>
Issues in the Environment

<b>Catalog Description:</b>
Issues in the Environment takes a broad look at environmental issues and explores in depth certain global, national, and local environmental problems. In addition to lecture, guest speakers, field trips, and videos may be used.

<b>Prerequisites or Necessary Entry Skills/Knowledge:</b>
STSK 0090 or placement by multiple measures.

### FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA(S) *(Leave blank if not applicable)*

☒ Goal 8: Global Perspective: By meeting the following competencies:

- Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
- Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
- Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

☒ Goal 10: People and the Environment: By meeting the following competencies:

- Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
- Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
- Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
- Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
- Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
- Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

<b>Topics to be Covered</b>
Ecosystems
Biodiversity - sustaining it and interactions of organisms

Human population and urbanization
Climate and climate change
Air pollution and ozone depletion
Water resources and water pollution
Energy - Renewable and nonrenewable
Environmental hazards
Physical science of matter and biogeochemical cycling
Food soil and pest management
Invasive species
Waste management
Environmental sustainability

Student Learning Outcomes	
Define biodiversity, climate, climate change, sustainability and ecosystems.	
Identify the relationship between human actions and air pollution/water pollution/ozone depletion/environmental hazards/ climate change and how these issues impact economies and politics.	
Identify renewable/nonrenewable energy sources and environmental hazards and explain how humans can influence the use/nonuse of these resources.	
Illustrate biogeochemical cycles, how climate change occurs, and energy flow through ecosystems.	
Identify ways to address local, regional and global environmental issues and live more sustainably.	
List the factors that influence human population growth, urbanization, environmental politics and environmental economics.	

<b>Is this course part of a transfer pathway:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>*If yes, please list the competencies below</i>

Revised Date: 1/27/2022