ENVS 201: Introduction to Environmental Studies
—Social Sciences
W 2013
M/W 12:00-1:20  PAC 123

Prof. Galen Martin, 304 PLC, 346-9178 gmartin@uoregon.edu
Office hours: Tu 2:00-3:30/F 10:00-11:30 or by appointment
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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: three in-class exams (25%, 20%, 15%); attendance, participation, and reading summaries (15%); and research project tied to group project and presentation (25%). The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and identification of key terms and ideas. The last exam (not a final) may be administered during the scheduled finals time at 10:15 on Tuesday, March 19 of finals week. The exams include all course materials: lectures, readings, and videos.

Lecture outlines will be available on Blackboard after the class but do not substitute for in-class note-taking. LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN CLASS; NO TEXTING. There is no textbook. Required readings are available on the class web page at http://Blackboard.uoregon.edu
Schedule and REQUIRED readings (must be read *before* class each day)

NOTE: Several of these readings and videos will be updated throughout the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lect 1</td>
<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Introduction &amp; overview: social science perspectives on the environment</td>
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<td>Lect 2</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
<td>Destroying and saving the World: The case of climate change</td>
<td>(Maniates 2002; Cunningham 1998)</td>
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<td>Lect 3</td>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Climate Change (cont.)</td>
<td>(Henson and Clark 2008; Hanley 2011)</td>
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<td><strong>Part I: Root causes of environmental problems—social science perspectives</strong></td>
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<td>Lect 4</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Ideas of nature</td>
<td>(Kinsley 1995; Dean 2007; Leopold 1949)(Videos: Religion &amp; Ethics Newsweekly; Bill Moyers <em>Is god Green?</em>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lect 5</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Population: good and bad news beyond the ‘bomb’</td>
<td>(Newbold 2007, Ch. 1 &amp; Ch. 6)(Video clip: <em>World in the Balance</em>)</td>
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<td>Lect 6</td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Economic growth and consumerism</td>
<td>(McKibben 2007; De Graaf 2001; Myers 2004; Roberts 2006)</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>EXAM I (25% of grade)</td>
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<td><strong>Part II: Social science solutions to environmental problems</strong></td>
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<td>Lect 8</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>‘Sustainability’: what does it mean?</td>
<td>(Kates, Parris, and Leiserowitz 2005; Redcliff 2005; Rees 1997)(Video: Easter Island)</td>
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<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>Topic</td>
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<td>Lect 9</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Environmental law</td>
<td>(Ladau and Lovegrove 2008)</td>
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<td>Lect 10</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Environmental economics and ‘green’ markets</td>
<td>(BBC 2006; Alam 2008; Ackerman 2008; Doyle 2008)</td>
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<td>Lect 11</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Ecological economics and natural capitalism</td>
<td>(Arrow et al. 1995; Daly 1993; Rees 2003; Lovins, Lovins, and Hawken 1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lect 12</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Radical views: environmental justice, ecofeminism, deep ecology, bioregionalism</td>
<td>(O'Neill 2007; Srinivasan et al. 2008; Feminist eZine 2008; Harding 1997; Sale 2001)</td>
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Feb. 25   Exam II (20% of grade)

**Part III: Applying social science concepts to real-world environmental problems:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Biodiversity &amp; conservation</td>
<td>(Whitty 2007; Quammen 2006; Dowie 2008)</td>
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<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Extraction: “Fracking”</td>
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<td>Mar. 11</td>
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<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Conclusions</td>
<td>(Shellenberger and Nordhaus 2004)</td>
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<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>FINAL QUIZ (15%)</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
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Associated Readings

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.

Maniates, Michael. 2002. Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World? In


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.

Reviewed Item. *National Geographic*,


*Sustainable Development* 13:212-227.


Breakthrough Institute 2004 [cited June 4 2005]. Available from


Smith, R. Watson, J. Harte, and R. B. Norgaard. 2008. The debt of nations and the
distribution of ecological impacts from human activities. *Proceedings Of The National
Academy Of Sciences Of The United States Of America* 105 (5):1768-1773.


Whitty, Julia. 2006. The Thirteenth Tipping Point: Twelve Global Disasters and One Powerful