



**ENVS 201: Introduction to Environmental Studies
—Social Sciences
Spring 2010**

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-1:50. 128 Chiles

Thomas Mason, mason3@uoregon.edu

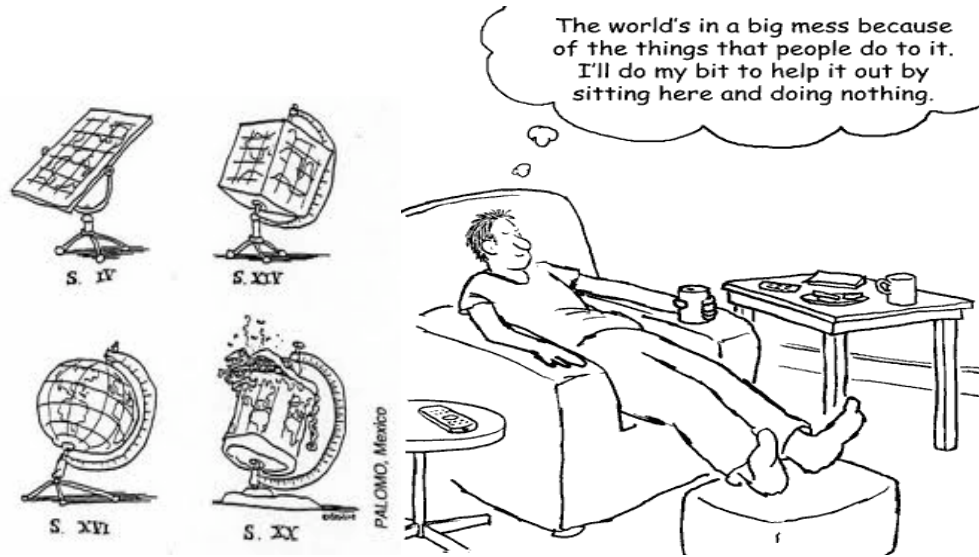
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3, 47A Columbia

GTF : Megan Toth, mtoth@uoregon.edu

Environmental Studies 201 introduces some of the major contributions of the social sciences to understanding how and why environmental problems happen—the social ‘root causes’ of these problems. Environmentally harmful human behavior is not simply a fact of life: it is a product of specific social conditions, which can be studied, understood, and *changed*. This course also examines social approaches to resolving environmental problems, including ideas such as ‘sustainability’, ‘market-based’ environmental policies, reforms of property systems, conservation, and social movements that promote concepts such as environmental justice, ecofeminism, and deep ecology. In this course students practice applying these conceptual approaches by using them to analyze the root causes, consequences, and possible solutions to specific environmental topics. We will focus on issues that include global warming, consumerism, and energy.

Course requirements: The course grade will be based on the following: two in-class exams (25% each), reading summaries (25%), attendance and participation (10%), and a short essay (5-6 pages) on some aspect of sustainable agriculture following a class visit to Huerto de la Familia at Churchill Gardens (15%). The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, identification of key terms and ideas, and short answers. The exams include all course materials: lectures, readings, and videos we may watch.

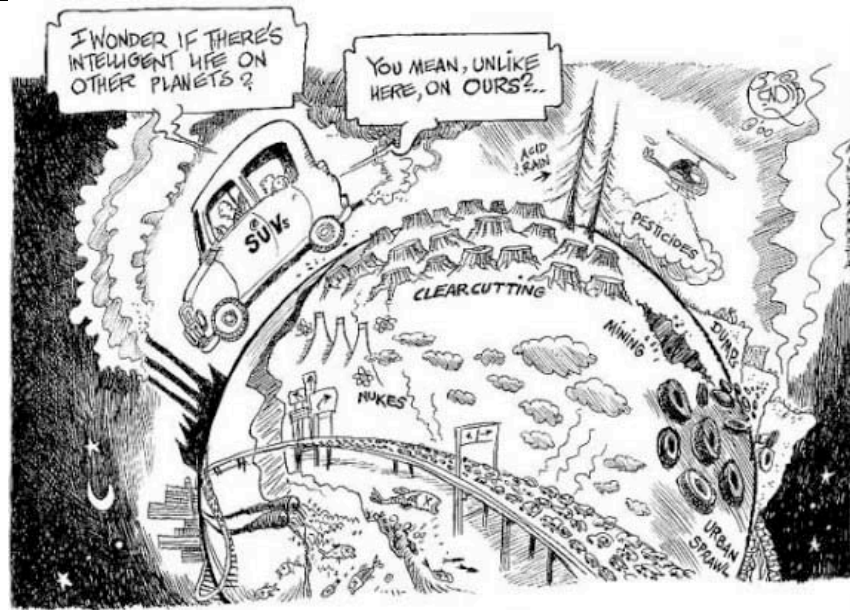
LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN CLASS; NO TEXTING. There is no textbook. Required readings are available on Blackboard.



