ENR 8980: Environment and Natural Resources Seminar
Autumn 2014, Thursdays 4:10-5:30 pm
103 Kottman 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 2014 and for Spring 2015 are:

**Autumn Semester 2014**

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Stephen Matthews</td>
<td>367-C Kottman Hall</td>
<td>247-1889</td>
<td><a href="mailto:matthews.204@osu.edu">matthews.204@osu.edu</a></td>
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<td>Dr. Cathy Rakowski</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rakowski.1@osu.edu">rakowski.1@osu.edu</a></td>
<td>T 4-5 or by appointment</td>
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**Spring Semester 2015**

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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jeremy Bruskotter</td>
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<td>by appointment</td>
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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. The seminar meets approximately 6 to 7 times during each semester. Please note the speaker lineup and dates for this semester’s seminars that will be posted on our Carmen site by the start of the semester. Dates for which seminars have been scheduled and confirmed are: September 18, September 25, October 9, October 23, November 13, November 20 (all confirmed). There may be a seminar on October 30 also (to be confirmed).

Announcement reminders will be sent out the week prior to each seminar. Any changes in the lineup will be communicated by email as well as posted on the course Carmen content page. 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 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 also provides an opportunity to invite speakers outside SENR to share research they conduct in Ohio and around the world that is related to those 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 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 large and attendance levels typically fill only 1/3 to half of all available seats. Therefore, we strongly urge you to take a seat in the lower seating section and not sit at the sign-in tables or in the upper tiers. 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 by 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. In the event that a student encounters a conflict requiring an absence, s/he will need to contact one of the instructors to discuss alternative arrangements. This should take place prior to the missed seminar unless there is an unexpected and documented emergency, in which case the student will inform an instructor as soon as possible. Instructors can approve a “makeup scholarly 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 flyer or notification of the event as well as a 350 word abstract of the talk or event attended in order to “make up” the missed seminar. Students should expect to use this option no more than once per semester.
Students who have conflicting responsibilities (such as being TA for a class that overlaps with the time schedule of the seminar) and who normally are expected to enroll in and attend the seminars may write the Graduate Studies Committee indicating the conflict in order to receive a waiver for enrolling in the seminar course this semester or, if already enrolled, may drop the seminar course through established procedures.

**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/](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.