

**Interdisciplinary Studies 334:
Natural Resources: Issues and Conflicts
Spring 2008 ~ T/R 2:00-3:15 ~ PH 2304**

Instructors & Contact Information:

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Course Objectives: In this course, students will consider a variety of natural resource issues at both the local and global scale. Students that successfully complete this course should have (1) basic scientific literacy regarding natural resource issues, (2) an understanding of public policy issues related to the extraction and consumption of natural resources, and (3) the ability to think critically about natural resource issues from both scientific and policy perspectives.

Selected Course Materials: Available via Blackboard (<http://bb.siue.edu>)

Course Textbook:

a. Cunningham, W. P. and M. Cunningham. 2006. *Principles of Environmental Science: Inquiry and Applications*. New York: McGraw Hill.

b. Supplemental readings (mostly newspaper articles, other popular media, internet sites, etc.) are available via Blackboard <http://bb.siue.edu>. Articles or materials should be read prior to class.

Course Mechanics: Your final grade will be comprised of the following:

Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%
Poster project	25%
Class exercises	15%
Two field trips @ 5% each	10%
Ecological footprint	5%

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions based primarily on lecture material and on assigned readings. Please note: you must bring a scantron (standard, 8.5 x 11) and a #2 pencil to class on exam days.

Make-up exams will only be granted if you (1) contact us within 24 hours of missing the exam, and (2) have a valid, University-sanctioned excuse. Exams taken on any day other than the scheduled exam day will be essay format.

Poster project: Each student will create a display (e.g. a poster) about a natural resource issue. The poster must include a clear description of the issue being investigated, adequate background information about the topic, policy issues related to the poster topic, and potential ways of dealing with the issue. The content of the poster must be supported with relevant and current research; an annotated bibliography will be turned in as part of the assignment. Posters will be displayed and discussed in class. Peer evaluation will be used as well. A detailed handout will be given in class.

Class exercises: Quizzes and small group work will be used to monitor (1) your understanding of course material, and (2) attendance from time to time. Many of the exercises will be based on reading (both the text and assigned articles, as listed below). Be sure to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to answer questions and discuss the readings. Please note that exercises cannot be made up and they are worth 15 percent of your final grade - if your final grade is borderline, exercises can affect the final outcome. *You are responsible for all course material regardless of attendance.*

Two field trips will occur over the course of the semester (probably toward the end when the weather gets warmer). For each of the field trips a reflective essay will be submitted, describing what you learned and any evidence of class topics/concepts that were observed. Additional details will be provided in class.

Ecological Footprint: Using a website, you will calculate your ecological footprint and respond to a series of questions about your footprint and ways to control your footprint. Additional details will be provided in class.

Schedule: The schedule below is flexible and can be modified over the course of the semester. Please note: chapter readings come from Cunningham & Cunningham; SR = supplemental readings, available via Blackboard.

DATE	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR	READING
1/15	Introduction		
1/17	Science, Environment & Policy	Bush	Chapter 1
1/22			
1/24	Principles of Ecology	Acheson	Chapter 2
1/29			
1/31	Population Dynamics & the Environment	Acheson	Chapters 3 & 4
2/5			SR-1
2/7			SR-2
2/12	Agriculture, Food, & Land Use	Bush	Chapters 6 & 7
2/14			
2/19	Biomes, Biodiversity, & People	Acheson	Chapter 5

DATE	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR	READING
2/21	Biomes, Biodiversity, & People	Acheson	SR-3 & SR-4
2/26	Wastes, Toxins, & Environmental Health	Bush	Chapters 8 & 13
2/28			
3/4			
3/6	Midterm Exam		
3/10-16	Spring Break - No Classes		
3/18	Atmosphere, Pollution, & Climate	Bush	Chapter 9
3/20			
3/25	Water Resources & Pollution	Acheson	Chapter 10
3/27			SR-5 & SR-6
4/1	Geology, Resource Extraction & Energy	Acheson	Chapters 11 & 12
4/3			
4/8	<i>China Revs Up</i> (film)	Acheson	SR-7 & SR-8
4/10	Field Trip 1—Gardens at SIUE	Bush, Acheson	Staff-guided walking tour of site
4/15	Urban Development & “Green” Policies	Bush	Chapter 14
4/17	Field Trip 2—Watershed Nature Center	Self-guided	Students visit Watershed on own
4/22	Sustainable Development & Policy	Bush	Chapter 15
4/24	Poster Presentations		
4/29	Poster Presentations		
5/1	Tying it all together...	Bush, Acheson	Recap of text and course info
TBA	Final Exam (during Final Exams week)		

Class Courtesy: It is important for each person enrolled in this course to be treated with, and to treat others, with respect and courtesy. To that end:

- (1) come to class by 2:00 pm and stay until 3:15 pm. The class is 1 hour and 15 minutes - no more, no less - we will not keep you late but you must come prepared to spend the entire class period engaged in the class;
- (2) turn your cell phone off (no calls, no text messaging);
- (3) come to class prepared to listen and participate (in other words do not do other work, read the newspaper, sleep, or have private conversations while in this class - if you must do these things, then do not come to class);
- (4) leave computers off unless using for class—no surfing the web, e-mailing, AIM, etc.;

- (5) listen to each other's comments and opinions with an open mind; and,
- (6) avoid using offensive speech. Inflammatory comments which provoke or insult anyone in this class will not be tolerated.

Scholastic Honesty: Each student enrolled is expected to earn her/his grade honestly, without cheating. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses; they will not be tolerated. Cheating of any kind will be dealt with according to the *Student Code of Conduct*.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Disability Support Services at 650-3726.

First Day Attendance Policy: We reserve the right to drop any student not in attendance on the first day of classes.