ENR 2300 - Society and Natural Resources (3 credits)

The Ohio State University
School of Environment and Natural Resources
Autumn 2016

Course overview – See Carmen for complete syllabus and class schedule

Instructor: Dr. Eric Toman
TA’s: Emily Hutchins, Laura DiGiulio
Lecture: T-TH
KH 316C: 11:10-12:30
614.292.7313
Email: ENR2300@gmail.com
Office hours: Tues 2:00 – 3:30 in Kottman Hall 305 (Emily), Wed 3:00 – 4:30 in Kottman Hall 461 (Laura), or by appointment

ENR 2300 draws on theories and concepts from the social sciences to examine how human societies interact with ecosystems and environmental resources. The course is organized around three main theoretical approaches, which are applied to examine three particular environmental challenges – 1) structural functionalism and management of the spotted owl, 2) conflict and social dilemmas applied to ocean fishing, and 3) symbolic interactionism in the reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park. The main concepts of each theoretical approach are introduced and then applied to examine human dimensions that influence how we understand and work to resolve such environmental challenges.

Course objectives
At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:
• Describe key concepts and variables of three theories of social scientific inquiry – structural functionalism, social dilemmas, and symbolic interactionism
• Apply concepts from these theories to understand the complexity of coupled human and natural systems and potential policy and management responses to environmental challenges
• Identify and explain the multiple factors and processes that influence the behaviors and decisions of individuals, society, and organizations
• Examine the psychological and social factors that influence their own perspectives on today’s environmental challenges and potential responses

Course format and expectations
Class sessions will consist of two weekly class sessions. These sessions will include a variety of instructional strategies including participatory lectures, discussions, and small group activities. Students are expected to attend class sessions prepared (defined as having read and reflected upon readings and course content PRIOR to the class session for which they are assigned) and actively participate in classroom activities. Class sessions will frequently involve the use of an electronic response system known as Top Hat, a web-based, student response system. All students must create a Top Hat account and be capable of using Top Hat in class (via the app, laptop, or text – please see Dr. Toman by 9/1/16 if you have any questions or concerns about using Top Hat in class). Learn more about Top Hat here: https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/top-hat/using-top-hat-students. All students must create a Top Hat account and enroll in the Top Hat version of this course by 9/6/16.

Assessment tasks - Grades will be based on performance on the following activities:
1. Attendance and Participation (50 points)
2. Quizzes (30 points)
3. Carmen Discussion (45 points)
4. Exams (Exams 1 and 2: 100 points x 2 exams = 200 points; Final exam = 175 points)
5. Extra credit (up to 5 points)

Course Conduct
While class sessions will involve an active and enthusiastic exchange of ideas, participants are expected to demonstrate respect for one another at all times. Disrespectful comments, interactions or behavior towards
classmates or the instructor and TA’s will not be tolerated and may result in a loss of points. Students should demonstrate behavior that is acceptable in the professional workplace. Demonstrate respect for the instructor and your classmates by turning cell phones on silent. Reading and/or responding to text messages are **NOT** appropriate behaviors during class. Laptop computers may **NOT** be used except for taking notes and participating in student activities.

**Academic Integrity**
Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* may constitute ‘Academic Misconduct’ (*http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/faq.html#academicmisconductstatement*). Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. **Penalty for academic dishonesty may result in an “E” grade for the course and additional University disciplinary action.**

**Disability Services**
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services at slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

**Course Overview** (subject to change; specific schedule and any updates will be discussed in class and be posted on Carmen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Course Introduction</strong> – Course overview, organization, setting the foundation for future class sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2 - 5 | **Case study 1: Spotted owls and old growth (Structural Functionalism)**  
Economy (Adaptation), Polity (Goal attainment), Community (social Integration), Culture (Latent pattern maintenance)  
**Assignments – Discussion Questions 1 – 3** (original posting and response to classmates)  
See course page on Carmen for questions and schedule |
| 9/27  | **EXAM I – Covering all material from Course Introduction and Case Study 1** |
| 5 - 9 | **Case study 2: Ocean fishing and Social Dilemmas**  
Self interests, Collective interests, Interdependence  
Tragedy of the Commons  
Managing common pool resources  
**Assignments – Discussion Questions 4 – 5** (original posting and response to classmates)  
See course page on Carmen for questions and schedule |
| 10/27 | **EXAM II – Covering all material from case study 2** |
| 10 – 15 | **Case study 3: Reintroduction of the wolf and symbolic interaction**  
Symbolic interaction and Social construction of nature  
Deconstructing the conflict  
**Assignments – Discussion Questions 6 – 8** (original posting and response to classmates)  
See course page on Carmen for questions and schedule |
| 15 – 16 | **Course Summary**  
Human dimensions of the environment  
Application of class concepts to other cases |
| 12/5 | **Assignment – Discussion Question 9 postings/comments due Monday 12/5** (details discussed in class) |
| 12/12 | **FINAL EXAM** – Cumulative with emphasis on material from the third case study (**Monday Dec 12 12:00pm-1:45pm**) |