

EVR 1017 - Global Environment and Society
Fall 2009 MWF 12-12:50 PM
Classroom: RDB Hall Rm 1100

Instructor: Jim Riach riachj@fiu.edu

Office hours: M/W: 1:00 - 3:00 PM; TR: 11AM - 1 PM

Office: ECS 335

Course Description:

The course provides a broad introduction to the study of human-environmental relations by integrating information from the natural and social sciences. The approach involves analyzing relationships between human and ecological systems from local to global geographical perspectives. The course examines the roles of culture and worldview on shaping relationships. Students will learn about the current status and trends of human populations and the world's major ecosystems and about the implications of these patterns to the future of biodiversity and human well-being. The course also provides a review of different cultural and ideological responses to environmental and humanitarian concerns in light of global processes of social and ecological transformation.

Course Objectives:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the global environment as the integration of human and ecological systems;
- Identify key components and processes of ecological systems;
- Identify key components and properties of human systems, particularly cultural and social dimensions;
- Summarize past and current dominant social theories regarding human-environment relations;
- Identify major global environmental issues of concern today;
- Explain how world views, human actions, and social forces contribute to major global environmental problems; and
- Describe different human-environment relations of different cultures from around the world;
- Identify the causes of and possible solutions to environmental problems threatening the world's major ecosystems.

CE6:

This as a web-assisted course. All students will be assigned a CE6 account for online access to the course, which will contain all review quizzes, **all reading materials**, lecture supplements, professor e-mail access, assignment submission tools, and suggested links.

Optional Materials for the Course:

Available for free download at: <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB3/Contents.htm>

Brown, Lester R. 2008. Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Grading:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Exam I | 20% |
| Exam II | 20% |
| Review Quizzes | NONE |
| Video Project | 25% |
| Env Scavenger Hunt (4x) | 20% (four @ 5% each) |
| In-Class Activities | 15% |
| Instruction Quizzes | 10% |

Grades are based on the following percentages

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|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A = 94-100 | A- = 90-93 | B+ = 87-89 | B = 83-86 |
| B- = 80-82 | C+ = 77-79 | C = 73-76 | C- = 70-72 |
| D+ = 67-69 | D = 63-66 | D- = 60-62 | F = 0-59 |

Exams:

There will be two non-cumulative exams during the semester. Exams will cover material from the readings and lecture. Lectures will not duplicate the material found in the readings, so class attendance is essential for a good grade in the exams. Several movies may be shown in class. Content from the movies may appear on the exams. If you miss class on a day a movie is shown, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and/or try to see it.

Review Quizzes:

Short **non-graded**, quizzes based on lecture, the textbook readings, and online content will be posted on CE6. Students will have up to **3** attempts to take the quizzes as review for upcoming exams. Students will have 20 minutes to complete each attempt of the quizzes. These review quizzes will NOT count towards your grade in class.

Video Project

Students will be required to create a 3-5 minute video addressing some of the issues covered in class. Students will work in groups of five to complete this project. Further details are provided in CE 6. There will be several in-class video project workdays to help students organize their group projects. **Students will be required to attend all in-class video project workdays. Students with two unexcused absences from the workdays will lose 5 points from the video project. Three unexcused absences results in 15 points deducted from the video project. More than three absences from the workdays results in student receiving a zero for the video project (that is a 25% reduction of the total points for the semester).**

Environmental Scavenger Hunt

Students will be required to participate in a total of 4 scavenger hunts throughout the semester. These hunts will require that students go to different areas around campus, complete an on-site assignment, and obtain information and artifacts from these locations. To receive a grade for the hunt, students will have to complete an online assessment for each of the scavenger hunts and may also be requested to bring to class the artifacts that they collected.

In-Class Activities

Several **GRADED** activities will take place during class time. These activities will be **UNANNOUNCED** and will be related to the content of that day's lecture topic or reading assignment (so have notes and readings with you in class). There are **NO MAKE-UPS** for these activities. Failure to participate in any activity will earn you a zero for that activity.

