

Geography 414 Natural Resource Management

Fall 2008 Wednesday 6:00 pm – 9:20 p.m. Halsey 212

Instructor: Colin Long; 302 Halsey; 424 2182; longco@uwosh.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00 and Thursday 1:00 – 4:00;

Text: No text. Readings will be placed on D2L.

Course purpose: This course will consider the impacts humans have made on ecosystems and the business of resource extraction. We will also examine environmental land use principles and future resource management directions. This course is akin to another piece of the puzzle that is the world we inhabit. Each area that you study such as art, history, sociology, math, biology, etc. provides you with another part of the earth's human or physical landscape. The strength of the liberal arts approach is that it gives you the opportunity to see how all the pieces, although seemingly unrelated, fit together. I want to encourage you to think about the processes that affect ecosystems in terms of their affect on the other subject areas that you are studying. I believe that it will soon be clear that there are significant links and that by looking for those relationships you will see the value of the liberal arts education that you are receiving; and that the world we inhabit really is a very connected place.

Attendance and Assignments: All reading assignments should be done before the class meeting. Please be prepared to discuss the readings during class. Since we will meet only once a week it is important that you attend class. One absence will be excused but a second absence will result in the forfeiture of participation points for that class meeting. Writing assignments must be in by the scheduled date. Late final papers will be penalized 5 points for each day they are late.

Assessment: Students will be grade on three components: participation in class discussions, exams, and a final paper. Participation points will be earned by being in class and engaging in the discussion of the readings and other topics. There will be two take home exams that will consist of short essay questions covering the material present in class. The final paper is a research paper that will examine a current issue or topic. It should be less than 10 pages (including listed citations) and include evidence of original thinking supported by figures and appropriate citations. Each student will present her/his research to the class during the final class periods in the form of an in-class presentation. Presentations should be 10 minutes in length and will be counted as participation points.

Class points will be awarded in the following fashion:

Class attendance = 26 (2 points per class meeting with one excused)

1st exam = 20, 2nd exam = 22, Final paper = 25 points

Class presentation of final paper = 7, TOTAL = 100

Evaluation: There will be no curve. Students will strive for mastery rather than competing against each other. A = 100-92 points, AB = 91-87 points, B = 86-82 points, BC = 81-77 points, C = 76-70 points, CD = 69-65 points, D = 64-50 points, F = less than 50 points. Without acceptable documentation of illness or other emergency, failure turn in an exam at the appointed times will result in a score of 0 for that exam. Without acceptable documentation of illness or other emergency, failure turn in the final paper at the appointed time will result in a score of 0 for the paper. Class presentations must be made during the regularly scheduled class period to be considered for credit. There will be NO extra credit opportunities in this class.

Special Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please contact Disability Services (424-3100 (voice) or 424-1319 (TTY)) or visit their web site at <http://www.uwosh.edu/dean/disabilities.htm> for the University's accommodation request form and documentation requirements. Information related to an individual's accommodation request will be kept confidential.

Academic Integrity: The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh is committed to a standard of academic integrity of all students. The system guidelines state: "Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students are subject to disciplinary action of academic misconduct which is defined in the UWS 14.03 Wisconsin Administrative code. Students are encouraged to review the code, located on the "Dean of Students" web page (see Student Conduct) in order to understand your rights and responsibilities.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Subject	Reading assignment
Sept. 3	Why should we manage?	Cronon, 1995, Vitousek et al. 1997
Sept. 10	What is environmental management?	Muir 1916, Pinchot 1910, Leopold 1949
Sept. 17	How do we make decisions?	Sagoff 1981, WCED (16.1) and assigned reading
Sept. 24	Does conservation work?	Assigned readings
Oct. 1	Waste management Exam 1 to be distributed	Assigned readings
Oct. 8	Watershed processes and management issues	Assigned readings Exam 1 due at beginning of class
Oct. 15	Soil development and management issues	Assigned readings
Oct. 22	Land use, ground water and runoff pollution	Maurits La Riviere 1989 and assigned readings
Oct. 29	Natural Disturbances	Assigned readings
Nov. 5	Natural Disturbances	Assigned readings
Nov. 12	Biodiversity – the state of the planet Exam 2 to be distributed	Gould 1993 and assigned readings
Nov. 19	Paper presentations	Exam 2 due at beginning of class
Dec. 3	Paper presentations	
Dec. 10	Paper presentations	