**EVR2001: Introduction to Environmental Science**

**Project 1**

**Invasive Species**

An invasive species (can be a plant or animal) is a species that is introduced to an area, whether accidentally or on purpose, that can severely disrupt native species in a given ecosystem. When allowed to proliferate, they can kill off indigenous plant or animal life, causing whole natural habitats to change. This project will explore invasive species and the consequences of their introduction and presence in non-native ecosystems. This project is designed to be creative!

**FORMAT CONFIRMATION DUE:** By 11:59PM on September 11, 2018

**FULL PROJECT DUE**: By 11:59 p.m. on October 2, 2018

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

* Choose an invasive species (plant or animal) to research.
  + National Invasive Species Information Center: <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>
  + Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>
* Describe the invasive species in detail.
* Provide background on the species and its native environment.
* Describe the non-native ecosystem in which the invasive species is found.
* Describe some techniques being used to manage the species.
* Explicitly state whether more or less should be done to manage the species.
  + Support your position
* Some questions to think about:
  + Where did the species originate?
  + What are the species’ defining characteristics?
  + Does it have any natural predators?
  + Where has the invasive species spread?
  + How was it introduced to the non-native environment?
  + What are the consequences/rewards of the invasive species inhabiting the new environment?
  + What kind of impacts has the invasive species had on the non-native ecosystem?
  + What effects has it had on other wildlife and the biodiversity of the ecosystem? Humans? The economy?

**FORMATS:**

**Research Paper**

* MLA format
* 3-4 pages (Not including Works Cited section)
* Times New Roman font
* Double-spaced
* 1-inch margins
* 12-point font
* No more than 2 sentences or 3 lines of quotations.
* Indent each paragraph
* No extra spacing between paragraphs
* .doc, .docx, or .pdf format
* Paper written as a research paper and not a series of short-answer questions
* Will only accept submissions to Canvas/Turnitin
  + Will not accept writing projects sent to me through email or Canvas message attachments
* Must work alone

**Poster/Brochure/Pamphlet**

* Use diagrams, photos, and images to present information about your invasive species.
* Posters can be made in PowerPoint by making the slide size 20 inches x 30 inches
* Must include 1.5-2.5 pages of information text using the formatting guidelines from the research paper above to be submitted through Canvas as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file.
  + This information can be sized/displayed however you would like on your poster/brochure/pamphlet, but a document with only the text must also be provided.
* Make it visually appealing and interesting!
* You can work in pairs
  + Both need to submit files on Canvas with both names at the top.

**Video/Recorded Lecture**

* Record a video (7-10 minutes long)
  + Can be giving a lecture
  + Can be a general video
* Must include a transcript of text using the formatting guidelines from the research paper above to be submitted through Canvas as a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file.
* You can work in pairs, but both of you must be featured in the video fairly equally.

**REFERENCES/CITATIONS:**

* All projects must use in-text citations and a “Works Cited” page
* Include a “Works Cited” page
  + Must have at least 3 non-Wikipedia sources
  + Does not count towards page count.
* Use in-text citations for any information obtained from sources
  + Use Author-Date citations (Harvard Method)

**SUBMISSION:**

* Must submit written component through Turnitin on Canvas.
* Digital files can be attached to your Canvas submission as a comment.
* Videos can be uploaded as a YouTube video with the link provided as a comment to the Canvas submission.
* Late submissions receive -20 points per day after deadline
  + Technical difficulties or problems with Canvas are no excuse for not turning in writing projects on time.
* Must fill out survey notifying me what format you will be using.
  + 15 points will be subtracted from your final project if you do not
* 5 points will be subtracted if you submit the wrong file to Canvas/Turnitin

**USEFUL WEBSITES:**

* Guide to writing a research paper
  + <http://www.aresearchguide.com/1steps.html>
* MLA Format Guidelines
  + <http://www.bibme.org/mla>
* In-Text Citations
  + <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parenthetical_referencing>
* Generating References/Works Cited
  + <http://www.citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-website>
* Writing Help (USF Writing Center)
  + <https://www.lib.usf.edu/writing/>
* Turnitin Guidelines
  + <https://guides.turnitin.com/03_Integrations/Turnitin_Partner_Integrations/Canvas/Turnitin_LTI_1.0/Student/03_Submitting_a_Paper>
  + <https://guides.turnitin.com/01_Manuals_and_Guides/Student_Guides/Turnitin_Classic_(Deprecated)/09_Submitting_a_Paper>

**RESEARCH PAPER RUBRIC: (100 points total)**

* **Explain the species (15 points)**
  + Physical description (5 points)
  + Background information about the invasive species (5 points)
  + Information about its native environment (5 points)
* **Issues surrounding the species (15 points)**
  + How it was introduced (5 points)
  + What impact it has had on native species since introduction (5 points)
  + Role the species plays in the ecosystems to which it has been introduced (5 points)
* **Remedies (30 points)**
  + At least one current method of eliminating the species is described (15 points)
    - Including any positive or negative environmental impacts associated with it
  + Valid argument for why the species is or is not a great enough threat to prompt immediate (and potentially costly) action (15 points)
    - Not an evaluation of whether you have chosen the ‘correct’ point of view
    - Evaluation of how well you defend your position
* **Citations & References (20 points)**
  + In-text Citation (10 points)
  + List of references (10 points)
* **Syntax & Organization (20 points)**
  + Proper spelling & grammar (5 points)
  + Clear & concise thesis statement (2 points)
    - Something simple like “This species is a problem because of X.” or “This paper looks at the effects species Y has caused on its introduced habitat.”
  + Paper flows smoothly from topic to topic (10 points)
  + Only uses 3 lines or fewer of quotations (3 points)

**POSTER/BROCHURE/PAMPHLET RUBRIC: (100 points total)**

* **Explain the species (15 points)**
  + Physical description (5 points)
  + Background information about the invasive species (5 points)
  + Information about its native environment (5 points)
* **Issues surrounding the species (15 points)**
  + How it was introduced (5 points)
  + What impact it has had on native species since introduction (5 points)
  + Role the species plays in the ecosystems to which it has been introduced (5 points)
* **Remedies (15 points)**
  + At least one current method of eliminating the species is described (15 points)
    - Including any positive or negative environmental impacts associated with it
* **Citations & References (20 points)**
  + In-text Citation (10 points)
  + List of references (10 points)
* **Presentation (35 points)**
  + Proper spelling & grammar (5 points)
  + Well-Organized (10 points)
  + Visually appealing (20 points)

**VIDEO/RECORDED LECTURE RUBRIC: (100 points total)**

* **Explain the species (15 points)**
  + Physical description (5 points)
  + Background information about the invasive species (5 points)
  + Information about its native environment (5 points)
* **Issues surrounding the species (15 points)**
  + How it was introduced (5 points)
  + What impact it has had on native species since introduction (5 points)
  + Role the species plays in the ecosystems to which it has been introduced (5 points)
* **Remedies (15 points)**
  + At least one current method of eliminating the species is described (15 points)
    - Including any positive or negative environmental impacts associated with it
* **Citations & References (20 points)**
  + In-text Citation (10 points)
    - On slide or animations for information
  + List of references (10 points)
* **Presentation (35 points)**
  + Proper spelling & grammar (5 points)
  + Clear speaking (15 points)
  + Appealing (15 points)