ENR 2300 - Society and Natural Resources (3 credits)

The Ohio State University
School of Environment and Natural Resources
Autumn 2018

Instructor
Dr. Eric Toman
KH 316C
614.292.7313

TA’s
Kayla Alvis

Lecture
T-TH
2:20-3:40
Lazenby Hall 034

Email: ENR2300@osu.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:30 (Kayla) in Kottman Hall 247 or by appointment
TopHat join code: 654978

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) functionalism applied to energy extraction and use, 2) conflict and social dilemmas applied to ocean fishing, and 3) symbolic interactionism associated with 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 8/30/18 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](https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/top-hat/using-top-hat-students). **By 9/4/18 all students must have enrolled in the Top Hat version of this course 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](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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</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) – In week 2, each student will be assigned to a discussion team (accessible through 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 when assigned. All comments will be assessed for relevance to the posted question and are expected to follow the guidelines for course conduct described below. The specific schedule for discussion questions will be available on Carmen and presented in class. Generally, original responses to discussion questions will be due before class on **Tuesday** and follow-up comments to group members will be due before class on **Thursday** (we will follow a different schedule for the final discussion question; 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 10 points) – There are two options to earn extra credit for this course.

- **Seminar review** (up to 5 points; only 1 seminar report is permitted): Several seminars with relevance to the topics covered in class will be held during the semester. We will identify approved seminars (see list maintained on Carmen). Students are also encouraged to identify additional seminars they feel may be a good fit for this assignment. If you are aware of a seminar that is not included on the pre-approved list, please send information on the seminar (title, topic, speaker, date/time, etc. – or a link to the seminar if posted online) to the instructor email and we will review for approval. Approved seminars will be added to the class list on Carmen. You can receive up to 5 extra credit points by attending and providing a summary of one seminar throughout the semester. 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.

- **Environmental and Social Sustainability Research Experience Program (ESSREP)** (up to 5 points): The goal of ESSREP is to enhance student’s understanding of social scientific research methods and help apply class lessons to their lives. As a way to gain extra credit for this class you can get hands-on experience participating in research studies conducted by Faculty and Graduate Students in the Environmental and Social Sustainability (ESS) Lab in SENR. Research studies may take the form of online or in-person surveys, interviews, or focus groups and will be related to a current research in a variety of topics in resource management, environmental science, psychology, and rural sociology. In order to sign up for research opportunities you will first need to create a Sona account using your .osu email address at [https://osu-essrep.sona-systems.com](https://osu-essrep.sona-systems.com). You will then be able to view and sign up for studies and monitor your credit accumulation through Sona Systems. Please see our
website [https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/research-option](https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/research-option) for more detailed sign-up instructions, credit amounts, policies, and Frequently Asked Questions. If you do not wish to participate in research OR are under the age of 18, a written assignment alternative is also available. Papers will be based on approved research articles and due at set dates throughout the semester. See our website [https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/papers-option](https://ess.osu.edu/subject-pool/papers-option) for grading criteria and other information about the ESSREP paper option. If you wish to select the paper option, enroll by emailing the lab manager at walpole.31@osu.edu by September 4th. A total of **up to 1 research credit** can be earned as extra credit for this course, constituting 5 points or 1% of your final grade.

If you have any questions about the research or paper options, or encounter difficulties with Sona systems please contact the lab manager Emily H. Walpole at: walpole.31@osu.edu. Your instructors and TAs **do not have access to Sona systems and will not be managing the paper option; please direct all ESSREP-related questions to the lab manager.**

**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.

**YOUR GRADE, AS A DONUT**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**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 relationships with other students and the instructor/TA’s.
- Avoid disruptive actions such as coming to class late, holding side conversations with classmates, 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).

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) and communicate with the instructor by the end of the third week of the course (accommodations can be made for new conditions that emerge during the semester). 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.

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 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.