Schedule and REQUIRED readings (must be read *before* class each day)
NOTE: Several of these readings and videos will be updated throughout the term.

Lect 1 4/2	Introduction & overview: social science perspectives on the environment	
Lect 2 4/4	Destroying and saving the World: The case of climate change	Vitousek; Whittey 2006; Cunningham 1998
Lect 3 4/9	Worls problems (cont.)	Magdoff and Foster; Hardin
Part I: Root causes of environmental problems—social science perspectives		
Lect 4 4/11	Ideas of nature	Kinsley 1995; Leopold 1949
Lect 5 4/16	Population: good and bad news beyond the ‘bomb’	Newbold 2007, Ch. 1 & Ch. 6
Lect 6 4/18	Economic growth and consumerism	De Graaf 2001; Fullerton
Lect 7 4/23	Political economy	Bhagwati; Frank; Magdoff and Foster; Easterbrook 2003
Lect 8 4/25	Trade, environment and globalization	Gallagher 2004; Harris
Lect 9 4/29	EXAM I (25% of grade)	
Part II: Social science solutions to environmental problems		
Lect 10 5/2	‘Sustainability’: what does it mean?	Adams; Rees 1997

Lect 11 5/7	International environmental issues	Graham; Ho and Jorgensen; Rock and Angel
Lect 12 5/9	Environmental economics and 'green' markets	BBC 2006 (see link); Doyle 2008; O'Neill
Lect 13 4/14	Ecological economics and natural capitalism	Arrow et al. 1995; Rees 2003; Lovins, Lovins, and Hawken 1999
Lect 14 5/16	Radical views: environmental justice, ecofeminism, deep ecology, bioregionalism	Feminist eZine 2008; Harding 1997; Sale 2001
Part III: Applying social science concepts to real-world environmental problems:		
Lect 15 5/21	Biodiversity & conservation	Whitty 2007; Quammen 2006; Gulbrandsen
Lect 16 5/23	The current political climate	Klein, 2011; McCright and Dunlap, 2010
Lect. 17 5/28	Sustainable agriculture in the developing world	Guest Lecture, MeganToth, readings TBA
Lect. 18 5/30	Death of environmentalism?	Shellenberger and Nordhaus
Lect. 19 6/4	A new way forward	Magdoff and Foster, ch. 10, 2011
Lect. 20 6/7	Exam II (25% of grade)	



