

International Studies 150: Humanity and the Global Environment

Location/Time:

Section 1: CPS 310 M-W 8-9:15

Section 2: CCC 321 M-W 9:35-10:50

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Office: CCC 467

Office Hours: M-W 11-12:00

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Course Description:

This course explores the ways in which the natural environment shapes human societies, the evolution of ideas about nature, and the impact of human culture (specifically through science and technology) on the global environment. It takes both a social science and long historical view of human society and the environment from deep time to the present. It is also global; we are going to explore the interaction of society and the environment across the world.

The course introduces you to both environmental history and human society. I think you will come away from this class with a better understanding not only of the environment, but the non-western world as well. If you learn one thing in this course, as I note in the box below, it is that humanity and all our institutions, things, and even ideas are intimately connected to the natural environment. We might think that we're above and apart from nature! But we aren't.

The class is divided into four units. Each unit has a question that the content in the class is designed to investigate. To foster your engagement with these questions and the content of the course, this course utilizes a mix of lecture and small/whole-group discussions. Success in this class will require you to have read the material for the day and to be prepared to discuss this material concretely and cogently.

Enduring Understandings:

Human societies are inseparably tied to the natural environment.

Course Objectives:

Any engaged student who works assiduously in this course will be able to:

- 1) Analyze how the natural environment has shaped human societies and history.
- 2) Analyze how human ingenuity (i.e. scientific and technological advancement) have contributed to and intensified environmental change from the past to the present.
- 3) Analyze how different cultures throughout history have come to understand their environment.
- 4) Analyze the causes of the modern environmental movement and its social, political, and cultural consequences for humanity and the global environment.



Required Reading:

Texts:

Mark Kurlansky, *Cod: A Biography of a Fish that Changed the World.*

Brett Walker, *Lost Wolves of Japan.*

Paul Sabin, *The Bet: Paul Ehrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth's Future.*

You must purchase the books and bring them to class on the days we discuss them. Students who fail to bring their readings to class for discussion will be docked attendance.

Desire2Learn (D2L): In addition to the books above, you will also be required to **print out and read** various articles and other readings. These will be available on D2L. They are noted in the schedule below with an asterisk (*).

Assignments:

Midterm Exam: There will be a midterm exam. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short writing. I will provide a study guide.

Final Exam: The final will be in the same format as the midterm and will be cumulative.

Quizzes: There will be a series of quizzes on lecture and readings throughout the semester. The format will be short-answer. There will be a quiz for each day we discuss a book. Questions for the book quizzes will be drawn from the reading guides that I hand out for each book. **You cannot make up quizzes.** Instead, I will enable D2L to drop your lowest quiz grade in case you have to miss a class in which a quiz is given.

In-Class Activities and Assignments: We will be engaging in various writing and group exercises throughout the semester. I will be collecting the products of these exercises and giving you credit for them on D2L. They will not be heavily graded or returned to you. Instead, I will be evaluating them on the + √ - system. These marks will be recorded in D2L as 3-2-1 respectively. If you complete the work and put forth good effort, you will receive a +. Varying degrees of completeness or effort will result in either a √ or a -. You will be in serious danger of **not** passing this class if you do not complete these assignments. See scale below.

* Late assignments will be docked a third of a grade for every day late.

** Attendance policy: See below.

Grades (weighted):

Midterm: 20 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Quizzes: 20%

In-Class Activities and Assignments: 20%

Total: 100%



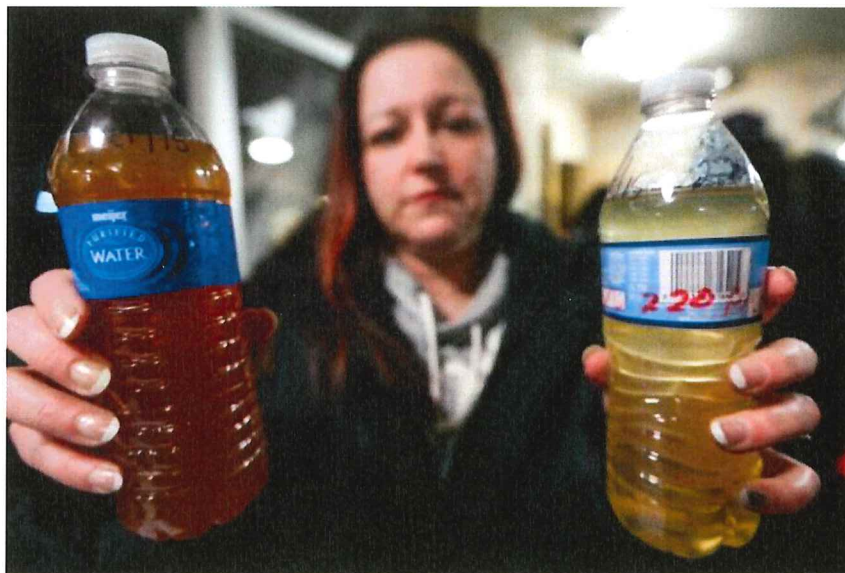
Grading Scale (percentage):

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	60-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	F	59 and below
B	83-86	C-	70-72		

Other Stuff:

Attendance: I will record attendance. Students who miss 3 lectures will be docked a 1/3 of a grade from their final grade. Students who miss 5-6, 2/3rds of a grade, 7 a full grade, and so on. For example, if you were to earn a B in this class, but missed 3 classes, your final grade would be a B-. Absences will be unexcused except in extraordinary circumstances, which will require a note from an authority explaining the absence.

