

# Environmental Studies 130 - Social Sciences

This course explores contemporary environmental issues from the perspective of the social sciences. It includes the cultural and political framing of environmental issues, the analysis of economic incentives and constraints, ethical issues prompted by scarce environmental goods, and a comparison of policy approaches.

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Coordinates WLH 2205, TuTh 3:30-4:50

Reading The lecture is primarily intended to set the scene and provide the stimulus for your own studies. You should do at least the required reading for every topic as preparation for the class in which you will discuss the material in depth. I hope that you will be interested enough to follow up some of the recommended reading on at least some of the topics—this will more than repay the effort. Most of the mandatory reading material is electronic, accessible through [reserves.ucsd.edu](http://reserves.ucsd.edu), [libraries.ucsd.edu](http://libraries.ucsd.edu), or external internet addresses. Two books have been ordered at Groundworks Books: *Environmental Politics and Policy* by W. Rosenbaum, 7th ed., paperback and *Collapse* by J. Diamond, paperback.

Grades Attendance in class is required. Since every class will contain some material not found in the readings, it is nearly impossible to do well in this course if one's attendance is anything short of regular. The final grade for this course will be determined by the total points a student earns from the four types of evaluation indicated below. Expect a D- for a total of 60 points, a C- for a total of 70 points, a B- for a total of 80 points, and an A- for a total of 90 points. This scale may be adjusted according to the point distribution in the class. If you take the class for a Pass/Fail grade, you must have at least a C- in order to pass the class.

1. Attendance (for rounding): Attendance in class will be taken and used as a way of deciding borderline cases.

2. Two short papers (20 points each) [[turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)]: You are expected to write two short essays of roughly 5 pages each. I shall hand out a list of paper topics fairly early in the course. For each day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from your point total.

3. Midterm exam (25 points): There will be a midterm exam in class on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. You are not allowed to use any books or notes or the like, i.e. the exam is “closed-books”.

4. Final exam (35 points): There will be a final exam on June 8, 2009, 3-5:59pm. You are not allowed to use any books or notes or the like, i.e. the exam is “closed-books”.

#### Fine Print

In your short papers, all sources, including discussions with classmates, must be appropriately acknowledged. All answers given must be in your own wording. Closely paraphrasing or simply copying the work of others (such as authors of books or articles, or classmates) is not allowed and will be severely penalized. You must ask me in case you are uncertain whether something constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism, the stealing of an idea or actual text, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be immediately reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. You must observe the University's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, which can be found at <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>. Make-up exams (for midterm and final) will only be given under the most severe circumstances. The student who wishes to write a make-up exam must inform me (by phone or email) ahead of the time of when the exam is due (midterms) or takes place (final). In order to qualify for a make-up exam, appropriate evidence of the most severe circumstances must be produced by the student. I will determine, in consultation with the student, what qualifies as appropriate evidence.

#### Schedule

### History of US Environmentalism

3/31 Introduction: From Nature as Foe to Friend

Muir "Hetch Hetchy Valley" (1908) [www.yosemite.ca.us/john\\_muir\\_writings/](http://www.yosemite.ca.us/john_muir_writings/)

4/2 Early Twentieth Century: Pinchot, Muir and Roosevelt

Pinchot, 1910, *The Fight for Conservation*, pp 1-25 (Chapters I-VII)  
[www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?pageno=1&files=49271](http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/world/readfile?pageno=1&files=49271)

4/7 Mid- to Late Twentieth Century

Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac*, selections  
[http://www.luminary.us/leopold/land\\_ethic.html](http://www.luminary.us/leopold/land_ethic.html)

Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, selections, electronic reserves

## Why Do Societies Collapse?

- 4/9 Diamond, *Collapse*, "The Ancient Ones", "Twilight at Easter"
- 4/14 Diamond, *Collapse*, "China, Lurching Giant"; part of film, *Population Paradox: China Revs Up*

## The Politics of Environmental Policy

- 4/16 The Politics of Environmental Policy: Rosenbaum 2
- 4/21 Making Policy: Institutional Challenges: Rosenbaum 3
- "Navigating the Maze: Corporate Influence Over Federal Environmental Rulemaking", Kamieniecki, S., *Environment* 48:5 (June 06), pp. 8-20.

## Property Rights, Commons and Property Battles

- 4/23 The Battle for Public Lands: Rosenbaum, chapter 9
- Sagoff, "Takings, Just Compensation, and the Environment" reserves.ucsd.edu
- 4/28 Hardin, "Tragedy of the Commons"  
[www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/162/3859/1243](http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/162/3859/1243)
- Diamond, *Collapse*: "Malthus in Africa"
- Supplemental: "The Tragedy of the Commons 30 Years Later", J. Burger and M. Gochfeld, *Environment* 40:10 (December 98), pp. 4-27.

## Environmental Economics

- 4/30 Environmental Economics and Cost-Benefit Analysis: Theory and Concepts  
<http://www.ecosystemvaluation.org/essentials.htm>
- "Economic Reasons for Conserving Wild Nature" *Science*, reserves.ucsd.edu
- 5/5 Rosenbaum, chapter 5: "More Choice: The Battle over Regulatory Economics"
- O'Neill, John, "Justifying CBA" in *Ecology, Policy, and Politics*, at libraries.ucsd.edu

5/7 **Midterm**

### **Case Study: Water and California**

5/12 Movie: *Cadillac Desert: Mullholland Drive*

5/14 Guest Lecturer: Michael Tiboris

Excerpts from *Cadillac Desert*

Background: Rosenbaum, chapter

### **The Precautionary Principle: Useful Tool or Incoherent Muddle?**

5/19 Wingspread Statement on Precautionary Principle (1 page) [www.gdrc.org/u-gov/precaution-3.html](http://www.gdrc.org/u-gov/precaution-3.html)

Sunstein, 'Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment', *Ethics* 115 (January 2005): 351–385.

Useful Additional Reading: European Environment Agency. 2001. Late Lessons from Early Warnings: The Precautionary Principle 1896-2000, chapters 1 (Introduction) and 2 (Fisheries).

[http://reports.eea.europa.eu/environmental\\_issue\\_report\\_2001\\_22/en](http://reports.eea.europa.eu/environmental_issue_report_2001_22/en)

### **Case Study: Climate Change**

5/21 Introduction to Climate Change and Tropical Forests: Science and Policy  
Guest Lecture: John-O Niles, Founder: Tropical Forest Group

Rosenbaum, chapter 10

5/26 The Stern Report and Its Controversy

Stern, Nicholas. 2008. "The Economics of Climate Change", *American Economic Review* 98(2), pp. 1-37.

Useful Extra: Stephen Gardiner, 'Ethics and Global Climate Change', *Ethics* 114, April 2004, 555-600.

5/28 "Geoengineering: How to Cool Earth--At a Price" and "The Hidden Dangers of Geoengineering", *Scientific American*, October 2008, reserves.ucsd.edu

### **Reason, Risk and Rights: Toxic Substances**

6/2 Rosenbaum, chapters 4 and 7

Background: Lewis, H.W. *Technological Risk*, 123-167. reserves.ucsd.edu

6/4 Shrader-Frechette, *Taking Action, Saving Lives*, chapter 1,2, reserves.ucsd.edu

6/8 **Final Exam:** 3:00-5:59, location TBA