

EVR 1017 Section UO3
Global Environment
and Society
A Global Learning Foundations Course



Fall 2014

Classroom: ECS 134

Time: T/Th 5:00 pm-6:15 pm

Instructor:

Dr. David Bray

Professor, Department of Environmental Studies

Office: Engineering and Computer Sciences (ECS) 346

Tel: 305-348-6236

Email: brayd@fiu.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, send me an email or call me, I am available most times

Teaching Assistant: Mehrnoosh Asadi, masad006@fiu.edu

Course Description

This course presents the dominant modes of thinking about relationships between the society and the environment and applies them to some everyday objects of the world in which we live. We will also devote a substantial part of the course to the most pressing environment-society challenge of our time, climate change. Throughout the semester we will be engaged in a survey of the ways human societies interact with the biophysical environment, and in turn, the effects the environment has on human societies. The scope of this course includes coverage of basic ecological concepts and the study of human environment relationships over time and across scales—individual, community, nation-state, and global. In our class discussions there is an emphasis on “the big picture”, or a global level analysis, of our current understandings of human-environment relationships.

Class meetings will consist of lectures, films, and discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class. For some class periods, as noted in the syllabus, we will not be meeting but you can watch assigned films and videos at home.

Objectives & Student Learning Outcomes

This course exposes students to scientific research that indicates that since the Industrial Revolution, human actions have gradually become the main driver of global environmental change and that we have entered the Anthropocene.

Global Learning Course Outcomes

Upon Completion of this course, the student will:

- Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment.
- Students will be able to analyze differing opinions concerning global and international environmental problems in light of scientific evidence.
- Students will be able to take a specific action on a global environmental issue, e.g. writing a letter to the editor or to a congressperson; attending a meeting, lecture, or documentary film on the environment; or, volunteering for an environmental activity.

Required Texts

Paul Robbins, John Hintz and Sarah Moore. Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction. *Second Edition*. Wiley Blackwell.

McKibben, Bill. *Eaarth: Making A Life on a Tough New Planet*. 2010. Henry Holt and Company. ISBN: 9780312541194

Assignments & Evaluation

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| Exercises (3) | 15% |
| Film Reviews (3) | 15% |
| Exam 1 | 20% |
| Exam 2 | 20% |
| Exam 3 | 30% |

Exercises

You will have 3 exercises during the term which will be taken from the book *Environment and Society*.

Film Reviews

You will view a number of films and videos during the class, and you will be writing one-page single-spaced reviews of 3 of them, as noted in the syllabus.

Environmental Service Learning

Throughout the semester, you will be informed of environmentally-oriented speakers, activities, clean-ups, and other local and regional events. Attendance at service learning and writing a summary results in extra credit. There will also be other extra credit opportunities during the class. There will be a limit of three extra credit opportunities for three points apiece.

Exams

There are three exams for this course. The last exam is comprehensive and will include questions from the first two exams. All required reading material, class presentations, and videos/films are fair game for the exams. No make-ups will be allowed for exams without a written excuse from a doctor, parent, or legal guardian.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism

a. Plagiarism is one form of academic misconduct, and I adopt the definition of the university's Code of Academic Integrity, according to which plagiarism is

the deliberate use and appropriation of another's works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.

b. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
2. Copying of original material without attribution;
3. Use of other students' work;
4. Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

Plagiarism is easy to detect, particularly when cut and pasted from Wikipedia. I may use turnitin.com if I have to. ***You can't cite from Wikipedia***, any more than you can cite the encyclopedia Britannica, if any of you know what that is. Only signed sources can be used in academic work.

