

ANSWERS FOR COMMON QUESTIONS THAT STUDENTS HAVE ABOUT ENR 2100, Introduction to Environmental Science

Tips: To search this document using keywords you can use the shortcut “⌘F” or “**command F**” or select “**Edit -> Find**”. For example, if you want to know what you should do if you are absent from class or miss class, then you should search this document by ⌘F “**absent**” or ⌘F “**miss**”.

Q: Does Dr. Lower give make-up exams?

A: NO. Unless you have a written note from your doctor for the days that the exam is open. A student who is serving in the military and on duty during the exam is also eligible to take a make-up exam.

Q: Are make-up exams different than the original exam?

A: YES. Regular exams consist of multiple-choice questions. Make-up exams consist of short answer, essay and multiple-choice questions.

Q: How much time do I get to take an exam?

A: 100 minutes. A typical exam is 50 questions and you will have 100 minutes to complete the exam (2 minutes per question).

Q: Can I go forward and backward on my exam as I take it on Carmen?

A: YES.

Q: Can I start an exam, answer some of the questions, go get coffee and come back and finish my exam?

A: NO. The timer starts from the moment you click the start button and runs continuously. So, for example, if you start an exam at 1:00pm and you get 100 minutes to finish the exam and Carmen will shut the exam down at 2:40pm.

Q: I forgot to save my answers on Carmen, does Carmen automatically save my answers as I take an exam or quiz?

A: YES. Carmen automatically saves each answer that you make as you take an exam. Carmen actually saves every keystroke that you make as you take an exam so that the instructor can go back into Carmen and look at your online activity.

Q: Does Carmen show me a timer as I take an exam or quiz?

A: YES. You can turn your timer on or off during an exam or quiz so that you can see how much time you have remaining.

Q: Are exams open book?

A: YES. This means that you CAN use notes, the Internet, books, journal articles, newspaper articles, textbooks, lecture slides as you take the exam. You can NOT receive help from another human during the exam.

Q: Does “open book exam” mean that I can receive help from another person during the exam?

A: NO. You can NOT receive help from another human as you take an exam.

Q: Are quizzes open book?

A: YES. This means that you CAN use notes, the Internet, books, journal articles, newspaper articles, textbooks, lecture slides as you take the exam. You can NOT receive help from another human during the exam.

Q: Does “open book quiz” mean that I can receive help from another person during the exam?

A: NO. You can NOT receive help from another human as you take a quiz.

Q: Does Dr. Lower give make-up quizzes?

A: NO. Quizzes are open for 1-2 weeks on Carmen and you can complete the quiz anytime during this time. Since the quizzes are open for such a long period a time, make up quizzes are not given. A make-up quiz will only be given to students who have a written note from their doctor for the days that the quiz is open. A make-up quiz will also be given to students who are serving in the military and on duty during the time the quiz is given.

Q: Does Dr. Lower give make-up assignments?

A: NO. Assignments are open for 1-2 weeks on Carmen and you can complete the quiz anytime during this time. Since the assignments are open for such a long period a time, make up assignments are not given. A make-up assignment will only be given to students who have a written note from their doctor for the days that the quiz is open. A make-up assignment will also be given to students who are serving in the military and on duty during the time the assignment is due.

Q: Where can I find information on the times and locations of office hours for teaching assistants?

On the ENR2100 Carmen Homepage.

Q: What are the names and email addresses of our teaching assistants?

A: This information will be listed on ENR2100 Carmen Homepage and you can find their email addresses through Carmen email. You can also find the email addresses of our TAs at: <https://www.osu.edu/findpeople/>

Q: How can I get in contact with Professor Lower?

A: You can see Dr. Lower after class and talk with him or you can send him an email at: OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com

Q: How can I get in contact with Ms. Weaver?

A: You can see Ms. Weaver after class and talk with her or you can send her an email at: OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com

Q: I have a question about a grade that I received in class, who should I talk to about this?

A: Dr. Lower or Ms. Weaver. You can either see them after class or send them an email at: OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com

Q: Does Dr. Lower take attendance for lecture?

A: NO. You are adults and we treat you like adults. However, we strongly recommend that you attend lecture. We know from 10 years of data that students who come to lecture 80% of the time or more will earn an A or B on the exam. Those students who come to class 70% of the time typically earn a C, those who attend class 60% of the time typically earn a D and those who come to class less than 60% of the time will likely fail the exam.