Instruction Quizzes

Students will be required to complete simple short quizzes related to the instructions for the assignments in this class. Students will be allowed to take these quizzes as many times as necessary to earn a perfect score of 100%. **The quizzes have to be completed with a perfect score prior to the dates when the assignments are due. If a student does not successfully complete the quiz prior to the due date of the assignment they will NOT receive a grade for that assignment.**

Attendance, Conduct and Other Policies:

Students are expected to arrive for class on time, remain for the duration of the class, keep cellular phones turned off (or on vibrate), and refrain from disruptive conversation during class time. Students who are discourteous or disruptive will be asked to leave the classroom, and may incur complete loss of credit for the scheduled assignments.

Extra Credit:

Help with Video project
FIU Environmental Preserve work days

Readings and Course Schedule

I. COURSE FRAMEWORK

Week One: August 24, 26, and 28

8/24: Introduction

8/26-28: Modeling the Environment

Readings:

Brown: Ch. 1 - Entering a New World

II. ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

Week Two: August 3, September 2, and 4

8/31-9/4: Biodiversity

Readings:

Biodiversity

Complete survey #1 in CE 6 by 9/4

Week Three: September 7, 9, and 11

9/7-11: Human Systems: Culture

Readings:

Concept of Culture

Major Graded in-class activity 9/9

Complete instruction quiz # 1 in CE 6 with a 100% score by 9/9

III. HUMAN SYSTEMS: CULTURE, SOCIETY AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

Week Four: September 14, 16, and 18

Video Project Work Week 1

Environmental Scavenger Hunt #1

Week Five: September 21, 23, and 25

9/21-9/25: Evolution of Social Forces that Drive Global Environmental Problems

Readings:

Adaptive Strategies (chart)

Human Societies are Defined by their Food

Complete instruction quiz #2 in CE 6 with a 100% score by 9/25

Week Six: September 28, 30, and October 2

Video Project Work Week 2: Video Proposals Due 9/30

Environmental Scavenger Hunt #2

Week Seven: October 5, 7, and 9

10/5-9: Human-Environment Relations among Traditional Societies

Readings:

Managing the Rainforest: Maya Agriculture in the Town of the Wild Plums

A Legacy of Maldevelopment: Environmental Devastation in the Arctic

Complete instruction quiz # 3 in CE 6 with a 100% score by 10/9

Week Eight: October 12, 14, and 16

10/12 EXAMI

10/14-16: Cultural Diffusion and Consumption

Readings:

Cultural Geography: Ch. 6, pp. 220-247

How much do we consume?

Week Nine: October 19, 21, and 23

Video Project Work Week 3

Environmental Scavenger Hunt #3

Complete instruction quiz #4 in CE 6 with a 100% score by 10/23

Week Ten: October 26, 28, and 30

10/26-30: Diffusion of European and Western Culture and Human-Environment Relations

Readings:

Cultural Geography: Ch. 6, pp. 247-263

Video Draft Due 10/28

Week Eleven: November 2, 4, and 6

Video Project Work Week 4

Environmental Scavenger Hunt #4

Week Twelve: November 9, 11, and 13

11/11: Veteran's Day University Closed

11/13: World Views and their Influence on Human-Environment Relations

Readings:

Beyond the Enlightenment Mentality

IV. STATUS OF ECOLOGICAL AND HUMAN SYSTEMS

Week Thirteen: November 16, 18, and 20

11/16-20: Ecosystem Change and Well-Being

Readings:

Ecosystem change and well-being

Complete instruction quiz #5 in CE 6 with a 100% score by 11/20

Week Fourteen: 23, 25, and 27

11/23: Population and the Human Condition

Readings:

Brown: Chs. 6 and 7 - Early Signs of Decline and Eradicating Poverty, Stabilizing Population

Dimensions of poverty

11/23: Final Video Projects Due

11/25: Food Today and Tomorrow

Readings:

Brown: Ch. 9 - Feeding Eight Billion Well

11/26-27: Thanksgiving Break - University Closed

Week Fifteen: November 30, December 2, and 4

11/30-12/2: Public screening of video projects

12/4: EXAM II