Readings

- Ackerman, Frank. 2008. Climate economics in four easy pieces. *Development* 51:325-331.
- Alam, Khorshed. 2008. Cost-benefit analysis of restoring Buriganga River, Bangladesh. *Water Resources Development* 24 (4):593-607.
- Arrow, Kenneth, Bert Bolin, Robert Costanza, and Partha Dasgupta. 1995. Economic growth, carrying capacity, and the environment. *Science* 268 (5210):520 (2 pages).
- BBC. 2006. Climate change fight 'can't wait'. *bbc.co.uk*
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6096084.stm?ls> access date: 10/30/06 9:20pm.
- Cunningham, Mary Ann. 1998. Tragedy of the Commons. In *Environmental Encyclopedia*, edited by W. P. Cunningham. Detroit: Gale.
- Daly, Herman. 1993. Steady-state economics: a new paradigm. *New Literary History* 24 (4):811 (6 pages).
- De Graaf, John. 2001. *Affluenza*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
- Dean, Cornelia. 2007. Science of the soul? 'I think therefore I am' is losing force. *New York Times*, June 26, Science, 1.
- Dowie, Mark. 2008. The Wrong Path to Conservation. *The Nation*:11-17.
- Downing, Jim. 2004. Elwha dam removal gets final go-ahead. *Seattle Times*, August 6.
- Doyle, Alistair. 2008. Economics seen bolstering case to protect nature. *CommonDreams.org* October 9.
- Easterbrook, Gregg. 2003. Axle of Evil: America's twisted love affair with sociopathic cars. *The New Republic* January 20:27-35.
- Esty, Daniel C. 2001. Bridging the trade-environment debate. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 15 (3):113-130.
- Eviatar, Daphne. 2005. A Toxic Trade-off. *The Washington Post*, August 14, B1.
- Feminist eZine. 2008. What is ecofeminism, anyway? Review of Reviewed Item., <http://www.feministezine.com/feminist/ecofeminism/What-is-Ecofeminism-Anyway.html>.
- Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. *The vulnerable planet: a short economic history of the environment*. New ed. New York: Monthly Review Press, Chs. 1 & 6 (pp. 11-33, 108-124).
- Gallagher, Kevin P. 2004. Paying for NAFTA. *NACLA Report on the Americas* 38 (1):47.
- Grossman, Elizabeth. 2004. Restoring the Elwha River could change public thinking about America's rivers. *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 12.
- Harding, Stephen. 1997. What is deep ecology. *Resurgence* (185):14-17.
- Henson, Robert, and Duncan Clark. 2008. *The rough guide to climate change*. 2nd ed. London; New York: Rough Guides: Distributed by the Penguin Group.
- Kates, Robert W., Thomas M. Parris, and Anthony Leiserowitz. 2005. What is sustainable development? *Environment* April:8-21.
- Kinsley, David R. 1995. Christianity as Ecologically Harmful. In *Ecology and Religion: ecological spirituality in cross-cultural perspective*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.

- . 1995. Nature Disenchanted: The Modern View of Nature. In *Ecology and Religion: ecological spirituality in cross-cultural perspective*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.
- Leopold, Aldo. 1949. The land ethic. In *A Sand County Almanac*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lovins, Amory B., L. Hunter Lovins, and Paul Hawken. 1999. A road map for natural capitalism. *Harvard Business Review* 77 (3):145-158.
- Maniates, Michael. 2002. Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World? In *Confronting Consumption*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- McKibben, Bill. 2007. Reversal of Fortune. *MotherJones* April-May:32-43, 87-88.
- Myers, David G. 2004. What is the good life? *Yes!* (30):12-16.
- Newbold, K. Bruce. 2007. *Six billion plus: world population in the twenty-first century*. 2nd ed, *Human geography in the new millennium*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- O'Neill, Tom. 2007. Curse of Black Gold: Hope and betrayal in the Niger Delta. Review of Reviewed Item. *National Geographic*, <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2007/02/nigerian-oil/oneill-text>.
- Pope, Carl. 2002. Race to the top: the biases of the WTO regime. *Harvard International Review* (Winter):62-66.
- Quammen, David. 2006. An endangered idea. *National Geographic* October:62-67.
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- Rees, W. E. 2003. Economic development and environmental protection: An ecological economics perspective. *Environmental Monitoring And Assessment* 86 (1-2):29-45.
- Rees, William E. 1997. Let's just assume we're sustainable. *Dollars and Sense* May/June:38-29.
- Reynolds, David. 2004. Little cash, lots of riches. *Yes!* (30):26-29.
- Roberts, Sam. 2006. Fatter, taller and thirstier Americans. *The New York Times*, December 15.
- Rodrik, Dani. 2002. Globalization for whom? *Harvard Magazine* (July-August):29-31.
- Sale, Kirkpatrick. 2001. There's no place like home. *Ecologist* 31 (2):40-43.
- Shellenberger, Michael, and Ted Nordhaus. 2005. *The Death of Environmentalism*. The Breakthrough Institute 2004 [cited June 4 2005]. Available from http://www.thebreakthrough.org/images/Death_of_Environmentalism.pdf.
- Shigley, Paul. 2008. Dam Yanking. *Planning* 74 (8):36-39.
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- Whitty, Julia. 2006. The Thirteenth Tipping Point: Twelve Global Disasters and One Powerful Antidote. *Mother Jones*:44-51, 100-101.
- . 2007. Gone. *MotherJones* May-June:36-45, 88-90.