Q: Do I need to let Dr. Lower know when I will be absent from lecture?

A: NO. However, if we recommend talking with Dr. Lower about what you missed while you were gone or visiting with a teaching assistant if you would like to review any material from when you were absent.

Q: Does this class have a lab component?

A: NO. ENR2100 is only a lecture-based class, it does NOT have a laboratory section.

Q: Does this class have a recitation component?

NO. ENR2100 is only a lecture-based class, it does NOT have a recitation section.

Q: What happens if I miss an exam?

A: You earn a 0%.

Q: What happens if I miss a quiz?

A: You earn a 0%.

Q: What happens if I miss an assignment?

A: You earn a 0%.

Q: Where do I take my midterm exam and final exam?

A: You can pick anywhere in the universe to take your exam through Carmen. We do NOT meet in a classroom to take the exam. We suggest a quiet place with plenty of space to spread out your notes and one that has reliable Internet connection.

Q: Where do I take my quizzes?

A: You can pick anywhere in the universe to take your quizzes through Carmen. We do NOT meet in a classroom to take quizzes. We suggest a quiet place with plenty of space to spread out your notes and one that has reliable Internet connection.

Q: Where do I complete my assignments?

A: You can pick anywhere in the universe to complete your assignments and then submit them to Carmen. We do NOT meet in a classroom to complete assignments. We suggest a quiet place with plenty of space to spread out your notes and one that has reliable Internet connection.

Q: Where can I find the syllabus?

A: On Carmen. You can read and download the syllabus from Carmen via the Syllabus tab.

Q: I'm traveling home for a holiday, can I take my quiz or exam on Carmen from my home?

A: YES. You can take your exams, quizzes and submit assignments from anywhere in the universe as long as you have Internet connection.

Q: Do we have class the day before Thanksgiving Break?

A: YES. We follow OSU's academic calendar and if the university is open then we have class.

Q: The roads are bad due to ice or snow and I am going to miss lecture what should I do?

A: Don't worry, stay home and stay safe. Dr. Lower does NOT take attendance. You should go to visit the website at go.osu.edu/enr2100 and watch the lecture that you missed. You should also talk with Dr. Lower to find out what you missed or visit with a teaching assistant at their office hours.

Q: Are Dr. Lower's lectures available on the Internet?

A: YES. Dr. Lower has closed-captioned videos of all his lectures available at go.osu.edu/enr2100 and they are all free to everyone.

Q: Is the textbook required for class?

A: NO. However, we do recommend using our textbook if you learn best by reading. You can purchase ANY edition of the textbook through Amazon or a bookstore and use ANY edition, they will all work fine so buy the cheapest edition. If money is tight, you can check out any environmental science textbook for free from your local library and the book will work fine for class.

Q: Does the OSU Libraries have one of our textbooks that I can checkout and use for free?

A: YES. You can check out our class textbook at the OSU Library for free for up to 2 hours.

Q: What textbook do we use for class?

A: Environmental Science for a Changing World by Anne Houtman, Jeneen Interlandi, and Susan Karr. Any edition of the textbook will work fine so buy the cheapest edition that you can find on Amazon or at a local bookstore.

Q: How do I know what is due this week in class?

A: Read the weekly announcement on Carmen to see what is due.

Q: How many attempts do I get to take a quiz?

A: TWO. You get 2 attempts to take each quiz and we keep the highest grade.

Q: How many attempts do I get to take an exam?

A: ONE. You get 1 attempt to an exam.

Q: Does Dr. Lower check for plagiarism?

YES. Dr. Lower uses Turn-It-In software (<https://www.turnitin.com>) to scan EVERY written assignment that is submitted to him. This software checks for plagiarism from books, journals, newspapers, websites and student papers. Do NOT plagiarize because you will earn a 0% on the assignment and may be disciplined (i.e., suspended or expelled) by the university.

Q: What is considered Academic Misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism)?

This is defined here: <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct> .
You should also read the information that Dr. Lower provides on Carmen.

Q: What happens in cases of alleged academic misconduct by students?

A: Information can be obtained here: <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>

Q: How do I receive accessibility accommodations (e.g., extended time for exams) for class?

