ENR 2300
SOCIETY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Autumn 2020 (full term) – Online
3 credit hours

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructional team

Dr. Eric Toman
Kottman Hall 316C
614.292.7313
Email address: toman.10@osu.edu (preferred contact method)
Office hours: By appointment via Zoom

Teaching Associate (for students with last name beginning with the letter A through K)
Name TBD
Email address:
Office hours: Will be held on Zoom (link to be added) on TBD day from TBD – TBD, or by appointment

Prerequisites

None

Course description

Catalog description: Introduction to interactions between humans, natural resources, and ecosystems from a social science perspective.

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.

**Course learning outcomes**

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.

**General education expected learning outcomes**

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.

As part of Human, Natural, and Economic Resources category, this course is designed to prepare students to be able to do the following:

- 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.

Our course content and activities will directly fulfill these requirements. Students will achieve the GE learning outcomes by completing the course readings and assignments including exams, actively engaging with course content, and by participating in discussion forums on Carmen. Lecture and reading material allow students to learn about, analyze and interpret...
different theoretical approaches to understanding how society is organized, how decisions are made about use and protection of natural resources, and tradeoffs resulting from those decisions.

HOW THIS ONLINE COURSE WORKS

Mode of delivery: This course is 100% online. There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time.

Pace of online activities: This course is divided into weekly modules within three main units. The weekly modules are released one week ahead of time. Students are expected to keep pace with weekly deadlines but may schedule their efforts freely within that time frame.

Credit hours and work expectations: This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy (go.osu.edu/credithours), students should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

Attendance and participation requirements: Because this is an online course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of students’ expected participation:

- Participating in online activities for attendance: AT LEAST ONCE PER WEEK
  You are expected to log in to the course in Carmen every week. (During most weeks you will probably log in many times.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me as soon as possible.

- Office hours: OPTIONAL
  Office hours are optional but we strongly encourage you to attend these if you have any questions or concerns regarding the course, associated materials, assignments, etc.

- Completion of weekly activities: 3+ TIMES PER WEEK
  As part of your participation, each week you can expect to post at least three times (one original post and at least two responses to posts of your classmates) as part of our substantive class discussion on the week's topics.

COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Textbooks

There is no textbook assigned in this course. Course materials are in the form of articles (pdf), videos, and website content available on Carmen (https://carmen.osu.edu). Materials have been evaluated for compliance with fair use.
Course technology

Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- Self-Service and Chat support: ocio.osu.edu/help
- Phone: 614-688-4357(HELP)
- Email: servicedesk@osu.edu
- TDD: 614-688-8743

Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- CarmenZoom virtual meetings for office hours (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)
- Recording a slide presentation with audio narration (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)
- Recording, editing, and uploading video (go.osu.edu/video-assignment-guide)

Required equipment

- Computer: current Mac (MacOs) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

Required software

- Microsoft Office 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft Office 365. Full instructions for downloading and installation can be found at go.osu.edu/office365help.

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:
• Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
• Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click Enter a Passcode and then click the Text me new codes button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
• Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

GRADING AND FACULTY RESPONSE

How your grade is calculated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>POINTS (% OF FINAL GRADE)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in weekly activities</td>
<td>120 points (20% of final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100 points (16.67% of final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 points (16.67% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 points (16.67% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>150 points (25% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>30 points (5% of final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>600</td>
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See course schedule on Carmen for due dates.

Descriptions of major course assignments

Your learning will be assessed through your participation in weekly activities (including posting and responding to discussion boards), weekly quizzes and exams. See additional descriptions below.
Participation in weekly activities (12 assignments X 10 points each): Each student will be assigned to a discussion team (team assignments will be available through Carmen Discussion Forums); separate discussion sections will be created for each team on Carmen. Each week the instructional team will provide prompts for individual and group activities. Students will post at least one original response and comment on at least two posts of teammates for each assignment. All comments will be assessed for relevance to the posted question and are expected to follow the guidelines for writing and course conduct described below. The specific schedule for discussion questions will be available on Carmen. Generally, original posts will be due on Tuesday and responses to teammates will be due on Thursday.

Quizzes (on readings and lecture material) (10 quizzes X 10 points each): Most weeks (see schedule for details), you will take an online quiz to assess your knowledge of the content of the lecture material, required readings, and activities. These are open-note and book, but NOT open friend or classmate and your responses should reflect your individual work. Each quiz will be made available on Carmen at the beginning of the week it is assigned and will close the following Sunday night at 11:59 pm. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 60 minutes to complete it. You may take each quiz twice within the week period and your highest score will be recorded. There will be 11 quizzes total. The lowest quiz score will be dropped for the final grade calculation. Correct answers for each quiz will be released when the quiz closes.

Exams (Exams 1 and 2: 100 points x 2 exams = 200 points; Final exam = 150 points): The course will include book 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 essay questions. These are open-note and book, but NOT open friend or classmate and your answers should reflect your individual work.

Final Project (30 points): You will synthesize your knowledge of the course with a final project that uses course concepts to explore the human element of a current coupled human and natural system. You will select the specific topic for this project. You will submit a project paper (4 pages max) describing your case and findings. During the final week of class, you will post a video of yourself presenting one visual graphic that succinctly describes your project and you will also review and respond to others’ presentations. Additional description of the project and will be provided on Carmen.

