SPRING 2010
GEOG 226 - Environmental Conservation: Resource Management

Course Information

Schedule: Mondays and Thursdays, 4:10-5:25 p.m.
Room: 1022 HN
Professor: Peter J. Marcotullio, Associate Professor
Office: 1043 Hunter North
Office hours: TBA
Tel: 1 (212) 722 5264
Email: peter.marcotullio@hunter.cuny.edu

Course description

This course introduces students to environmental studies. The course will examine issues pertaining to sustaining our resource base (biodiversity, food, soil, water and energy) and how humans have impacted these key elements to the natural system. The lectures are divided into two sections. In the first section we will overview key concepts and questions regarding sustainability. The second section reviews the human impact on a particular resource and the challenges of sustaining these vital natural features. Examples of successful management practices are provided for each environmental challenge.

The goals of the course are to introduce students to the trends in human impact and management of the natural environment and provide a background to debates on sustainability and conservation.

Course methods

This class will be run like as a lecture class, meaning that each week material will be presented based upon the readings. There will be, however, significant opportunities for student participation. The class will be given on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:10 - 5:25 pm in Hunter North 1022. Most class readings assignments are from the two texts required for the course. Some extra material may be provided as PDF files through Hunter Blackboard. Lectures are given as slideshows and materials will be posted on Hunter’s Blackboard.

Assignments and grades

Student evaluations are based upon:
1) Class attendance is important and I take attendance
2) Participation in discussion is vital. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings;
3) Students will be asked to complete four short answer assignments related to the readings. Students will be given a set of questions from which they will choose one or two to answer. They will be given three days to provide answers of not more than 500 words.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Assignment 3</td>
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<td>Assignment 4</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20</td>
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**Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity**

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

**Class policies**

As mentioned, I take attendance at the start of each class. **There are no incompletes given for the course.** The exception is with proof of a medical emergency. Late papers will be marked down. Please do not bring iPods or earphones to class and do not use your laptop computers except to take notes.

Texts for the course include:


**Preliminary outline of the semester**

Section 1 – Concepts and overviews

Week 1  
Environmental problems, their causes and sustainability  
Week 2  Science, ecological principles and sustainability  

Week 3  Biodiversity and evolution  
**First assignment**

Week 5  Community ecology, population ecology and human population  

**Section 2 – Human impacts and management**

Week 6  An introduction to the human impact on the environment  

Week 7  Human impact on vegetation and animals  
**Second assignment**

Week 8  Sustaining biodiversity  

Week 9  Human impacts on soil  

Week 10  Food, soil and pest management  
**Third assignment**

Week 11  Human impact on waters  

Week 12  Water resources and water pollution  
**Fourth Assignment**

Week 13  Human impact on climate and atmosphere  
Week 14  Air pollution, climate change, and ozone depletion

Week 15  The future