

Environment and Society

GEO 103

Mon., Wed. 10:35-11:30
Watson Theater

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Office hours:	M 11:30-12:30, 2:30-3:30 or by appointment	Th 1:00-3:00 or by appointment	W 1:00-3:00 or by appointment
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Sections:	M002 F 9:30-10:25 M003 F 11:40-12:35 M006 F 10:35-11:30	M004 Th 3:30-4:25 M005 Th 5:00-5:55 M007 F 12:45-1:40	M008 F 9:30-10:25 M009 F 10:35-11:40 M010 F 11:40-12:35
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Course Overview

There is no relationship more fundamental for society than the one we have with our natural environment. This course focuses on the social aspects of natural resource use, and connects local-scale phenomena with regional-, national-, and global-scale processes. We begin by reading about and discussing some conceptual issues that are central to our understanding of nature-society relations. These include resource extraction, pollution, environmental management, environmental ethics and environmental justice. We then examine the interaction of these processes and problems by considering some aspects of environment-society relations that we engage with every day of our lives: climate, resource extraction, energy, water and food.

Discussion Sections

Discussion sections meet once a week to review concepts from lectures and readings, and to introduce new material related to the course. Discussion section will also involve group activities and role-playing exercises related to topics covered in readings and lecture. You will have three writing assignments due in discussion section during the semester. Overall, discussion section accounts for 40% of your grade (200 out of 500 total points). If you want to do well in this class, you *have* to do well in discussion section.

NOTE: Attendance and active participation in discussion section is expected, and will count toward your final grade. Just showing up to class is not enough. In order to receive full credit for participation, you need to keep up with the required readings, and come to section ready to discuss them critically.

Required Reading

There are no textbooks for this class. Instead, all required readings are available via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.syr.edu>). These are listed according to the author's last name, just as they are in the course schedule (below) and appear in the order in which you should read them. These readings are a mix of academic articles, book chapters and articles from newspapers and magazines. Be sure to keep up with the readings, because they will be covered on exams and discussion section assignments.

Grading

A total of 200 points will be available from discussion sections grades. Additionally, there will be two mid-term exams (worth 100 points each) and a final exam (also worth 100 points). Grading is as follows:

Discussion Section:

Concept paper #1 (due week 3)	50 points
Concept paper #2 (due week 8)	50 points
Concept paper #3 (due week 14)	50 points
Participation	50 points

<i>Discussion Total</i>	<i>200 points</i>
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Lecture:

Exam 1 (September 27)	100 points
Exam 2 (November 8)	100 points
Final Exam (December 11)	100 points

<i>Lecture Total</i>	<i>300 points</i>
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CLASS TOTAL	500 points
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Grading policy (please read this carefully):

- All assignments must be submitted on or before the date indicated on the syllabus. *We do not accept late work without prior permission.* Anything turned in late without prior permission will receive a score of zero. There will be no exceptions.
- Submit hard copies of your assignments to your TAs in discussion section. We will not accept electronic versions of assignments.
- All assignments should be proofread and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Sloppy work will be penalized at the discretion of your TA.

- Be sure to number and staple your pages. Unstapled papers, or with papers with un-numbered pages will be marked down one-half letter grade. All work must be written on a computer and printed with a printer. Handwritten work will not be accepted.
- Save electronic versions of all your assignments, as well as the graded hard copies you get back from your TA. These may be necessary in case of any assignments get lost, or if there are disputes or questions regarding your grade.

Classroom Etiquette

Please use common sense and common courtesy in your behavior in lecture and discussion section. Arrive to class on time. If you *have* to arrive late, please enter the room quietly and don't let the door slam behind you. Please don't talk or read during class. Persons behaving in a discourteous manner will be asked to leave the classroom. Classroom behavior will be considered in factoring final grades.

Personal Electronics

The use of personal electronics is not permitted in this class. Please be sure that your cell phone is silenced *before* coming to class. Texting, emailing, or surfing the web during class will not be tolerated. Persons caught texting during lecture or discussion section will be penalized 5 points each time, and may *or may not* be notified. You will need to take notes the old school way: with pen and paper. Anyone using electronic devices during lecture will be asked to leave.

Learning Outcome

This course is intended to improve your critical thinking skills and writing ability, as well as your environmental literacy. After completing this course, you should be able to: (1) Better understand contemporary environmental issues, particularly resource use patterns and their spatial aspects; (2) Identify and critically analyze key political, economic and social dimensions of environmental management; (3) Write effectively and analytically about contemporary nature-society relations.