A: Meet with staff at OSU Student Life Disability Services (<http://slds.osu.edu>) to create accessible educational environments. Then talk to Dr. Lower and email him your completed paperwork from the OSU Student Life Disability Services. This paperwork will outline the services that you can receive for class. Dr. Lower will provide you with the accommodations that are listed in your paperwork.

Q: Can I receive help from another person when I take an exam or quiz?

A: NO.

Q: Is my exam the same as my classmate's exam?

A: NO. Dr. Lower uses a library of thousands of different questions for exams and quizzes and so every student will receive and take a completely different exam with different questions and different answers.

Q: What email should I use to contact Dr. Lower about class?

[A: OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com](mailto:OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com)

Q: Where can I download the lecture slides from?

A: All lecture slides are available for you to download on Carmen.

Q: How should I prepare for exams?

A: You should take thorough and well-organized notes from lecture and use the study guides that Dr. Lower provides on Carmen.

Q: Does Dr. Lower provide study guides for exams?

A: YES. You can download exam study guides from Carmen.

Q: What's the average grade for an exam?

A: The average grade for one of Dr. Lower's exams is typically between 76%-84%.

Q: What's the average grade for a quiz?

A: The average grade for one of Dr. Lower's quizzes is typically between 88%-98%.

Q: What's the average grade for a writing assignment?

A: The average grade for one of Dr. Lower's writing assignments (i.e., ScienceBite or poster) is typically between 88%-98%.

Q: Does Dr. Lower curve his grades?

A: NO. Dr. Lower designs his quizzes and exams so that they fairly assess the material that was covered in class. As such, he has never had to curve grades. If for some unforeseen reason he needs to curve grades, then he would.

Q: How often do students fail this class?

A: RARELY. It is rare for a student to fail ENR2100, however, we do have students who do fail class. In all cases, students who do fail class do so because (1) they rarely attend lecture, (2) they rarely turn in complete assignments (3) they rarely take quizzes and (4) they don't prepare for exams.

Q: Does Dr. Lower offer extra credit and bonus points for class?

A: YES. You are encouraged to take full advantage of these extra credit opportunities because they will increase your grade.

Q: When will I know the grade that I earned on my exam?

A: IMMEDIATELY. Your exam grade will be given to you immediately after you finish your exam. You can see your grade on Carmen in the grade book.

Q: When will I know the grade that I earned on my quiz?

A: IMMEDIATELY. Your quiz grade will be given to you immediately after you finish your quiz. You can see your grade on Carmen in the grade book.

Q: When will I know the grade that I earned for my Poster or ScienceBite assignment?

A: In 7-10 days. We grade these by hand and so it takes several days to grade every student's assignment.

Q: Will I receive feedback for my Poster or ScienceBite assignment?

A: YES. If you miss points on your writing assignments then you will receive feedback about what you missed and why. The feedback will be provided as a comment on Carmen or in the Rubric that is used to grade your assignment.

Q: What does it take to earn an A in class?

A: Come to lecture, take thorough and organized notes from lecture, use your notes as you take your exams, watch the videos and documentaries that we go over in class, read the textbook chapters and articles that we discuss in class, use the study guide for the exams, work hard and do well on the open book quizzes, work hard and do well on your writing assignments, do NOT cheat, do NOT plagiarize other people's work, do the extra credit bonus assignments that Dr. Lower gives in class.

Q: What email will Dr. Lower use to contact me?

A: YOUR OSU EMAIL. Dr. Lower will contact you using your OSU Email and so you should get in the habit of checking your OSU Email at least once per week.

Q: I'm having problems with Carmen what should I do?

A: Try using a different Internet browser (e.g., FireFox, Explorer, Chrome, Safari) or a different computer. If that doesn't solve your problem then you should contact OSU Tech Support at: <https://ocio.osu.edu/help>. These resources are available on Carmen under the Student Resources Module.

Q: How do I log into the OSU Libraries if I am not on campus but rather I am Off Campus (e.g., in your off-campus apartment)?

A: Use the OSU Libraries "Off Campus" sign in located on the top-right side of the OSU Libraries Homepage: <https://library.osu.edu>. You will have to sign in using your OSU Username and Password.

Q: I'm trying to download a journal article and the journal's website is asking for a credit card what should I do?

A: Do NOT charge articles to your credit card because they are FREE through the OSU Libraries Homepage. Go to the OSU Libraries Homepage (<https://library.osu.edu>) and find the article from the OSU Libraries "Online

Journal List” or “Research Databases List”. If you are Off Campus you will have to sign in using your OSU Username and Password from the OSU Libraries Homepage.

