GEOG 22600 - Environmental Conservation: Resource Management - Spring 2017
Tuesdays, 5:35 PM to 8:25 PM; Hunter North 1022

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Office Hours: 3:00-5:00PM Tuesday, Thursday or by appointment

Course Description

Environmental conservation in this course is studied from a geographical perspective reviewing the biophysical, institutional, and socioeconomic dimensions of environmental problems in order to develop more effective resource management solutions. Environmental conservation is itself a social process. The course material is focused on how changes in cultural values, scientific understandings of nature, economy and politics affect conservation practice. Not only will we trace the major debates in environmental conservation but will also explore how differences in people's biophysical, economic and political surroundings have led to different perceptions of environmental problems and their solutions. Through this class, students will develop an understanding of the major approaches to environmental conservation, their relative strengths and weaknesses, and how they developed historically. Case material will come from around the world with a historical overview of environmental conservation thought and action in the United States. We will touch upon a range of environmental issues in this course including: air and water pollution, biodiversity protection, land and soil resource management, solid waste and toxic waste, wilderness protection, and climate change.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

The course is structured around several specific learning outcomes associated with the course content. Other learning outcomes will involve research activities and scholarship. The outcomes include the following.

Content Related Outcomes

1. Definition of natural resources and other basic terms associated with their conservation and management
2. Difference between the terms natural resource exploitation, conservation, and preservation
3. The role of values and benefits in the development of environmental ethics
4. How institutional and economic structures influence the conservation of natural resources
5. The connection between natural resource use and pollution
6. Basic periods of U.S. natural resources conservation development with a specific focus on environmental policy
7. Current drivers of U.S. and international natural resources conservation and management
8. Conditions of environmental transformation in key natural resources

Research Related Outcomes

1. Development and write an expository essay
2. Retrieve and analyze statistical data
3. Interpret graphic and mapped data
4. Develop a collaborative group project

Course Structure and Requirements
This class will be conducted in a lecture and seminar format. Students will be expected to fully engage with the class readings and discussions. Other responsibilities are listed below.

Student Responsibilities and Grading: Your grade will be based on following set of assignments and responsibilities.

Responsibility	*Percent of Grade*
1. Student participation	10%
2. Environmental ethics essay	10%
3. Quantitative modeling exercise	10%
4. Group exercise	20%
5. Mid Term Exam	25%
6. Final Exam	25%

Class attendance and class participation are a critical part of the semester grade. This means that you must be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day. Other specifics as to the nature of the assignments and the participation grade will be discussed in class. Late assignments will receive a reduction in grade. No grades of "incomplete" or IN will be given except in cases of extreme circumstances. A CR/NC grading option is available as per Hunter College guidelines. CR/NC forms must be submitted to the instructor no later than 15 minutes prior to the final exam.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Honesty
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, dishonest, 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.

Students with Disabilities
In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know.

Required texts
Paul Robbins, John Hintz and Sarah A. Moore. 2014. Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction. 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell. ISBN 978-1-118-45156-4

Daniel Chiras and John Reganold. 2010. Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future, 10th Edition, Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780132251389

The books are available at the Hunter College bookstore or online. Other readings are available via email from the instructor or via the Hunter College Blackboard. The readings are to be read for the week they are listed. Additional readings might be assigned on a weekly basis.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan. 31	Introduction – Living in the Anthropocene
2	Feb. 7	Environmental Ethics and the Social Construction of Nature
3	Feb. 14	Resource Economics and Market Economy
4	Feb. 21	Institutions and Resource Management Policy
5	Feb. 28	Political Economy (Ecology)
6	Mar. 7	Soil Resources
7	Mar. 14	Land Resources (Mid Term Exam)
8	Mar. 21	Water Resources – Quality and Quantity
9	Mar. 28	Air Quality Protection
10	April 4	Solid Waste and Recycling
	April 10	Spring Recess
	April 18	Spring Recess
11	April 25	Endangered Species and Biodiversity
12	May 2	Floods and Natural Hazards
13	May 9	Toxics and Hazardous Materials
14	May 16	Climate
15	May 23	Final Exam, 5:35 PM to 8:25 PM