

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Geography/EnvSt 339
Fall, 2011

(Syllabus for the FIRST HALF of course)

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Course Description. The first half of this course is a brief introduction to major environmental problems and conservation approaches (weeks 1-2) followed by a survey American environmental conservation from a geographical perspective. Environmental conservation will be treated as a social process with careful attention paid to how changes in 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 quite different perceptions of environmental problems and their solutions.

Readings. Required readings are listed under the topic headings for each week. You **MUST** do the reading assigned for a given week by your discussion section for the week. All required readings for the first half of the course are in a course packet that can be purchased from the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building). A course packet will also be placed on 2-hour reserve in the Geography Library along with individual recommended readings (280 Science Hall). In addition, the recommended articles and the required articles in the reader will also be available in electronic form through the course web page which can be accessed through the Academics tab on your "My UW" account.

Grading. Grades will be determined on the basis on two exams (50 points each) covering the first half of the course (October 4th and 25th) and discussion section activities (150 points for the whole semester). Discussion section activities are critical parts of this course. Attendance is **mandatory** at discussion sections. Not only will readings be discussed but you will also be assigned written work and may be given several brief quizzes.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Week 1 Interlinked Environmental Problems: A Geographical Perspective (7 September)

REQ: Worster, D. 1993. The nature we have lost. pgs 3-15 In *The Wealth of Nature*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Baer, P. *et al.* 2000. Equity and greenhouse gas responsibility. *Science* 289:2287.

Tilman, D. 2000. Causes, consequences and ethics of biodiversity. *Nature* 405:208-211.

Siebert, C. 2011. Food ark. *The National Geographic Magazine*, July, 2011. Retrieved from:
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/07/food-ark/siebert-text> on August 15, 2011

REC: Steffen, W., P. J. Crutzen, and J. R. McNeill. 2007. Anthropocene: Are humans now overwhelming the great forces of nature. *Ambio* 36 (8):614-621.

Week 2 Approaches to Environmental Conservation (12 September)

REQ: Hoekstra, J. M., T. M. Boucher, T. H. Ricketts, and C. Roberts. 2005. Confronting a biome crisis: global disparities of habitat loss and protection. *Ecology Letters* 8:23-29.

Ellison, K. and G. C. Daily 2003. Making conservation profitable. *Conservation in Practice* 4(2): 13-19.

Phelps, J., E. L. Webb, and A. Agrawal. 2010. Does REDD+ threaten to recentralize forest governance? *Science*

328:312-313.

REC: Brown, K. 2003. Three challenges for a real people-centered conservation. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 12:89-92.

Week 3 The Roots of American Environmentalism

(19 September)

REQ: Leopold, A. 1998. Wilderness as a form of land use. In *The Great New Wilderness Debate*, eds. J. B. Callicott and M. P. Nelson, 75-84. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Hays, S. P. 1990. From conservation to environmentalism. Pgs 144-152 In *American Environmentalism: Readings in Conservation History*. Edited by R. F. Nash. New York, McGraw-Hill.

White, R. 1995. Are you an environmentalist or do you work for a living? In *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature*, ed. W. Cronon, 171-185. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Pollan, M. 1991. The idea of a garden. In *Second Nature*, 209-238. New York: Dell Publishing.

Week 4 Public Lands

(26 September)

REQ: Sayre, N. 2007. The Western range: A leaking lifeboat for conservation in the New West. pp36-48 In Pritchett, L., Knight, R.L., Lee, J. (Eds): *Home Land: Ranching and a West that Works*. Rocky Mountain Land Library, Boulder, CO.

Foreman, D. 2004. Rewilding North America. Pgs 128-143 in Foreman, D. *Rewilding North America: A Vision for Conservation in the 21st century*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press.

Walker, P. A., and L. Fortmann. 2003. Whose landscape? A political ecology of the 'exurban' Sierra. *Cultural Geographies* 10 (3):469-491.

REC: Loder, A. 2010. Century later, "Big Burn" still has profound effect on wildfire policy. *Oregon Public Broadcasting*. August 23, 2010.

Streater, S. 2009. Reform of 1872 mining law won't save Western splendors. *New York Times* April 16, 2009.

Week 5 Environmental Regulation and Critics

(3 October)

Monday, October 3 -- EXAM 1 (covering weeks 1-3)

REQ: Carson, R. 1990. Pesticides. In *American Environmentalism: Readings in Conservation History*, ed. R. F. Nash, 191-194. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Albrecht, V. S., & Christman, J. N. The Endangered Species Act. Retrieved from <http://library.findlaw.com/1999/Jan/1/241467.html> on August 15, 2011. (4 pages)

DuHamel, J. 2010. Repeal the Endangered Species Act. *Tucson Citizen*. October 8, 2010. Retrieved from <http://tucsoncitizen.com/wryheat/tag/esa/page/2/> on August 15, 2011. (3 pages)

The Wildlife Society. 2006. *Final TWS Position Statement: The Endangered Species Act*. Bethesda, MD: The Wildlife Society. (3 pages)

REC: Andrews, R.N.L. 1999. Chapter 12: Nationalizing pollution control pgs 227-254 In *Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Environmental Policy*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Gottlieb, R. 1993. Reconstructing environmentalism: Complex movements, diverse roots. *Environmental History Review* 17 (4):1-19.

Week 6 US Energy Futures and Global Warming

(10 October)

REQ: Kolbert, E. 2010. Oil shocks. *The New Yorker* May 31, 2010.

MacKay, D. J. C.. 2008. Motivations. Pgs 2-21 In *Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air*. Cambridge, UK: UIT Cambridge

———. 2008. The balance sheet. Pgs 22-28 In *Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air*. Cambridge, UK: UIT Cambridge.

Course handout. The Role of Renewable Energy in Our Energy Future: David MacKay's Estimates for Great Britain and Analogous Estimates for U.S. 2pgs

MacKay, D. J. C. 2008. Can we live on renewables? Pgs 103-112 In *Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air*. Cambridge, UK: UIT Cambridge

Pollan, M. 2008. Why bother? *New York Times* April 20, 2008. 7 pgs.

REC: Keeney, D. 2009. Ethanol USA. *Environmental Science and Technology* 43:8-11.

Week 7 Environmental Justice and the Costs and Benefits of Economic Growth
(17 October)

REQ: McKibben, B. 2007. Reversal of fortune. *Mother Jones* March/April 2007:13 pgs.

Pastor, M. 2007. Environmental justice: Reflections from the United States. Pgs 351-376 In *Reclaiming Nature*, eds. J. K. Boyce, S. Narain and E. A. Stanton. London: Anthem Press.

REC: Bookchin, M. Death of a small planet. *The Progressive* August, 1989. 19-23.

Bullard, R. D., P. Mohai, R. Saha, and B. Wright. 2007. Executive Summary. Pgs x-xv In *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty 1987-2007*. Cleveland, OH: United Church of Christ.

Vidal, J. 2010. Nigeria's agony dwarfs the Gulf oil spill. The US and Europe ignore it. *The Observer* May 30, 2010.

Friday, October 21th -- EXAM 2 (covering weeks 4-7)