



Science for Citizens Undergraduate Course Information Guide

Course Number: CCS 153, 2 credits, 5 Weeks
Delivery Formats: Online Async

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Course Description

Students will learn basic knowledge of science as they engage in activities that are connected to their everyday life. They will explore their natural ecosystem and be able to describe various functions. They will engage in the scientific method through observations, hypotheses, data collection and basic data analysis. Students will apply their critical thinking based on the scientific method to local environmental or science related issues/events.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the scientific process including theory, experimental design, hypothesis and peer review.
- Formulate a hypothesis, design an experiment, and test it.
- Understand urban ecology of squirrels, birds and soil.
- Understand the importance of water quality for life
- Apply or understand the human role in the problem and the solution (wildlife, water and soils).
- Explore natural phenomena or the world of everyday experiences using scientific methods, and can use theories to interpret observations.

Learning Strategies and Resources

This course is designed for students who are interested in or curious about seeing their everyday world through a new lens. There will be several local scientific inquiries to

complete that put you in the role of a citizen scientist! Science is all around us and you participate in it more than you think. Here is an opportunity to challenge yourself to take part in learning science in the most elemental way. We expect that you will find science exciting, fetching, curious, baffling, and rewarding. Bring your curiosity and more importantly positive energy to involve yourself in science.

Required Readings

There is no required textbook for this course, however you will need to purchase a soil testing kit such as the Luster Leaf 1601 Rapitest Soil Test Kit. The kit can be found at a local home gardening store or amazon.

Readings are available on Electronic Reserve, at the [DePaul Library](#). Login to Ares Course Reserves and select the course. Log in using your Campus Connect User ID and password. You will then get a page listing the courses in which you're enrolled that have readings posted in Ares. Click on the title of this course and the list of our electronic reserve readings will be displayed.

Learning Deliverables

To complete the course, you must complete each of the assignments as described in the course and submit them to your instructor by the assigned deadline.

In addition, you must participate in the course discussion forum by responding to all instructor requests and by interacting with fellow classmates as necessary.

Points are deducted for late work.

Assessment of Student Learning

Distribution of Grade Points

Graded Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Online Discussions	25%
Assignments	25%
Quiz	10%
Competence Paper	40%

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Grading Scale

A = 95 to 100	A- = 91 to 94	B+ = 88 to 90
B = 85 to 87	B- = 81 to 84	C+ = 77 to 80
C = 73 to 76	C- = 69 to 72	D+ = 65 to 68
D = 61 to 64	F = 60 or below	INC

Course Schedule

Week or Module Title or Theme	Readings / Learning Activities	Graded Assignments
Week 1, Module 1: Introduction and Project Squirrel	Web Readings: Project Squirrel	1.1 Introductions Discussion 1.2: Why Urban Squirrels Discussion 1.3 Grey vs. Red Discussion 1.4 Squirrel Observations
Week 2, Module 2: Urban Birds	Web Readings: Celebrate Urban Birds	2.1: Discussion: Baby Pigeons? 2.2: Discussion: Observe Local Birds 2.3: Bird-Brained Presentation 2.4: Know Your Birds Quiz
Week 3, Module 3: Physical Properties of Soil	Web Readings: Physical Properties of Soil Soil Physical Properties The Soil Environment	3.1 What is Soil? Discussion 3.2 Soil Jar Test 3.3 Soils in Your Community

	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service USDA NRCS Soil Health	
Week 4, Module 4: Water Quality	Web Readings: Environmental Water Group Tap Water Natural Resources Defense Council	4.1 Water Quality Discussion 4.2 Community Water Quality Activity
Week 5, Module 5: Competence Project	Independent research	5.1 Report on Your Project Discussion 5.2 Competence Project

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Course Policies

For access to all SCPS and DePaul University academic policies, refer to the following links:

[SCPS Student Resources Website](#)

[DePaul Student Handbook](#)

The [D2L Course Website](#) for this course.

Credit for Prior Learning

Students whose home college is SCPS that have not transferred more than 99 credit hours from community college or exam credit, and have not reached 132 credit hours toward graduation may qualify for prior learning credit. If you have prior knowledge you think may be equivalent to the learning outcomes of a SCPS course, you can contact the Office of Prior Learning Assessment at scpspla@depaul.edu or the [PLA website](#) for information on how to submit a proposal to use Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) credit for a nominal fee in lieu of regular tuition as an alternative to completing a course.

Course Syllabus

The official syllabus for this course that includes course dates, instructor information and quarter specific details will be provided by the course instructor by the start of the course and available on the course D2L website.

Course Registration

To find out when this course will be offered next, you can go to the [SCPS Registration website](#) for details on how to register for the course.

For information on how this course can apply to your program, contact your academic advisor.

School of Continuing and Professional Studies

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Office hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.
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