Electronics: All electronics must be turned off during class. These include cell phones, laptops, and tablets. In some cases electronics may be permitted if the student has an accommodation approved by the Disability Services Office (see below). Please do not be surprised to hear me shout "turn off your cell phone" if I catch you peeking at it in class.



Late Work: Stuff happens. Sometimes life takes priority over school work. If something comes up and you need to miss a class or cannot finish an assignment on time, let me know immediately. I do not always grant extensions on assignments, but I do try to be flexible. It is imperative, therefore, that when incidents arise you do your diligent best to keep me informed. Unexcused late assignments will be docked a third of a grade for every day late.

Plagiarism: For information on plagiarism, consult <http://www.uwsp.edu/centers/rights>. See Chapter 14, **Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures**, pages 5 -10, for the disciplinary possibilities if you are caught cheating. I will vigorously pursue all incidents of plagiarism. Also I use turnitin.com for the essays.

Equal Educational Opportunities: If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability and Assistive Technology Center (6th Floor of the Learning Resources Center) with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. They will then notify me, in a confidential memo, of the accommodations that will facilitate your success in the course. Voice: (715) 346-3365, TTY: (715) 346-3362, <http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/studentinfo.htm>.

Writing/Reading Help: This is a reading and writing intensive course. If you need help you can visit the Tutoring and Learning Center in the basement of the Library. They are there to help you with papers etc. This is totally free! Their webpage is <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/writingReadingTutorials.aspx>. You can also call them to make an appointment at (715) 346-3568.

Notice on Copyright of Course Material: As the instructor, I retain all copyright on lectures, slides, assignments, and other course materials. I do not allow anybody to photograph, film, or otherwise record lectures without my express permission. I do not allow anybody to distribute course materials or otherwise send audio or visual recordings of lectures to people not currently enrolled in this class without my express permission. Posting course material I have created onto course-sharing websites directly violates my copyright on my academic materials.

***Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus for any reason.**

Schedule:

Week	Topic	Readings
Unit I: Nature, Wilderness, and Agriculture: Are Humans Separate from Nature?		
1	Course Introduction	
	What are the big environmental issues? How will we study them?	* Foster, "The Ecological Crisis."
2	Human Evolution and the Environment	* Pollan, "Introduction" to <i>The Botany of Desire</i> .
	The Invention of Agriculture, Civilization, and Wilderness	* Selections from <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> and <i>The Bible</i> .
3	The Americas and the Problem with Wilderness	* Primary sources on Native Americans and textbook history
	Wilderness as an Idea	* Pollan, "The Idea of a Garden."
4	Industrialized Agriculture: <i>Food Inc.</i>	None.
	Food Inc. and Workshop	None.
Unit 2: Markets and Capitalism: How does capitalism transform the environment and society?		

5	The Environment and World History: The Columbian Exchange	* Selections from Pomeranz, <i>The World that Trade Created</i> .
	The Environment and World History: Ecological Imperialism	* Biopiracy: A New Threat to Indigenous Rights and Culture in Mexico." * Selections from Geer, "Biopiracy: The Appropriation of Indigenous Peoples' Cultural Knowledge."
6	The Origin of Market Capitalism: Commodities	<i>Cod</i> , Part I.
	Industrialization and the Great Divergence	<i>Cod</i> , Part II.
7	Workshop: <i>Cod</i>	<i>Cod</i> , Part III. Optional: recipes.
	Midterm	None.
8	Globalization and Neoliberalism	None.
	Film: <i>Darwin's Nightmare</i>	None.
Spring Break!		
9	Film: <i>Darwin's Nightmare</i> & Discussion	None.
	Unit 3: Modernity, the Nation-State, and Development: How Has the Rise of the Nation-State Changed Society's Relationship with the Environment?	
	The Modern State and Consumption	<i>Lost Wolves of Japan</i> , Forward-ch.2.
10	Conservation and Forestry	<i>Lost Wolves of Japan</i> , Chs. 3-4.
	<i>Lost Wolves of Japan</i> Workshop	<i>Lost Wolves of Japan</i> , entire.
11	Film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i>	None.
	Film: <i>Princess Mononoke</i> & Discussion	None.
Unit 4: The Anthropocene and Global Environmentalism(s): How Do We Know About Global Environmental Problems and What Should We Do About Them?		
12	Fallout and the Ecosphere	* Commoner, "The Ecosphere" from <i>The Closing Circle</i> .
	Malthusianism, Development, and the Green Revolution	<i>The Bet</i> , ix-95.
13	The Cold War and the Rise of Environmentalism	The Bet, 96-181
	Workshop: <i>The Bet</i>	<i>The Bet</i> , entire.
14	Environmentalism of the Poor and Environmental Justice	* Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique."
	Science, Trust, and Global Warming	* Oreskes, "The Scientific Consensus on Climate Change." * Klein, "Capitalism vs. the Climate."
15	Film: <i>Merchants of Doubt</i>	None.
	Film: <i>Merchants of Doubt</i> & Discussion	None.
Final: Section 1 Tuesday May 17, 2:45-4:45; Section 2: Thursday May 19, 10:15-12:15		