ENR 2300 - Society and Natural Resources (3 credits)
The Ohio State University
School of Environment and Natural Resources
Autumn 2017

Instructor
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Office hours: Monday 12:00-1:30 (Rongkun) and Thursday from 1:00-2:30 (Emily) in Kottman Hall 461
TopHat join code: 738067

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) conflict and social dilemmas applied to ocean fishing, 2) functionalism applied to fossil fuel extraction and use, 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.

ENR 2300 is designated as a General Education (GE) course and fulfills the Social Sciences: Human, Natural, and Economic Resources requirement. GE Social Science courses are designed to develop student understanding of the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

Human, Natural, and Economic Resources Expected Learning Outcomes:
• Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of the use and distribution of human, natural, and economic resources and decisions and policies concerning such resources.
• Students understand the political, economic, and social trade-offs reflected in individual decisions and societal policymaking and enforcement and their similarities and differences across contexts.
• Students comprehend and assess the physical, social, economic, and political sustainability of individual and societal decisions with respect to resource use.

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
Classes 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 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 your instructor by 8/31/17 if 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 9/5/17 and be prepared to use Top Hat in class every day. See the front of this handout for the course join code and number where answers may be texted if necessary.

Some Top Hat points to keep in mind:
1) Refer to the link above set up your account and find other useful information and links.
2) If you use the Top Hat mobile app, you will create a separate password to access the app through the mobile app; for browser-based login, you will use your lastname.# and University password.
3) If you experience any problems with Top Hat, please see this page for help and support contact information: https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/top-hat/getting-help-top-hat

Readings
There is no textbook for this course. Required readings will be posted on the course Carmen website throughout the semester. Readings are to be completed prior to the class period for which they are assigned. You are responsible for the content included in the readings and they will be included in quiz and exam questions.

Grading
A total of 500 points are possible for this course. Grades are based on total points earned by each student. Grade ranges are based on the following breakdown.

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<td>B+</td>
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Assessment tasks
Grades will be based on performance on the following activities:

Attendance and Participation (50 points) – Your knowledge and experiences are key to this class being successful. Your attendance at lectures is required. You are also expected to be an active participant in class activities. Regular attendance is necessary, but is not sufficient on its own. Participation will be
recorded throughout the semester and counted towards the course grade. We will use a variety of in-class activities to encourage and assess participation, often through the use of Top Hat (described above). Beginning in week 3, students will earn credit for those activities they participate in and must be in class on the given days to earn credit. Students who participate in 90% of our activities will earn full participation credit.

**Quizzes** (30 points) – Throughout the term, unannounced quizzes will be given in class to assess student learning. Quizzes will be brief (2 to 3 questions) and require the use of Top Hat. Students will need to attend class to earn credit. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Carmen Discussion** (45 points) – Throughout the semester, students are expected to post to their assigned discussion board regarding the topic for that week. In week 2, each student will be assigned to a team (team assignments will be announced in class and posted on Carmen). Separate discussion sections will be created for each team on Carmen and students will **post at least one original response and comment on at least two posts of classmates for each topic**. All comments will be assessed for relevance to course material and are expected to follow the guidelines for course conduct described below. Original discussion posts are due before class on **Tuesday** and follow-up comments to your group members are due before class on **Thursday** (the final discussion post will be due on the final Monday of class; details discussed in class).

**Exams** (Exams 1 and 2: 100 points x 2 exams = 200 points; Final exam = 175 points) – The course will include three exams. The first two will be completed at the conclusion of our first two case studies. The final exam will cover material from case study three as well as that from the previous sections. Exams will include true / false, matching, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Exams will be completed in class as noted in the course schedule.

**Extra credit** (up to 5 points) – Several seminars with relevance to the topics covered in class will be held at OSU during the semester. We will identify approved seminars (see list maintained on Carmen); students may identify other seminars on their own, but must receive permission to receive credit for a seminar not previously approved by the instructor. You can receive up to 5 extra credit points (equivalent to one discussion question) by attending and providing a summary of one of these seminars. Summaries should be brief (300 words or less) and provide a brief description of the seminar (1 – 2 sentences) and describe how it was related to course concepts. Summaries should be typed in Times New Roman 12 point font (single-spaced) and submitted as one electronic (Word or .pdf) file (titled “Last name.FirstName.ExtraCredit”) to the “Extra Credit” Assignment on Carmen. Be sure to include the title of the seminar in your summary.

**Course Schedule**
The course schedule including topics, readings, and assignments is available through the course Carmen webpage. This will be updated throughout the semester and students are expected to visit this page regularly to access readings, assignments, and follow the current schedule of course activities.
**Course Conduct**

While class sessions will involve an active and enthusiastic exchange of ideas, participants are expected to demonstrate respect for one another and for diverse ideas 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.

Moreover, students should demonstrate behavior that is acceptable in the professional setting. While not an exclusive list, the following behaviors are expected:

- Attend class on time and remain the entire period.
- Come prepared and participate in class discussion and activities.
- Strive to build constructive relations with other students and the instructor/TA’s.
- Avoid disruptive actions such as coming to class late, reading unrelated material, surfing the web, browsing unrelated material, reading newspapers in class, sending or receiving text messages, or responding to peers in a disrespectful manner.
- **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.** We will discuss this in greater depth during our first class session.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* may constitute ‘Academic Misconduct’ ([https://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html](https://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html)).

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Students are expected to be honest and ethical in their academic work. Academic misconduct is defined as an intentional act of deception in one of the following areas:

- **cheating**: use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids;
• fabrication: falsification or invention of any information;
• assisting: helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty;
• tampering: altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents; or
• plagiarism: representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own.

You must write in your own words. Cutting and pasting blocks of text from other sources is plagiarism. You may quote from source material, but the quote must be brief (i.e., less than a couple of sentences), enclosed within quotation marks, and cited in the text and reference section in APA format. Ask in advance if you are uncertain regarding the appropriate use of material from other sources. **Penalty for academic dishonesty may result in an “E” grade for the course and additional University disciplinary action.**

**Disability Services**

Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions) will need to register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). I encourage you to contact me immediately so that we may discuss specific needs and potential accommodations. Students are responsible for proactive communication regarding these accommodations and retroactive accommodations may not be possible. ODS is located in Baker East and can be contacted at (614) 292-3307 (voice), (614) 292-0900 (TDD) and online at [www.osu.edu/units/ods](http://www.osu.edu/units/ods).

**Counseling Services**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of these conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614-292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. When CCS is closed, you can reach an on call counselor at 614-292-5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).