

SYLLABUS
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES (ENVS 002)
SPRING 2009

Instructor

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OVERVIEW

This course presents an overview of key and current international environmental concepts. It is designed to provide a breadth of knowledge, sources, and reflection on key international environmental issues, from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course seeks to inform students on the importance of selected topics and the social, political, and ecological factors that influence them. The learning and teaching objectives of the course are as follows: 1) Students learn about key and current international environmental issues, from an interdisciplinary perspective; 2) Students learn the importance of understanding the dynamics between local, regional and global actors and forces on key environmental issues; 3) Students learn about sources and strategies that will allow them to stay informed of international environmental topics; 4) To create a comfortable, challenging and fulfilling learning experience for students, teaching assistants and lecturers.

COURSE MATERIALS

1. Required Textbook: Cunningham, Cunningham & Saigo (2007) *Environmental Science: a global concern*. Ninth Edition. McGraw-Hill.
2. Lectures will be posted on Blackboard for download at the end of the week. Going over lectures is a must for quizzes and exams.
3. Additional Readings will be Posted on Blackboard and/or distributed by your Teaching Assistants (TAs) in section.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course will be divided into instructor and guest lectures, and weekly discussion and interactive sessions led by teaching assistants. We will be using innovative techniques to keep the weekly sessions dynamic and fun. However, this will only be possible with your full participation and enthusiasm. Therefore, we strongly request that you help us by coming to all sessions on time and ready to participate.

Readings and Lectures

Textbook and additional readings should be covered before the assigned lecture. Lectures will cover reading material, but may also include additional information, so your attendance is very important for you to get all of the course content.

Teaching Team

The ENVS 2 teaching team consists of a lead professor, one graduate teaching assistant and up to 10 undergraduate teaching assistants. We believe that the diversity and combination of our ages, experiences and personalities will provide students with a very rich learning experience.

Discussion Sessions

Discussion sessions are mandatory and a very important part of the course. All students are required to attend. The weekly 3-hour discussion sessions will be planned carefully by the teaching team. Student attendance and participation in the sessions will be recorded and graded.

Communications

Given the size of the course, we need to follow a strict communications protocol for any questions or issues you may have related to course content and logistics. Your first point of communication will be your section TA. If he or she is unable to satisfactorily help you, you should contact the graduate TA. Again, if the graduate TA is unable to satisfactorily help you, you should contact the instructor. Please try your best to direct all communications through this protocol. This will ensure that we are able to meet everyone's needs in a timely manner.

ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMS

Lecture Attendance

Your section TA will be taking attendance during lectures. If you come late, please make sure you let your TA know you were in the class or you will lose your 2 points for that class.

Discussion Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend and participate in your weekly discussion sessions. As a team, we are investing a significant amount of time and energy to plan and design your discussion sessions, so we expect you to be on time and ready to participate.

Homework Assignments

These assignments consist of a 1-2 page essay (maximum) discussing two guided questions/topics related to the lecture and readings of the previous 2 weeks. You will need to review and cite at least two sources of information (but use as many as you want) different from the text and the lecture, and include them as a bibliography with your essay. These sources can be in a separate page, if needed.

Quizzes

Quizzes will focus on readings, and aim to give you an 'incentive' to complete reading assignments in a timely manner.

Exams

There will be a midterm and final exam, consisting of a variety of questions, including multiple choice, fill in the blanks, short answer and essay.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit will be available in the form of points for attending selected events at UVM (as they come up).

If you are doing badly in the class, **due to justifiable reasons**, we will consider developing an additional assignment so you can earn extra points. Providing this type of extra credit is by discretion of the TAs and the instructor, **not an obligation**, and only if you have shown a consistent effort to attend and actively participate in lectures and sections.

COURSE POLICIES

Late Homework

Two points will be deducted from homework assignments for every day late, up to 3 days after the due date. No papers will be accepted after 3 days.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to follow the academic honesty guidelines issued by the University of Vermont. If you use references, they should be cited properly. There are no excuses for plagiarizing. Work that appears to be plagiarized will be given no credit and students will be asked to meet with the instructor to explain the situation. Plagiarism at UVM is grounds for academic suspension.

