

Geography 3350: Resource Conservation and Environmental Management

Fall Semester 2023

3 credits; BF; SUSC

Instructor: Ingrid Weinbauer

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Meeting Time: MW 1:25-2:45 in GC 2560

Office Hours: MW noon-1 and T 11:30-12:30 in GC 4840; and by appointment

Course Description/Objectives:

This class approaches environmental management and resource conservation from a geographic perspective and it will focus on the human-environmental interactions. We will consider the challenges currently facing resource conservationists, the science used to recognize environmental problems, and possible methods to prevent or mitigate the overuse of natural resources. Focus of the course will be loosely on food, waste, clothing, water, deforestation, public lands, air pollution, energy, and buildings.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the interaction of human behavior, society, and institutions and the subsequent environmental impacts.
- Understand the historical developments of these interactions.
- Acquire a solid understanding of selected current and past environmental issues on a local and a global scale.
- Gain awareness of possible solutions and conservation efforts for these issues.

I believe in an array of learning styles. Hence, the course will have a mix of different learning methods. There will be lectures, discussions, films, activities, among others.

Required Readings:

1. Pollan, Michael. *Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. **Please don't get the young adult version!** You will not read the entire book. For the Food Section.
2. Humes, Edward. *Garbology: Our Dirty Love Affair with Trash*. You will not read the entire book. For the Waste Section.
3. Supplementary readings provided through Canvas.

Grading:

Midterm: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Assignments/Reading Responses/Activities 50%

Grading Scale:

A 100-90% B 90-80%

C 80-70% D 70-60%

E <60%

Attendance Policy:

I strongly encourage attendance, since the material for the exams and assignments, etc. will be drawn not only from the readings but will include all the material that is discussed in class and beyond. When you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from your peers.

Active Class Participation:

There will be plenty of opportunity for you to be actively involved in the class. Ask questions, raise points, make comments, and participate respectfully in class discussions. This is your class, so make sure you are actively involved in it.

PLEASE NO LATE WORK! NO MAKE UP EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GIVEN!

University Policies

The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

University Safety Statement. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Incompletes. The mark "I" (incomplete) shall be given and reported for work incomplete because of circumstances beyond the student's control. The grade of "I" should be used only for a student who is passing the course and who needs to complete 20% or less of the course. An "I" should not be used in a way that will permit a student to retake the course without paying tuition. If the student attends the course during a subsequent semester as part of the effort required to complete the course, he/she must be registered (either as a regular student or for audit) in the semester in which he/she attends.

If a student has not finished incomplete work within one calendar year after the "I" was given, the "I" will be changed to an "E" by the Registrar's office. If the student graduates within one calendar year after receiving the "I," but before completing the work, the "I" will remain in the record, but will not contribute to credit toward graduation or the grade point average. An instructor may override the automatic change from an "I" to an "E" by submitting a grade change form.

“Academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

- a. “Cheating” involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student's examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one's work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.
- b. Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.
- c. “Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

“Academic sanction” means a sanction imposed on a student for engaging in academic or professional misconduct. It may include, but is not limited to, requiring a student to retake an exam(s) or rewrite a paper(s), a grade reduction, a failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from a program or the University, or revocation of a student's degree or certificate. It may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.

Class Schedule:

Please get the Pollan Book right away! There is NO reading for the first two weeks, but you might want to get a head start on *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

Week One: 8/21 and 8/23: NRS Conservation, Past, Present, Future

- Introduction
- Viewpoints, History of RS Conservation and Sustainability Movements
Approaches to NRS Management

Week Two: 8/28 and 8/30: Economics and Ethics, Human Population Challenge

- *The Rights of Nature: A Global Movement*
- Population Growth

Food Section: *The Omnivore's Dilemma*: (Chapters to read for the week are in Italics)

- I will try to arrange a Field Trip to a local farm one class period towards the end of the Food Section.
- I will also try to arrange a guest speaker for a selected topic of the Food Section.

Week Three: 9/6: Industrial Corn

- Population Growth
- "King Corn" Film (Introduction)

Week Four: 9/11 and 9/13: Industrial Corn

- Corn (*Chapters 1, 2, 3*)
- Eating Meat and CAFOs (*Chapters 4, 5, 17*)

Week Five: 9/18 and 9/20: Pastoral Grass

- GMOs, Conventional/Organic (*Chapters 8 and 9*)
- Pesticides, IPM, Fertilizers (*Chapters 8 and 9*)

Week Six: 9/25 and 9/27: Corn, Grass, Personal

- Sustainable/Alternative Agriculture, Soil Conservation (*Chapters 10 and 11*)
- Fast Food, the Market, and the Omnivore's Dilemma (*Chapters 7, 13, 16*)

Week Seven: 10/2 and 10/4: Midterm

- Review for Midterm
- **MIDTERM: Wednesday, 10/4**

End of Food Section!

Fall Break

Waste Section: *Garbology* (*Chapters to read for the week are in Italics*)

- I will try arrange a fieldtrip to the Trans Jordan Landfill during one class session.

Week Eight: 10/16 and 10/18: Food Waste

- *“Eat It” Film (Intro)*
- *Food Waste (Chapters 1-3)*

Week Nine: 10/23 and 10/25: Plastics and Ocean Waste

- *Film TBA (Chapters 4-6)*
- *Ocean Gyres (Chapters 4-6)*

Week Ten: 10/30 and 11/1: E-Waste; Clothing and Clothing Waste

- *E-Waste (Chapters 7, 10-12)*
- *Garbology Wrap Up (Chapters 7, 10-12)*

End of Waste Section!

Rest of Semester: The class will consider other RS Conservation/Environmental Management topics. The readings will be posted in Canvas! And as you can see from the next section, hopefully there will be quite a number of guest speakers and field trips.

Week Eleven: 11/6 and 11/8: Water

- *Water Resources (Canvas: TBA): Possibly fieldtrip to Snyderville Basin Wastewater Facility*
- *Water in Utah (Canvas: TBA); Maybe Guest Presentation: Utah Rivers Council*

Week Twelve: 11/13 and 11/15: Public Lands and Deforestation

- *Public Lands and Rangeland Management: Bear’s Ears and Others; Maybe Guest Presentation by SUWA*
- *Palm Oil and Coltan (Canvas: Leonard, Pearce)*

Week Thirteen: 11/20 and 11/22: Air Pollution

- *Air Pollution (Canvas: TBA); Maybe visit to UATAQ Lab*
- **Wednesday, Nov 23: online asynchronous**

Week Fourteen: 11/27 and 11/29: Alternative Fuels and Energy/Building

- *Alternative Fuels*
- *Ground-Source Heating: Possibly tour of Gardner Commons Ground-Source Facility*

Week Fifteen: 12/4 and 12/5: Sustainable Buildings

- *Sustainable/Living Buildings (Maybe FT to Arch Nexus OR Law School)*
- *Semester Wrap Up, Final Exam Discussion*

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1-3PM!

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for the course. This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Class/Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of the class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.