

Draft for Sept 2009.

Geography 410: Environment and Society.

Sept - Dec 2009.

Class meets on Tuesdays, 9am-12 in the UBC Geography building, room 242.

Pre-requisite, Geog 310.

Instructor, David Brownstein

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Office hour: Wednesdays, 1-2pm, or by appointment:

Our seminar course will focus on the politics of environmental sustainability. Most people can agree that the environment is important, so why is it so difficult to realize this agreement in sustainable practice? We will examine the history of environmentalism and contemporary sustainability debates from a variety of analytical perspectives. These will include value theory, environmental ethics, environmental economics and risk management. The Canadian context will be our focus but students more interested in global environmental governance will be encouraged to pursue questions to satisfy that curiosity.

The course may be used as a stepping stone to further research in Geography 419 (Research in Environmental Geography), offered in January, or as preparation for the demands of decision-making within government or the corporate world. It is intended to help participants develop the tools necessary for analyzing complex environmental issues. We will wrestle with some of the most politically and economically challenging problems that have faced society in the last century. In this way the student will be better able to apply their informed opinions to current policy debates. A final objective is to enable participants to develop sound, well-organized, and compelling communication skills. Student participation in the form of formal presentations and informal discussion will be central to the seminar.

Weekly Schedule.

September 8. Very short, 45 minute Introduction.

September 15. Public participation and collective decision-making.

One-page Presentation Proposal Due.

- 2 student facilitators who will lead a discussion of the readings:
- Sherry R. Arnstein. (1967). "A Ladder of Citizen Participation" in *American Institute of Planners Journal*, July 1969, pp 216-224.
- Alan Diduck 2004. "Incorporating Participatory Approaches and Social Learning" in Bruce Mitchel (ed). *Resource and Environmental Management in Canada: Addressing Conflict and Uncertainty*.
- Selection from Thomas Dietz and Paul C Stern (2008). *Public Participation in environmental Assessment and Decision Making*, The National Academies Press, Washington.

September 22. Film: *Darwin's Nightmare*. The film forms the basis for one of our group projects. In groups of four, create an imaginary NGO to tackle the problems depicted in the movie. Construct a budget and business plan to realize your group's goals. More details to follow.

September 29. **Group Project Due—NGO Presentations.**

October 6. Value Theory and contingent valuation.

- Stephen C Farber et al (2002). "Economic and Ecological Concepts for Valuing Ecosystem Services" in *Ecological Economics*, vol 41, pp 375-392.
- "Corncrakes and Cornflakes: the Question of Valuing Nature" in *Values and the Environment: A Social Sciences Perspective*, Yvonne Guerrier et al (eds), John Wiley and sons, pp 81-93.
- Bryan G Norton and Bruce Hannon (1997). "Environmental Values: A Place-Based Theory" in *Environmental Ethics*, vol 19, pp 227-245.
- 3 student presentations.
- 3 student discussants.

October 13. Applied Ethical Systems and Environmental Policy Implications.

- Robert Elliot (1993) "Environmental Ethics" in *A Companion to Ethics*, Peter Singer (ed), Blackwell, Oxford. Class handout.
- Immanuel Kant (1773). "Rational Beings Alone Have Moral Worth" in Louis Pojman (ed), *environmental Ethics: readings in theory and application*, 2nd ed, pp 33-34.
- Christopher d Stone (1974). "Should Trees have standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural objects"
- Selection from Robert Mugerauer and Lynne Manzo (2008). *Environmental dilemmas: Ethical Decision Making*, Lexington Books, Toronto.
- 3 student presentations.
- 3 student discussants.

October 20. Intro to digital video concepts and practice.

- Distribute digital video PSA assignment.
- 2 student presentations.

October 27. Environmental Justice: the backstory.

- Paul Ehrlich, extract from *The Population Bomb*.
- Garet Hardin "Tragedy of the Commons".
- William E. Rees (1992). "Ecological footprints and appropriated carrying capacity: what urban economics leaves out", in *Environment and Urbanization*, vol 4, no 2, pp 121-130.
- Philip Cafaro and Winthrop Staples, III (2009). "The Environmental Argument for Reducing Immigration into the United States" in *Environmental Ethics*, vol 31, summer 2009.
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants.