Academic Integrity

Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy reflects the high value that we, as a university community, place on honesty in academic work. The policy defines our expectations for academic honesty and holds students accountable for the integrity of all work they submit. Students should understand that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university-wide academic integrity expectations. The policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors.

One of the most common violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. Put simply, plagiarism is using someone else's work and passing it off as your own. It is essential that you understand what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it. *Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will result in a grade of 'F' for the course.* Students are responsible for knowing University definitions and rules regarding

academic honesty. For further information, see: class.syr.edu/academic-integrity/syllabus-recommendations/

Disability-Related Accommodations

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 304 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to Dr. Perreault and review those accommodations with him. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/>

Student Athletes

If you are a student athlete, we will do our best to accommodate your travel and competition schedule. Please provide Dr. Perreault with necessary forms, and make arrangements with your TA, well in advance of your expected absences.

Yeebo ('Inside a massive electronics graveyard')

Week 4 Sections: *Concept review and discussion*

Week 5

September 25 Guest lecture: Political Economy of Nature

September 27 **Exam 1**

Week 5 readings: *Robbins ('Labor, accumulation and crisis'
+ 'Primitive accumulation: A history lesson')*

Week 5 sections: **No sections this week**

Part II: Resources, Energy and Climate

Week 6

October 2 Guest lecture: Market-Based Environmental Governance

October 4 The Commons vs. the Commodity

Week 6 readings: *Robbins ('Markets and commodities')
Robbins ('Institutions and the commons')*

Week 6 Sections: *Role play exercise: Payment for ecosystem services*

Week 7

October 9 The Nature of Resources

October 11 Weapons of Mass Extraction

Week 7 readings: *Carlisle & Pevzner ("Introduction: Extraction")
Bridge ("The hole world")*

Week 7 Sections: *Discussion and concept review*
Begin concept review paper #2

Week 8

October 16 Energy and Society

October 18 The Carbon Economy

Week 8 reading: *Bridge ('Gas and how to get it')*
Huber ('Oil, life, politics')
Huber ('Whose carbon footprint matters?')

Week 8 Section: *Group project: Energy use, pollution and policy*
Do Carbon Footprint exercise ahead of time and bring results to section
<http://www.unequalcarbonfootprints.org/ucf/index.cfm>
Concept paper 2 due in section

Week 9

October 23 Hydrofracking and its Discontents

October 25 Guest lecture: Nuclear Energy

Week 9 readings: *Nature ('Should fracking stop?')*
Economist ('Bonanza or bane?')
Robbins ('Uranium')

Week 9 Section: *Role play exercise: Hydrofracking*

Week 10

October 30 Climate Change

November 1 Climate Politics

Week 10 readings: *NOAA Climate Assessment 2017 ('A look at 2016')*
Robbins ('Carbon dioxide')

Week 10 Section: *Discussion and concept review*
Read: Climate Change Atlas ('Introduction')
and look at Global Climate Change Map

Week 11

November 6 Geographies of Global Climate Justice

November 8 **Exam 2**

Week 11 readings: Fraser ('Goodbye glaciers')
Whitt ('Dying and drying')

Week 11 Section: **No section this week**

Part III: Food and Water

Week 12

November 13 Geographies of Modern Agriculture

November 15 The Hidden Costs of Cheap Food

Week 12 readings: *Imhoff ('We reap what we sow')*
Walsh ('Getting real about the high price of cheap food')
FRAC ('Hunger in America, 2013')

Week 12 sections: *Role play exercise: Farm bill*
Read: Food Atlas ('Introduction') and look at Global Food Maps
Begin concept paper #3

Week 13 *Thanksgiving week (November 20-24): No Class*

Week 14

November 27 Water and Society: Dilemmas of Quantity, Quality and Access

November 29 Hydrosphere as Source and Sink

Week 14 readings: *Robbins et al. ('Bottled water')*
Onondaga Lake Superfund Site (pp. 4-20)

Week 14 Sections: *Group project: Water footprint*
Read: Water Atlas ('Introduction') and look at Water Footprint Map
(bring laptops and tablets)

Concept paper #3 due in section

Week 15

December 4 Water Justice

December 6 Course wrap-up, student evaluations, review for final exam

Week 15 readings: *Perreault et al. (pp. 485-486, 490-501)*
See also: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/syracuse-residents-fight-stop-sewage-plant-n409261>

Week 15 Sections: Review for final exam

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 11, 3:00-5:00pm, Watson Theater

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