Research Methods in Environmental Science

Module 1: Introduction to Research Methods in Environmental Science

Introduction to RMES

- You should be able to both see these slides and hear my voice
- If you can’t hear me, check your speakers and audio connection
- If you can hear me but not see me, check to see that you don’t have something on the desktop covering up the presentation
This is a web based course, all of the course material and interaction will be done over the Internet.

The website is: www.webs.uidaho.edu/envs588

You must have a computer that works and an email account that you check regularly

It is very important that you have a dependable connection to the web, obviously a fast connection is best but dial up is ok

You’ve obviously found the website, if you haven’t done so already, look at the Syllabus, Modules, Resources, Help, and Contact pages. Get familiar with the site and comfortable moving around it.

The Modules page is the heart of the course, you link to all of the presentations from it. Click on the Heading for each Module to go to that page and gain access to the presentations
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If you have not done so already:
- Email me to let me know we’ve made contact
- Order the textbooks
- Test everything and make sure it works.
- Let me know if you are having problems so that I can help you resolve them during the first week!

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If you haven’t taken a UI web course before, sometimes the most difficult step is to access WebCT

WebCT is a software package that facilitates our interaction as a class

You can access it through:
- The Secure Tools link
- Or go to www.its2.uidaho.edu/webct/
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- You need to know your University of Idaho computer account and password
- This was mailed to your U of I email account
- Sometimes, students aren’t aware that they have such an account or how to access it
- If you haven’t used it, go to:
  - https://mailb.its.uidaho.edu/
- And follow the directions there.

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- If you are having problems with your email account or WebCT, let me know immediately. I can help!
- You should be able to access WebCT by the end of the first week, at the latest.
- When you get there, post a reply to my questions to let me know you are there.
- There are multiple ways to post by “Reply” or “Compose”. Don’t be afraid to play around to figure it out – no penalties for multiple postings – get comfortable.
Introduction to RMES

- Complete the Introduction presentation
  - Make sure you can see the slides and hear the audio
- Do the readings
- Each week you are expected to complete the presentation and readings and participate in the discussion by Friday morning. Discussions will be archived and changed on Fridays.

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- This is not a self-paced course. As you will see on the Modules page, there is a week-by-week schedule that conforms to the UI semester.
- There are presentations to watch and readings to do each week
- It is your responsibility to keep up week-to-week and to get work submitted on time
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There are two ways to submit assignments, through WebCT or email to me.

I prefer that you submit through WebCT but if you have trouble, email them to me.

You can post any questions or problems you have to the Discussion Board or email me.

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Often students ask if they can work ahead.

Of course, the answer is yes, particularly if you will miss a week due to travel or work obligations.

Don’t get behind – look at reading and writing assignments early and plan accordingly.

BUT, you must participate in the discussion each week.
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- The discussion is the place where we interact as a class
- This course shouldn’t feel like a computer is teaching it just to you – we are a class with a real Professor and real students
- The discussion board is where you learn who else is in the class and what we do, think, struggle with, etc.
- The more you participate, the more you will get out of the class

Introduction to RMES

- Welcome to the Course!
- Feel free to post any questions you have to the discussion board as others probably have the same question. If you email a general question, I’ll probably post it along with the answer.
- Let’s make this an enjoyable, interactive learning environment!