November 3. Environmental Justice. Case study: B.C. Resource Management in the light of unresolved land claims. Selected readings from among:

- extract from Cole Harris (2003) *Making Native Space*.
- Justin Page (2007). "Salmon Farming in First Nations' Territories: A Case of Environmental Injustice on Canada's West Coast" in *Local Environment*, vol 12, no 6, pp 613-626.
- Annie L. Booth and Norman W Skelton (2004). "First Nations Access and Rights to Resources" in *Resource and Environmental Management in Canada*, Bruce Mitchell (ed), pp 80-103.
- Bruce Mitchell (2004). "Incorporating Environmental Justice".
- Juri Peepre & Philip Dearden (2002). "The role of Aboriginal Peoples" in *Parks and Protected Areas in Canada: Planning and Management*, 2nd ed, Philip Dearden and Rick Rollins (eds). p 323-353. Woodward Reserve: QH77.C3 P37 2009.

- Nicholas Low and Brendan Gleeson (1998). "Environmental Justice: Distributing environmental quality" in *Justice, Society and Nature: an exploration of political ecology*, Routledge.
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants:

November 10. The study of Risk: Economic, Cultural and Psychological approaches.
Extracts from:

- Gabriele Bammer et al (2008). *Uncertainty and Risk: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, Earthscan Press, London.
- Ortwin Renn (2008). *Risk Governance: Coping with Uncertainty in a Complex World*, Earthscan press, London.
- Ragnar Lofstedt and Lynn Frewer (1998). *Risk and Modern Society*.
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants:

November 17. Local knowledge, Inter-local knowledge.

- Heidi Ballard and Louise Fortmann (2007). "Collaborating Experts: Integrating Civil and Conventional Science to Inform Management of Salal (*Gautheria Shallon*) in Hanna and Slocombe (eds), *Integrated Resource and Environmental Management: Concepts and Practice*, pp 164-180.
- Susskind et al, "Integrating Scientific Information, Stakeholder Interests, and Political Concerns" in ditto, pp 181-203.
- Wynne, B. 1992. "Misunderstood misunderstanding: social identities and public uptake of science." *Public Understanding of Science* 1:304, 281.
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants:

November 24. **Class film festival** + Corporate social (and environmental) responsibility.

- N.C. Smith (2003). "Corporate Social Responsibility: Whether or How?" in *California Management Review*, 45 (4), pp 52-76.
- R Gibson and S Peck (2006). "From advanced eco-efficiency to systemic sustainability: what leading companies are doing and what assistance and pressure they need from governments and other players" in R. Cote, A Dale and J Tansey (eds) *Industrial Ecology: Linking Industry & Ecology*, UBC Press.
- R Anderson (2005) "On Responsibility in the Private Sector" Keynote address to the Second International Conference on Gross National Happiness, St Frances Xavier University, Antigonish, NS, June 20 to 24.
<http://www.gpiatlantic.org/conference/proceedings/anderson.htm>
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants:

December 1. Last class. Sustainability in a context of Globalization.

- M Barnett (2004). Are Globalization and Sustainability Compatible? In *Organization & environment*, 17(4), p 523-532.
- J Clapp (2001). "ISO Environmental Standards: Industry's Gift to a Polluted Globe or the Developed World's Competition-Killing Strategy?" in Olav Schram Stokke and Oystein B. Thommessen (eds) *Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development 2001/2002*.
- 2 student presentations.
- 2 student discussants:

December 8. Exams begin—**take home final exam**, based on course readings, due in 24 hours.

Mark Breakdown:

Weekly Attendance and participation 15%

Group Project re film, “Darwin’s Nightmare” 15% [Due Sept 29].

Digital Video Project: 15% [Due Nov 24].

Individual class presentation.

 Proposal 5% [Due Sept 15].

 Presentation 20%. [Rolling deadline].

Discussion leader 10% [rolling deadline].

Take-home exam 20% [Due Dec 9].

Late assignments will be penalized. Please familiarize yourself with UBC’s plagiarism policies as they will be strictly enforced:

http://www.arts.ubc.ca/Plagiarism_Avoided.373.0.html