Q: How do I find and download journal articles?

A: Go to the OSU Libraries Homepage (<https://library.osu.edu>), click on Research Databases List and go to “Web of Science” or “Web of Science (All Databases search)”. Use Web of Science to search by topic, author, title, journal, date, etc. Then download the articles for free using Web of Science. If you are Off Campus you will have to sign in using your OSU Username and Password from the OSU Libraries Homepage.

Q: How do I download the Environmental ScienceBites Textbook, Volume 1 and Environmental ScienceBites Textbook, Volume 2?

A: Download the books for FREE from the OSU Affordable Learning Exchange: <https://affordablelearning.osu.edu/catalog/bookshelf>

Q: Are the textbooks Environmental ScienceBites Textbook, Volume 1 and Environmental ScienceBites Textbook, Volume 2 FREE?

A: YES. Download the books for FREE from the OSU Affordable Learning Exchange: <https://affordablelearning.osu.edu/catalog/bookshelf>

Q: Where can I see good examples of previous students’ ScienceBite articles?

A: You can read published ScienceBite articles from previous ENR2100 students by downloading the textbooks at: <https://affordablelearning.osu.edu/catalog/bookshelf>

Q: Where can I see good examples of previous students' posters?

You can see posters from previous ENR2100 students by visiting:
go.osu.edu/posterday

Q: Where can I find good primary and secondary sources for my ScienceBite article or poster?

A: Click on the Library Link on our Carmen class homepage, bottom left-hand side.

Q: What is the username of our class' Twitter account?

A: @OSUEnViRo

Q: How do I know what is due this week in class?

A: You can read our weekly class announcements on Carmen or look at your "To Do" List on Carmen or look at your "Coming Up" list on Carmen.

Q: What time is my quiz, exam or assignment due?

A: All quizzes, exams and assignments are due at 11:59PM (Columbus, Ohio time) on the date shown in Carmen.

Q: What day of the week is my quiz, exam or assignment due?

Most are due on Friday; however, you should always check the syllabus or Carmen to know what date something is due. The final exam date is set by the university and almost NEVER occurs on a Friday.

Q: Does an exam proctor actually watch me through my camera as I take my exam on my laptop?

A: NO. We don't monitor students using the camera on their laptop. However, OSU may decide to use laptop cameras during exams. You will be notified if and when this happens. We do have the ability to see all of your keystrokes that you make when you are taking an exam. This is something that Carmen does automatically.

Q: What grading scale does Dr. Lower use?

A: The grading scale for class is set by the university and is shown in the syllabus.

A	93.00 to 100.00	A-	90.00 to 92.99		
B+	87.00 to 89.99	B	83.00 to 86.99	B-	80.00 to 82.99
C+	77.00 to 79.99	C	73.00 to 76.99	C-	70.00 to 72.99
D+	67.00 to 69.99	D	60.00 to 66.99		
E	0.00 to 59.99				

Q: How does Dr. Lower calculate my grade for class?

A: Read the syllabus to see how your grade is calculated for class. Typically quizzes are worth 25% of your grade, the midterm exam is worth 25% of your grade, assignments are worth 25% of your grade and the final exam is worth 25% of your grade.

Q: Do I really need to come to class?

A: YES, your grade depends on it! Dr. Lower strongly suggests that you attend class or watch his lectures on-line. He does NOT take attendance. However, based on the performances of his past ~8,000 students, we know that students who attend lecture 80% of the time or more will typically earn an A or B on the midterm exam and final exam. Students who attend lecture 70% of the time typically earn a C on their exam. Students who attend lecture 60% of the time

typically earn a D on their exam. And students who attend lecture less than 60% of the time typically fail their exam.

Q: What are Dr. Lower's exams like?

A: You take the exam on Carmen. You can take the exam from anywhere in the universe. The exam is open-book. You can NOT receive help from another person during the exam. A typical exam consists of 50 multiple-choice questions and you have 100 minutes to complete the exam. You will have 1 attempt to finish the exam. You can move forward and backwards on the exam as you take it. The exam will consist of graphs, tables, calculations, true/false, multiple-choice, images and photographs. Questions for the exams are taken directly from class. The average grade for one of Dr. Lower's exams is typically between 76%-84%.

Q: I disagree with a grade I received. What should I do?

