ENR 8980: Environment and Natural Resources Seminar
Spring 2016 Thursday 4:10 - 5:20 pm
164 Howlett Hall

ENR 8980 is offered during both semesters of the academic year. Course content is determined by the members of the Seminar Coordination Committee. Two members of the Committee serve as course instructors during each semester. Instructors for Autumn 2015 and for Spring 2016 are:

**Autumn Semester 2015**

Dr. **Ramiro Berardo**  
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Dr. **Gregory Hitzhusen**  
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Hall Phone: 292-7739  
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**Spring Semester 2016**

Dr. **Cathy Rakowski**  
Room: 414-C Kottman Hall  
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Dr. **Kristi Lekies**  
Room: 320-C Kottman Hall  
Phone: 688-3537  
Email: lekies.1@osu.edu  
Office hours: by appointment

**Course Description and Objectives:**

The ENR Seminar provides a forum for scholarly interaction among faculty, graduate students, and other scholars about diverse topics in and relevant to natural resources and the environment. In Spring 2016, the seminar will meet 6-7 times during the semester. Speakers range from local scholars and experts to those recognized nationally and internationally. Speakers are invited from the social and biophysical sciences, as well as the humanities. The audience is made up of graduate students, undergraduate students, and faculty from SENR and across the university and can include visitors from outside the university.

The seminars are intended to capture and showcase some of the diversity of disciplines and research interests in the School of Environment and Natural Resources and to introduce SENR graduate students to research beyond their individual discipline programs. The seminar provides an opportunity to invite speakers from outside SENR to share research they conduct in Ohio and around the world that is related to that of our faculty, research scientists, and graduate students. Importantly, in addition to knowledge gained from the lecture content, the seminars provide graduate students with opportunities to participate in scholarly discussions that hone critical thinking skills. To maximize learning opportunities and to enhance the collegial spirit of the seminar series we ask that you remain cognizant of the following throughout the semester:
1) The range of topics in the Seminar course will help you expand your interdisciplinary potential. There is always something new and interesting to learn even if seemingly distant from your interests.

2) Speakers are asked to prepare presentations for a diverse audience with wide-ranging disciplinary expertise and varied academic preparation. Some lecture styles will be more successful than others. Observing how information is presented and framed across a variety of speakers will provide important information about what to do (and occasionally what not to do!) when framing your own scientific communication.

3) The seminars provide an opportunity for scholarly discussion of research methods and topics. This does not always mean that everyone must agree but that, through collegial discussion, we aim to advance our understanding.

4) Most important, the seminars provide the opportunity to be an engaged member of the community of scholars that makes up our school. Please leave your laptops in your offices or bags and turn off your cell phones, as these devices serve as distractions for you and your neighbors. In particular, the tap tap tap of a keyboard is distracting and can interfere with the ability of others to hear and focus.

5) The room is very large and we attendance often is small. Therefore, we strongly urge you to take a seat closer to the speaker and front and center. Being closer to the speaker will help you engage in the topic and sends the message that you are interested. Exceptions will be made for those with special needs.

Course Requirements:

The speaker introduction and presentation will begin promptly at 4:10. Students should make every attempt to be in their seats by then. Speakers will talk for about 40 minutes and past experience suggests that Q&A and discussion will last approximately 15-20 min.

For students enrolled in this seminar, the only requirement is to attend the scheduled seminars and participate in discussions. A record of attendance will be maintained through signup sheets posted in the room that must be signed at the end of each seminar meeting. However, we understand that there may be an occasion where a student will not be able to attend a given seminar talk. Students also may suggest an alternative event; approval is required for it to substitute for a scheduled event. If there is an unexpected and documented emergency, the student should inform an instructor as soon as possible. Instructors can approve a “makeup seminar.” In this case, the student and instructor will identify another, relevant seminar or speaker event that is offered during the semester. The student will submit to the instructor a 350-word abstract of the talk or event in order to “make up” the missed seminar. Note: This semester there are two alternative events that SENR is co-sponsoring that students may attend for seminar credit if they must miss a scheduled seminar.

Special Needs:

Students with special needs should notify both the Office of Disability Services and one of the course instructors as soon as possible. The instructors will work with the Office of Disability Service to meet your needs. The Office is located at 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Ave. The phone number is 292-3307 and the website is http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/

Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises during the semester are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (614-292-5766 or www.ccs.osu.edu) for assistance, support, and advocacy. This service is free and confidential.