SU DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

SYLLABUS (Tentative)

MATH 105: Liberal Arts Mathematics: Math for the Environment

OBJECTIVES: To introduce students to computation, mathematical modeling, descriptive statistics, and

estimation in the context of environment related examples

INTENDED FOR: Students, particularly those with an interest in nature and the environment, who need a

mathematics course to satisfy a General Education requirement

PREREQUISITES: High School Algebra II and plane geometry

TEXT: Quantitative Reasoning and the Environment: Mathematical Modeling in Context, by Greg

Langkamp and Joseph Hull, 1st edition, Pearson Prentice Hall 2007, ISBN 978-0131485273

TECHNOLOGY: A basic scientific calculator (not necessarily a graphing calculator) that handles exponents

and logarithms. All software used is available in campus computer labs.

Chapters 1-3: Essential Numeracy

No. of Weeks

Measurement & units, melting of the ice caps; ratios & percentages, habitat of lakes in Florida; charts & graphs, U.S. energy flows.

Chapters 4-6: Function Modeling

4 - 5

Linear functions, population growth; exponentials functions, broiler chicken production; power functions, modeling earthquakes.

Chapters 11-12: Elementary Statistics

4 - 5

Measures of center, spread & position, electric bills, urban runoff; the normal distributions, estimation, taxes on toxics.

Tests 1

EVALUATION

Homework & Class Work:20%Projects:30%Exams:30%Final Exam:20%