EVR 1017 Global Environment and Society Course Schedule

| Date | Topic/Reading |
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| August 26 | Introduction |
| August 28 | <p>Introduction to Environmental Problems and the Mother of all Environmental Problems: Climate Change. Reading: Bill McKibben “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math” in Rolling Stone. July 19, 2012. http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warnings-terrifying-new-math-20120719 Watch video <i>The 11th Hour</i> narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio http://mediaweb.fiu.edu/Mediasite/Play/390c50b968cf489bb8d5e30cd66d8c1f1d Assignment: Film Review #1-one page single spaced review of <i>The 11th Hour</i> due by Sunday September 7, midnight.</p> |
| Sept. 2 | <p>Introduction to text and Population and Scarcity Reading: “Chapter 1-Introduction: The View from a Human-Made Wilderness” and Chapter 2 “Population and Scarcity” in <i>Environment and Society</i></p> |
| Sept. 4 | <p>Markets and Commodities Reading: “Chapter 3-The Bet and Markets and Commodities in <i>Environment and Society</i> Assignment: Film Review #1-one page single spaced review of <i>The 11th Hour</i> due by Saturday, September 6th, 12 midnight.</p> |
| Sept. 9 | <p>The Tragedy of the Commons? Reading: Chapter 4-Institutions and the Commons in <i>Environment and Society</i></p> |
| Sept. 11 | <p>From Gifford Pinchot and John Muir to Cheap Meat Reading-Chapter 5-Environmental Ethics in <i>Environment and Society</i> Exercise Assignment #1: Do Exercise 5.1 on page 80 in <i>Environment and Society</i>. The exercise says “find at least 3 arguments” but finding 2 is fine. And then as instructed write two paragraphs where you support, oppose or perhaps find some middle ground (reforming factory farming?). Due on Sunday September 14, 11:59 pm.</p> |
| Sept. 16 | <p>Calculating Environmental Risks and Hazards Reading: Chapter 6-Risks and Hazards in <i>Environment and Society</i>.</p> |
| Sept. 18 | <p>The Political Economy of the Environment Reading: Chapter 7-Political Economy in <i>Environment and Society</i>.</p> |
| Sept. 23 | <p>Biodiversity Reading:TBA</p> |
| Sept. 25 | <p>Deforestation and Habitat Destruction Reading: <i>Don’t Flush Tiger Forests</i> on Blackboard</p> |
| September 30 | <p>Forests and Climate Change Reading: Chapter 10-Trees in <i>Environment and Society</i></p> |
| Oct. 2 | Exam I |

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| Oct. 7 | Climate Change Film Series #1 An Inconvenient Truth (on blackboard) |
| Oct. 9 | Climate Change Film Series #2: Dry Season: Years of Living Dangerously http://www.sho.com/sho/video/full-episodes# Assignment: Film review #2: 1 page single-spaced review of <i>Dry Season: Years of Living Dangerously</i> due October 12 at 11:59 pm |
| Oct. 14 | Climate Change Film Series No. 3: Short videos TBA |
| Oct. 16 | Carbon Dioxide Reading: Chapter 9-Carbon Dioxide in <i>Environment and Society</i> |
| Oct. 21 | The Discovery of Global Warming and a New World Readings: The Discovery of Global Warming Chapters 6 and 7 (on blackboard) <i>Eaarth</i> Chapter 1 |
| Oct. 23 | Fossil Fuel Subsidies Readings: <i>Eaarth</i> Chapter 2 |
| Oct. 28 | Climate Science and Climate Skeptics Reading: http://grist.org/series/skeptics/#Stages%20of%20Denial Read all links in b. contradictory evidence and c. No consensus |
| Oct. 30 | Energy and Lifestyle Alternatives Video: Power Surge. Watch in class. Readings: <i>Eaarth</i> Chapter 3 and 4 |
| Nov. 4 | Exam II: |
| Nov. 6 | Ecosystem Management and Wolves Reading: Chapter 11 Wolves in <i>Environment and Society</i> Exercise Assignment #2. Do Exercise 11.3 “Examining the Wolf Hunting Debate” on page 201 of <i>Environment and society</i> Write 1.2-1 page single-spaced responding to the questions in the exercise. Due Sunday November 9 at 11:59 pm |
| Nov. 11 | No Class-Holiday (Veteran’s Day) |
| Nov. 13 | Industrial Ecology and Business and Climate Change. Watch ppt on Industrial Ecology on blackboard Watch youtube video: “Industrial Ecology as a Source of Competitive Advantage: Forwarding Recycled Fashion in America” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-eD7ZhCXJk Watch youtube video “Risky Business project quantifies climate change costs” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6-n6Y8zRj0 Film Review #3 of “Industrial Ecology as a Source of Competitive Advantage....Due on Sunday Nov. 16 at 11:59 pm |
| Nov. 18 | Food and the Environment Reading: Chapter 16 French Fries in <i>Environment and Development</i> |
| Nov. 25 | Food and Climate Change: Climate-Friendly Food Production. Reading: <i>Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture: Supporting Climate-Friendly Food Production.</i> On Blackboard |
| Nov. 27 | No Class: Thanksgiving Day |
| Dec 2 | Water and Bottled Water Reading: Chapter 15: Bottled Water in <i>Environment and Society</i> |

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| | Assignment Exercise #3. Exercise 15.3 A Bottled Water Taste Test. Do exercise and write ½-1 page single spaced. Due Sunday Dec. 7 at 11:59 pm. |
| Dec. 4 | E-Waste Reading: Chapter 17-E-Waste in <i>Environment and Society</i> |
| Dec 9 | Final Exam 5pm-7 pm |

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