NRES 287 ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY – SPRING 2010
(ESES 287; GEOG 287; PS 273; SOC 287)
Lecture: 1:00-1:50 M & W in Burrill Hall Rm. 124
Discussion Sections: Thurs/Fri

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Sections: D5-Th@10 (Sp & H 113) D3-Th@9 (Davenport 132)
D2-F@1 & D4-F@2 (Mumford 320) D1-F@1 (Mumford 316S)

Course Description:
This course examines the relationship between environment and society and implications for ecological and human well-being. A variety of social science perspectives are covered on topics such as environmental change, environmental decision-making, natural resource management, agricultural systems, and environmental risks, hazards, and disasters. Students will build critical thinking skills focused on contemporary problems in the interface between people and the physical environment. Prerequisites: Sophomore or higher standing. Introductory social science course recommended.

Learning Objectives:
Students will be able to accomplish the following objectives by the end of the course of study:
1. Describe different interpretations or social constructions of nature and identify them in everyday portrayals of the environment.
2. Identify the role of social science in addressing environmental and natural resource problems.
3. Comprehend and use the concepts of scale, community, and society and their importance to understanding natural and human processes and patterns.
4. Compare scientific and local knowledge and different approaches to environmental decision-making and their implications for resource management.
5. Understand global population dynamics and their relationship with natural resources.
6. Apply frameworks linking environmental and human well-being to contemporary issues.
7. Relate concepts and material from class to contemporary real world issues covered in the media, including climate change, sustainable development, energy, and food production.
8. Clearly communicate information and perceptions in succinct written statements and verbal discussions.

General Education Credit:
This course meets Campus General Education Requirements for Social Sciences and Western Culture. NRES students may ONLY receive general education credit for Western Culture.

Compass:
The following information will be available on Illinois Compass: syllabus, assignments, grades, readings, and occasional lecture notes.

To access Illinois Compass, open your browser, and type the URL http://compass.uiuc.edu into the Address box. Please login with your NetID and your NetID password. If you are unsure about your NetID or NetID password, please see the following page: http://www.cites.uiuc.edu/netid/index.html.
Statement of Academic Integrity:
By being enrolled in this class, it is understood that you will follow and be bound by the most recent version of the UIUC Student Code, and especially the policies on academic integrity (Section 4). It is my policy that plagiarizing from any other sources (including published works and web-sites and other student papers) is cheating and will definitely result in an “F” for the assignment. Second offenses will lead to an “F” for the course and College of ACES notification. Your written work must be independently produced, and must not display cross-over or direct similarity with the work of a classmate.

Readings:
All readings will be available online or via Compass and are also on e-reserves. There is no text book for this course. A list of readings is available on Compass and is subject to change. This is highly unlikely, but possible if a great alternative comes up. You will be notified of any changes at least one week in advance of the reading date.

Course Assignments and Grading:
There are two general areas for assessing your progress in this course:

- 6 Response Papers 20 points each = 120 points
- Attendance & Participation in Discussion Sections (12) = 36 points
- 2 Midterm Exams 50 points each = 100 points
- 1 Final Exam with a comprehensive component = 60 points

Total = 316 points

Response Papers/Assignments:
Six response papers will be due during the semester (see course outline for due dates). In these assignments, you will respond to specific questions and base your answers on the assigned readings, relevant course material, and additional tasks. Assignments will be posted on the course Compass site at least 2 weeks before the due date. Requirements: **1-2 typed pages, 12 pt font, double-spaced**. Papers exceeding 2 pages will not receive full points (the only exception is if articles or references need to be provided for media examples or other sources). The point here is to encourage you to make complete and succinct arguments. No make-up or late papers will be accepted except for documented reasons via the Emergency Dean. Response papers must be turned in on paper in your discussion section (NOT via email except when approved by TA and never via Compass).

Discussion Sections:
You must be enrolled in a discussion section associated with this course. This time will be used to discuss course material, occasionally watch and discuss video material, and to turn in your assignments. Your participation in discussions and response papers will count for over 50% of your overall course grade.

Extra Credit:
You may submit up to 2 one page summaries of seminars offered on campus on topics relating to environment and society. Potential seminars will be announced in class and posted on Compass. As long as the topic is relevant, you may attend a seminar that isn’t on the list. Please note title, presenter, time, and place of seminar at the top of your summary. Your summary must clearly describe the seminar and elaboration on a particular point that relates to themes from this class. Your reaction to the seminar should be included, but should not take the place of a thorough description of the seminar. Each summary is worth 10 points.

Grading Scale:
Your final grade for the course will be based on your overall performance using the following scale: 97%-100% = A+; 93-96.9% = A; 90-92.9% = A-; 87-89.9% = B+; 83-86.9% = B; 80-82.9% = B-, 77-79.9% = C+; 73-76.9% = C; 70-72.9% = C-; 67-69.9% = D+; 63-66.9% = D; 60-62.9% = D-; below 60% = F.
REVISED COURSE OUTLINE – DETAIL - ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

UNIT 1
Week 1 (January 20-22) – Syllabus & Environmental Experience
Week 3 (February 1-5) – Wilderness & The American Lawn
   RP#1 Due Feb 4-5
Week 4 (February 8-12) - Land Health and Sustainability
Week 5 (February 15-19) – Natural Resource Dependent & Amenity Communities
   RP#2 Due Feb 18-19
Week 6 (February 22-26) EXAM WEEK
   Unit 1 Exam – Wed. Feb 24
   NO Discussion Sections this week!

UNIT 2
Week 7 (March 1-5) Millenium Ecosystem Assessment – Ecosystem Services & Human Well-being
Week 8 (March 8-12) Population & Environment/Resources
   RP#3 Due Mar 11-12
Week 9 (March 15-19) Tragedy of the Commons and Environmental Stakeholders
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 10 (March 29-April 2) Agriculture, Food & Environment
   RP#4 Due April 1-2
Week 11 (April 5-9) EXAM WEEK
   Unit 2 Exam Wednesday April 7

UNIT 3
Week 12 (April 12-16) Disaster, Vulnerability, & Resiliency
Week 13 (April 19-23) Environmental Justice
   RP#5 Due April 22-23
Week 14 (April 26-30) Local Knowledge and Science in Collaborative Natural Resource Management
Week 15 (May 3-5) Continue from Week 14 & Review for Final
   RP#6 Due May 5 (*paper due in lecture – no discussion sections this week)

FINAL EXAM Wednesday May 12 at 1:30pm – Arrive promptly: No one enters after first person leaves.
Covers unit 3 plus comprehensive questions from units 1 and 2.