Exams will be closely monitored to avoid cheating. If the team suspects you are trying to copy or communicate with someone else, you will be given one warning. The second time, we will take your paper.

COURSE LOGISTICS

Location: Marsh Life Sciences 235

Meeting Times: 9:35 am to 10:25 am MWF

Office Hours:

Ernesto Méndez: MT: 3:30-4:30 Bittersweet; R:3:30-4:30 at 112 Hills-Note different office. Office hours are by appointment only. Call or email Sue Bean for an appointment (Tel: 656-4055, email: sbean@uvm.edu)

Sarah Williams, Graduate TA, by appointment

COURSE EVALUATION

The course evaluation will be based on a total of 1,215 points, separated into the following:

1. Lecture attendance	82 points (2 points per class; 2 free !)
2. Section attendance	164 points (4 points per section)
3. Section participation	164 points (4 points per section)
4. Homework (7)	280 points (40 points each)
5. Quizzes in Section (5)	125 points (25 points each)
6. Midterm Exam (200 points)	200 points
7. Final Exam (200 points)	200 points
TOTAL:	1,215 points

ENVS 2 Course Schedule 2009

Session #	Date	Topic	Readings
0	Jan 12	Introduction to the Course	none
1	Jan 14	Our Global and Interconnected Environment	Ch 1; Handout 1: Najam et al pp. 4-10
2	Jan 16	Our Global and Interconnected Environment	Ch 1; Handout 1: Najam et al pp. 4-10
		Part 1: Global Ecosystem Services and Processes	
	Jan 19	No class, MLK Day	
3	Jan 21	Ecosystem Services: Definition, Conservation, Issues <i>Homework 1 assigned</i>	Handout 2: Daily et al 1997;
4	Jan 23	Ecosystem Services: Definition, Conservation, Issues	Handout 3: MEA, 2003
5	Jan 26	Ecosystem Services: Definition, Conservation, Issues	Handout 4: Rosa et al 2004
6	Jan 28	Climate Change (Jen Jenkins)	Ch 15
7	Jan 30	Climate Change	Handout 5: Mendez & Bacon
8	Feb 2	Impact of climate change on Central American Coffee Farmers <i>Homework 2 assigned; Homework 1 due IN LAB</i>	
9	Feb 4	Biodiversity <i>Quiz 1</i>	Ch. 5: p. 102-107 & Ch. 11
10	Feb 6	Biodiversity continued	
11	Feb 9	Oceans (Stephanie Kaza)	Ch. 5: p. 108-110
12	Feb 11	The Hydrological Cycle and Fresh Water	Ch 12
		Part 2: Global Human-Ecosystem Dynamics	Ch 17
13	Feb 13	Global Human Population Dynamics	
	Feb 16	No class, President's Day	
14	Feb 18	Global Human Population Dynamics, cont'd <i>Homework 3 assigned; Homework 2 due IN LAB</i>	Ch. 7
15	Feb 20	Putting People on the Map: anthropogenic biomes	Handout 6: Ellis & Ramankutty
16	Feb 23	Ecotourism (Tom Hudspeth)	
17	Feb 25	Coffee agroecology & food security in El Salvador (Meryl Olson)	
18	Feb 27	Community Forestry (Cecilia Danks) <i>Quiz 2</i>	
19	Mar 2	Agroecology and Food Systems; <i>Homework 4 assigned; Homework 3 due IN LAB</i>	Ch 9; Handout 7: Mendez
20	Mar 4	Agroecology and Food Systems;	Ch 9; Handout 8: Ericksen
21	Mar 6	Agroecology and Food Systems	Ch 9; Handouts 7 & 8
	Mar 9-13	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK	
22	Mar 16	Political Ecology research in Tibet (Ken Bauer) <i>Homework 4 due IN LAB; Homework 5 assigned</i>	Handout 9: Robbins 2004
23	Mar 18	Political Ecology: Socio-Political Dimensions of a Global Environment, cont'd	Handout 9: Robbins 2004
24	Mar 20	Political Ecology	
25	Mar 23	MIDTERM	
26	Mar 25	Ecological Economics & International Development (Jon Erikson) <i>Evaluation</i>	Ch. 23
27	Mar 27	Urban Ecology	Handout 10: Grimm Et al
28	Mar 30	Urban Ecology, cont'd <i>Quiz 3;</i> <i>Homework 6 assigned; Homework 5 due</i>	
		Part 3: International Environmental Justice & Movements	
29	Apr 1	Environment in Developing and Developed Countries	Ch. 2 p. 44-48
30	Apr 3	Environment in Developing and Developed Countries	Ch. 2 p. 44-48
31	Apr 6	Conservation and Property Rights in Indigenous Territories	Handout 11

