

# Geography 314: Environmental Conservation

**Instructor:** Colin Long; 302 Halsey; 424 2182; [longco@uwosh.edu](mailto:longco@uwosh.edu)

**Text:** *Annual Editions Environment* 09/10, Sharp, Z. (ed.); *Taking Sides – Environmental Issues* Easton, T.A. (ed.) 2009.; Thirteenth Edition

## Course objectives

The goal of this course is to provide you with an understanding about the complexities of environmental issues. Special emphasis will be given to the state of the global environment, population growth and food production, water resources, climate change, and toxic pollution. In addition to learning about basic concepts and developments we will explore various aspects of these issues by controversial discussions.

A more general goal of this class is to contribute to your overall “liberal arts” education. Such an education gives you a broad background in the ideas and events that have in some way shaped our modern lives (for better or for worse). It increases your awareness of the diversity and complexity of human life and thought, it “expands your mind”. A liberal arts education does not usually teach you how to do a particular sort of job, it does develop skills that are increasingly necessary in any job. These include the ability to quickly understand complicated readings on unfamiliar subjects, to express your thoughts clearly and persuasively, and to reason critically, creatively, and independently.

**Assignments:** All reading assignments should be done before the class meeting.

**Assessment:** Your final grade is based on your scores from 3 exams, short answer papers and participation in 2 panel discussions. The exams will cover subjects discussed in lecture and the readings. The short answer topics will focus on a recent reading or general topic discussed in class. The panel discussions will focus on assigned readings. Points will be distributed as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> exam 20 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> exam 25 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> exam 25 points, short answer responses 2 points each (5 question for a total of 10 points); panel participation 10 points each (2 panel participations for a total of 20 points.). TOTAL = 100 points

**Evaluation:** There will be no curve. Students will strive for mastery rather than competing against each other. A = 100-93 points, A- = 92-90 points, B+ = 89-87 points, B = 86-83 points, B- = 82 – 80, C+ = 79 – 77 points, C = 76 – 72 points, C - = 71-69 points, D+ = 68-66 points, D = 65-63 points, D- = 62 – 60 points, F = less than 60 points. Without acceptable documentation of illness or other emergency, failure take 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 to turn a short answer paper at the appointed time will result in a 0 for that short answer. Without acceptable documentation of illness or other emergency, failure to participate in an assigned panel discussion will result in a 0 for that panel assignment. 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.

Short answer responses: The key ideas of the assigned readings should be listed with bullet point lists. The assignments should be completed with a 1-2 page narrative that contains your own conclusion, opinion, or evaluation. Short question responses are to be turned into the class dropbox on the course D2L page by 5:00 pm on the day that they are due.

Tentative schedule	<i>Taking Sides</i> readings	<i>AE</i> readings
What is environmental conservation and why do we need it?		
The state of the global environment		AE 5
The state of the global environment		AE 6
Population and the economy	<b>Short answer 1 due at 5:00 pm</b>	AE 7
Population and the economy		AE 8
Panel discussion 1	Issue 2 Sustainable development Issue 3 Price on World Ecosystems	
Population and the economy		AE 9
Population and the economy		AE 12
Panel discussion 2	Issue 13 Birthrates	
Population and the economy	<b>Short answer 2 due 5:00 pm</b>	AE 11
Population and the economy		
<b>Exam 1</b>		
Land and water resources		AE 22
Land and water resources		
Panel discussion 3	Issue 14 Genetic engineering Issue 15 Organic farming	
Land and water resources		AE 23
Land and water resources	<b>Short answer 3 due 5:00 pm</b>	AE 24
Panel discussion 4	Issue 16 DDT Issue 17 Hormones and health	
Land and water resources		AE 25
Land and water resources		
Energy Issues		AE 15
Spring break		
Energy Issues		AE 13
Energy Issues	<b>Short answer 4 due 5:00 pm</b>	AE 14
Panel discussion 5	Issue 7 ANWR Issue 9 Wind Power	
Energy Issues		AE 16
Energy Issues		

	Panel discussion 6	Issue 12 Nuclear power Issue 19 Nuclear fuel	
	Energy Issues		AE 17
	<b>Exam 2</b>		
	Energy Issues		
	Energy Issues		
	Panel discussion 7	Issue 10 Cars Issue 11 Biofuels	
	Biosphere		AE 18
	Biosphere	<b>Short answer 5 due 5:00 pm</b>	AE 21
	Biosphere		AE 19
	Panel discussion 8	Issue 4 Endangered Species Act Issue 5 EPA	
	Biosphere/pollution		AE 19/21
	Pollution		AE 26
	Panel discussion 9	Issue 6 Pollution rights	
	Climate change		AE 29, 30
	<b>Exam 3</b>		
	Final session		