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.

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. If you have any questions about the research or paper options, or encounter difficulties with Sona systems please contact the lab manager Kristina Slagle at: slagle.44@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.

**Late assignments**

The penalty for late assignments (weekly assignments and the final project) and exams is 10% of the assignment total per day (each 24-hour period). Quizzes must be completed within the open period; they cannot be taken late. In the case of extenuating circumstances, students
should reach out to the instructor and TA as early as possible. All health-related accommodations for late assignments will require documentation (e.g. doctor’s note or hospital discharge papers).

**Grading scale**

93–100: A  
90–92.9: A-  
87–89.9: B+  
83–86.9: B  
80–82.9: B-  
77–79.9: C+  
73–76.9: C  
70–72.9: C-  
67–69.9: D+  
60–66.9: D  
Below 60: E

**Instructor feedback and response time**

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of the availability of the instructional team throughout the course. (Remember that you can call 614-688-4357(HELP) at any time if you have a technical problem.)

- **Email**: I will reply to emails within 24 hours on days when class is in session at the university. If you email us on a Friday afternoon, you shouldn’t expect to hear from us until Monday.

- **Grading and feedback**: For class assignments, you can generally expect feedback within 7 days. For exams, you can generally expect feedback within 10 days.

**OTHER COURSE POLICIES**

**Discussion and communication guidelines**

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.
• **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.

• **Tone and civility:** While we hope our discussions will involve an active and enthusiastic exchange of ideas, instructors and students are expected to demonstrate respect for one another and for diverse and different ideas. 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. Please remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online.

• **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. When you are citing academic articles, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link

• **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work (and check for spelling and grammar), and then copying into the Carmen discussion.

### Academic integrity policy

See [Descriptions of major course assignments](#), above, for my specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

### Ohio State’s academic integrity policy

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](https://studentconduct.osu.edu), 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](https://studentconduct.osu.edu) and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://studentconduct.osu.edu) (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://studentconduct.osu.edu) is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the [Code of Student Conduct](https://studentconduct.osu.edu) and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

**If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.** If COAM determines that you have violated the university’s [Code of Student Conduct](https://studentconduct.osu.edu)
Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct web page (go.osu.edu/coam)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options at titleix.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu. Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin and disability. For more information on OIE, visit equity.osu.edu or email equity@osu.edu.

Commitment to a diverse and inclusive learning environment

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them.
We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Your mental health

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. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University’s Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, on-demand resources are available at go.osu.edu/ccsondemand. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5766, and 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The Ohio State Wellness app is also a great resource available at go.osu.edu/wellnessapp.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Requesting accommodations

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. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.
Accessibility of course technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.

- Canvas accessibility (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- CarmenZoom accessibility (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)
- Collaborative course tools

COURSE SCHEDULE

Refer to the Carmen course for up-to-date assignment due dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</table>
| 1    | 8/25 – 8/28 | Course introduction  
Understanding human society  
What do humans have to do with environmental conservation? | Weekly assignment (WA) 1                         |
| 2    | 8/31 – 9/4  | Paradigms used in this class  
Wicked problems-science and values in environmental decision-making  
Introduction to Module 1 (energy production and use) | WA 2 Quiz 1                                    |
| 3    | 9/8 – 9/11  | AGIL Model – Community and Culture                                      | WA 3 Quiz 2                                    |
| 4    | 9/14 – 9/18 | AGIL Model – Polity and Economy                                         | WA 4 Quiz 3                                    |
| 5    | 9/21 – 9/25 | Current issues in energy production and use; fracking  
Wrap up Module 1                          | WA 5 Quiz 4                                    |
| 6    | 9/28 – 10/2 | Exam 1 (see Carmen for more details)  
Introduction to Module 2 (ocean fishing and social dilemmas)         | Exam 1 (see Carmen for more details)             |
<p>| 7    | 10/5 – 10/9 | Collective action problems                                              | WA 6                                           |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/12 – 10/16</td>
<td>Critical look at the “Tragedy” of the Commons</td>
<td>Quiz 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/19 – 10/23</td>
<td>Social dilemmas-characteristics</td>
<td>WA 7 Quiz 6</td>
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<td>Avoiding the “rush to ruin”</td>
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<td>Environmental justice</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/26 – 10/30</td>
<td>Current application – Sagebrush Rebellion 2</td>
<td>WA 9</td>
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<td>Wrap up Module 2</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/2 – 11/6</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>WA 10 Quiz 8</td>
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<td>Introduction to Module 3 (Reintroduction of the wolf and symbolic interaction)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/9 – 11/13</td>
<td>Symbolic interaction and Social construction of nature</td>
<td>WA 11 Quiz 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>11/16 – 11/20</td>
<td>How is reality socially constructed?</td>
<td>WA 12 Quiz 11</td>
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<td>Sociology of everyday life</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>11/23 – 11/25</td>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>WA 13</td>
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<td>Changing character of rural landscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/30 – 12/4</td>
<td>Wrap up Module 3</td>
<td>Final Project</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Application of course concepts to other cases</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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