A: Contact Dr. Lower or Ms. Weaver after class or by email OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com and tell them and they will correct the mistake if a mistake was made.

Q: I did poorly on the exam. What should I do?

A: Contact Dr. Lower or Ms. Weaver and they will help you understand what you did wrong and how you can do better on the next exam. Students who don't score well on an exam typically did not attend lecture, did not take organized and thorough notes and did not prepare for the midterm exam.

Q: I don't have Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel or Word on my computer. Can I get it for free from OSU?

A: Yes. You can download Office 365 for Students for FREE at: https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733

Q: I want to share files and folders online and backup my laptop but I don't have Box on my computer. Can I get it for free from OSU?

A: Yes. Download BuckeyeBox for FREE at: <https://box.osu.edu>

Q: I'm having problems with my computer, who should I contact?

A: Contact OSU IT Service Desk: <https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/>

Q: I'm feeling completely overwhelmed and stressed out. What should I do?

A: Trained professionals are here at OSU to help you for FREE. Talk with Dr. Lower so that we can work together to come up with a solution. You can also visit our health care staff for FREE at the Office for Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service: <https://ccs.osu.edu>

Q: I'm feeling depressed. What should I do?

A: Trained professionals are here at OSU to help you for FREE. Talk with Dr. Lower so that we can work together to come up with a solution. You can also visit our health care staff for FREE at the Office for Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service: <https://ccs.osu.edu>

Q: I'm experiencing a crisis. What should I do?

A: Trained professionals are here at OSU to help you for FREE. Schedule an appointment, visit self-help pages or call to speak with a therapist at: <https://ccs.osu.edu/self-help/> . They provide help for ADHD, alcohol, anger, anxiety & panic, break-ups, bipolar, marijuana, concentration, depressions, eating & body image, gambling, grief, internet addiction, learning disorders, prescription drug abuse, sleep, sexual violence, suicide prevention, text anxiety and any other assistant that you need.

Q: I added this class to my schedule late (after the semester began) and missed some things. What should I do?

A: Talk with Dr. Lower after class or send him an email at OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com so that we can get you up to speed with what you missed.

Q: I have paperwork from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) to give Dr. Lower. What should I do?

A: Talk with Dr. Lower after class and email Dr. Lower your paperwork at OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com so that we can get you set up with all the accommodations that you need for class.

Q: I'm experiencing a problem with one of my classmates. What should I do?

A: Talk with Dr. Lower after class or send him an email at OSUEnvironment@Gmail.com to let him know what the issue is and so that he can take care of it. All communications with Dr. Lower are anonymous.

Q: Is the online ENR2100 course the same as the ENR2100 live course?

A: Yes. The live and online courses are the exact same, except for the live course meets for lecture several times each week and the online course never meets in a classroom for lecture. The exams, quizzes and assignments are the exact same.

Q: I have to leave class early, is that ok?

A: Yes. You are all adults and you can come and go as you wish. Please be respectful to the other students as you leave the room.

Q: I have to come to class late, is that ok?

A: Yes. You are all adults and you can come and go as you wish. Please be respectful to the other students as you come into the room and find a seat.

Q: I'm a senior who is graduating from OSU this semester. Do I need to contact Dr. Lower to let him know?

A: No. Dr. Lower will post your grades to the University Registrar in time for you to graduate. You don't need to worry. He's been doing this for 10+ years now and no student has ever missed graduation because of Dr. Lower. Enjoy graduation and congratulations!

Q: I failed ENR2100 or I did very poorly in ENR2100 and I want to retake the class for a new grade. Can I retake ENR2100 for a new grade?

A: Yes. OSU has a Grade Forgiveness Rule that allows a student to petition to repeat up to three courses. You can download a petition form and read how to qualify for Grade Forgiveness here: <https://advising.osu.edu/grade-forgiveness-0>

Q: I missed my exam or I did poorly on my exam, but Dr. Lower won't give me a make-up exam. Why doesn't Dr. Lower give make up exams?

A: Because Dr. Lower strives to treat each and every student the same. In order to be fair, each student is given the same amount of time to prepare for and take the exam. If Dr. Lower gives one student more time to prepare for an exam then he isn't being fair to the rest of the students in class who took the exam during the regularly scheduled time. Likewise, it wouldn't be fair to the class if Dr. Lower allowed one student to retake an exam in order to earn a higher grade.