



## ENVS 201: Introduction to Environmental Studies —Social Sciences

W 2013

M/W 12:00-1:20 PAC 123

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Office hours: Tu 2:00-3:30/F 10:00-11:30 or by appointment

GTFS :

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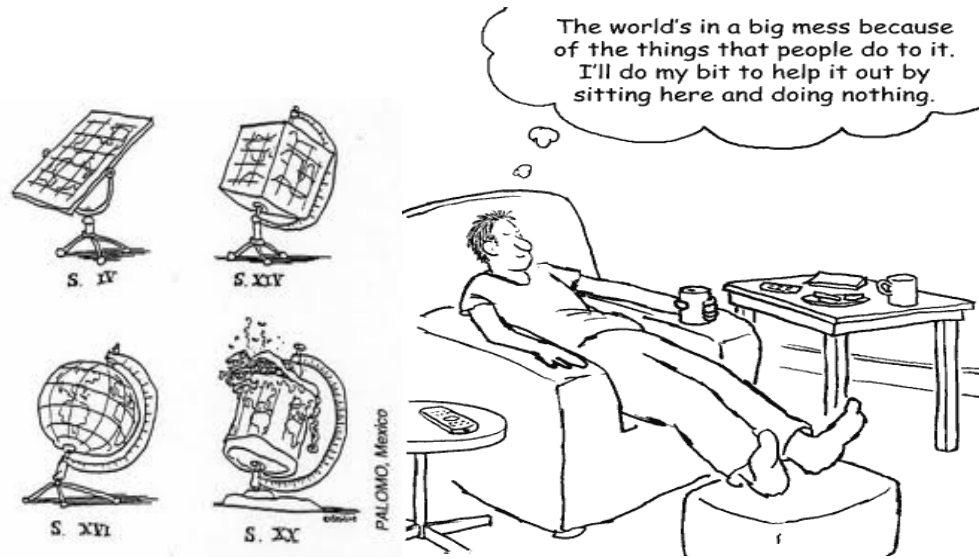
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Environmental Studies 201 introduces some of the major contributions of the social sciences to understanding how and why environmental problems happen—the social ‘root causes’ of these problems. Environmentally harmful human behavior is not simply 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>**

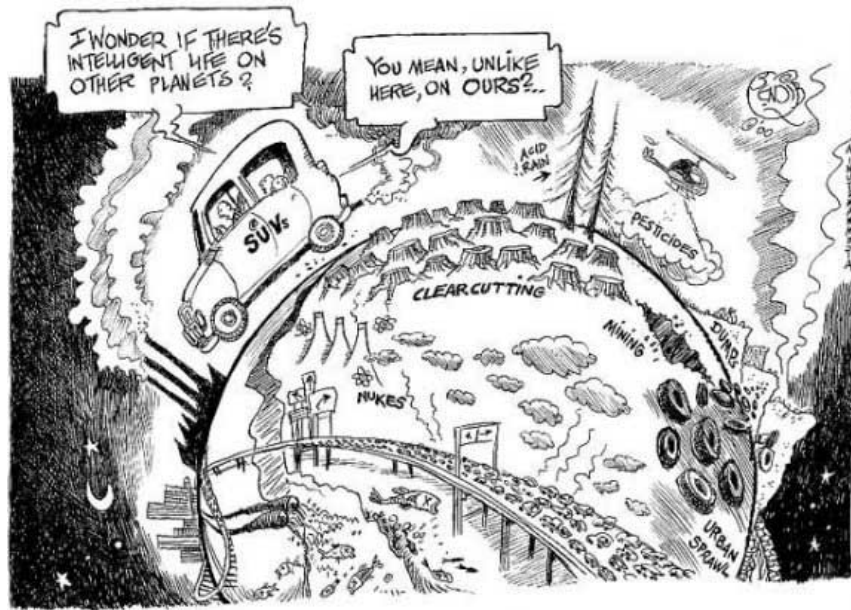


**Schedule and REQUIRED readings (must be read before class each day)**

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

<i>Lect 1</i> Jan. 7	Introduction & overview: social science perspectives on the environment	
<i>Lect 2</i> Jan. 9	Destroying and saving the World: The case of climate change	(Maniates 2002; Cunningham 1998)
<i>Lect 3</i> Jan. 14	Climate Change (cont.)	( Henson and Clark 2008; Hanley 2011)
<b><u>Part I: Root causes of environmental problems—social science perspectives</u></b>		
<i>Lect 4</i> Jan. 16	Ideas of nature	(Kinsley 1995; Dean 2007; Leopold 1949)(Videos: Religion & Ethics Newsweekly; Bill Moyers <i>Is god Green?</i> )
<i>Lect 5</i> Jan. 23	Population: good and bad news beyond the ‘bomb’	(Newbold 2007, Ch. 1 & Ch. 6)(Video clip: <i>World in the Balance</i> )
<i>Lect 6</i> Jan. 28	Economic growth and consumerism	(McKibben 2007; De Graaf 2001; Myers 2004; Roberts 2006)
<i>Lect 7</i> Jan. 30	Political economy, trade and the environment	(Foster 1999 Chs. 1 & 6; Easterbrook 2003) ( <i>The Economist</i> 1999; Gallagher 2004; Esty 2001) (Rodrik 2002; Pope 2002; Eviatar 2005; Reynolds 2004)
Feb. 4	EXAM I (25% of grade)	
<b><u>Part II: Social science solutions to environmental problems</u></b>		
<i>Lect 8</i> Feb 6	‘Sustainability’: what does it mean?	(Kates, Parris, and Leiserowitz 2005; Redclift 2005; Rees 1997)(Video: Easter Island)

Lect 9 Feb 11	Environmental law	(Ladau and Lovegrove 2008)
Lect 10 Feb 13	Environmental economics and 'green' markets	(BBC 2006; Alam 2008; Ackerman 2008; Doyle 2008)
Lect 11 Feb 18	Ecological economics and natural capitalism	(Arrow et al. 1995; Daly 1993; Rees 2003; Lovins, Lovins, and Hawken 1999)
Lect 12 Feb 20	Radical views: environmental justice, ecofeminism, deep ecology, bioregionalism	(O'Neill 2007; Srinivasan et al. 2008; Feminist eZine 2008; Harding 1997; Sale 2001)
Feb. 25 Exam II (20% of grade)		
<b>Part III: Applying social science concepts to real-world environmental problems:</b>		
Feb. 27 Mar. 4	Biodiversity & conservation	(Whitty 2007; Quammen 2006; Dowie 2008)
Mar. 6 Mar. 11	Oil and Gas Extraction: "Fracking"	
Mar. 13	Conclusions	(Shellenberger and Nordhaus 2004)
Mar. 19 10:15	FINAL QUIZ (15%)	



**Associated 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, Alister. 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.
- Redclift, Michael. 2005. Sustainable development (1987-2005): An oxymoron comes of age. *Sustainable Development* 13:212-227.
- 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](http://www.thebreakthrough.org/images/Death_of_Environmentalism.pdf).
- Shigley, Paul. 2008. Dam Yanking. *Planning* 74 (8):36-39.
- Srinivasan, U. T., S. P. Carey, E. Hallstein, P. A. T. Higgins, A. C. Kerr, L. E. Koteen, A. B. 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.
- Stokstad, Erik. 2006. Big dams ready for teardown. *Science* 314 (27 October):584.
- The Economist*. 1999. Why greens should love trade. (October 7):17-18.
- 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.