32	Apr 8	Conservation and Property Rights in Indigenous Territories, cont'd	
33	Apr 10	Environmental movements	Ch 25
34	Apr 13	Environmental movements, cont'd Quiz 4 Homework 7 assigned; Homework 6 due IN LAB	Ch. 25
35	Apr 15	International Environmental Activism	
		Part 4: International Environmental Governance	
36	Apr 17	Mining in Ecuador (Katie Murphy)	Ch. 13
37	Apr 20	International Environmental Policy & Key Treaties (Robert Bartlett)	Ch. 24
38	Apr 22	International Conservation Initiatives: Promise and Conflict	Ch. 25
39	Apr 24	International Conservation Initiatives: Promise and Conflict	Ch. 25; Handout 12: Chapin
40	Apr 27	Top-down and Community-based conservation; Quiz 5; Homework 7 due IN LAB	Ch. 25; Handout 12: Chapin
41	Apr 29	Environmental Governance and the Global Citizen	Ch 25

Handouts List

1. Pp. 4-10 In Najam, A., D. Runnalls & M. Halle (2007) *Environment and globalization: five propositions*. IISD: Winnipeg, Canada.
2. Daily, G. C., S. Alexander, P. R. Ehrlich, L. Goulder, J. Lubchenco, P. A. Matson, H. A. Mooney, S. Postel, S. H. Schneider, D. Tilman & G. M. Woodwell (1997) *Ecosystem services: benefits supplied to human societies by natural ecosystems*. Issues in Ecology Number 2 (Spring).
3. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) (2003) *Introduction and Conceptual Framework* In Ecosystems and human well-being: a framework for assessment. Island Press: Washington, D.C.
4. Rosa, H., S. Kandel & L. Dimas (2004) *Compensation for environmental services and rural communities: lessons from the Americas* International Forestry Review 6 (2):187-194.
5. Méndez, V. E. & C. M. Bacon (2006) *Ecological processes and farmer livelihoods in shaded coffee production*. LEISA (The Netherlands) 22 (4):22-23.
6. Ellis, E.C. & N. Ramankutty (2008) *Putting people in the map: anthropogenic biomes of the world*. Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 6.
7. Méndez, V. E. (forthcoming) *Agroecology*. In B. Warf (ed) Encyclopedia of Geography. Sage publications: Thousand Oaks, CA.
8. Ericksen, P. J. (2008) *Conceptualizing food systems for global environmental change research*. Global Environmental Change 18:234-245.
9. Robbins, P. (2004) *The hatchet and the seed*. pp. 3-16. In Political ecology: a critical introduction. Blackwell Publishing: Malden, MA.
10. Grimm, N. B., S. H. Faeth, N. E. Golubiewski, C. L. Redman, J. Wu, X. Bai & J. M. Briggs (2008) *Global change and the ecology of cities*. Science 319:756-760.
11. Colchester, M. (2004) *Conservation policy and indigenous peoples*. Environmental Science & Policy 7 (3):145-153.
12. Chapin, M. (2004) *A challenge to conservationists*. World Watch Magazine, November/December:17-31.