

Environmental Studies 202: Environmental Studies: A Social Science Approach

Syllabus and Schedule - Spring Quarter 2007 Dr. Grace Wang

Welcome to ESTU 202! I really enjoy teaching this class, and it serves as a nice introduction to many of the environmental issues facing society today. The course objectives are as follows:

- Explore environmental issues within social, political, economic, cultural, and scientific contexts.
- Investigate the role of consumer choices in shaping environmental problems and potential solutions.
- Investigate the concept of *sustainability* in an individual and global context.
- Introduce regional, national, and international issues, with emphasis on specific cases that reveal the complexity of environmental problems.

Required Books

- *Garbage Land*. Elizabeth Royte. Little, Brown. 2005
- *Affluenza*. DeGraff, Wann, and Naylor. 2006.
- *Cascadia Scorecard*. Sightline Institute. 2006
- Additional online or supplemental readings provided on Blackboard.

Expectations

The most important thing you need to know about this course is that it will be an *exchange of ideas* in a relaxed atmosphere. Even though this is a large class, I always use a variety of techniques that emphasize active learning and participation. Active participation involves speaking out, sharing ideas, asking questions, summarizing, and listening to other viewpoints in a professional manner. There are instances where the class will break out into small groups. You are expected to attend each class session, and have the readings and assignments done *prior to* coming to class. If you are unable to attend, you are still responsible for the material covered and assignments due that day.

There might be minor changes to the schedule this quarter, as I'm waiting to hear back from some guest speakers. Please stay informed by visiting Blackboard often, as announcements can also be found there. I expect everyone to have access to the Internet.

Participation

Participation is important for the following reasons. *First*, it helps you synthesize and engage more actively with the course material. *Second*, public speaking skills are becoming more important in all careers, and participation gives you a chance to develop communications and speaking skills. *Third*, the students in this class have diverse backgrounds and experiences; sharing individual perspectives and insights will help us all learn more and appreciate different angles.

Grading

The graded material for this class will consist of two short reaction papers, two quizzes, and a final exam. Your ideas cannot be wrong; I'm interested in what you think about the ideas. I will not deduct points for ideas I may not agree with, but I will deduct points for sloppiness, misspelling, and gender-biased language. Poor grammar and spelling, as well as gender-biased language are not tolerated because they have no place in professional settings. If you are not sure about anything, simply ask. Specific instructions and guidelines will be posted on Blackboard before each writing assignment. Five additional points will be available for **extra credit** through volunteer activities with LEAD or another environmental group (details forthcoming in class and Blackboard).

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating – and this includes (but is not exclusive to) copying answers, taking someone else's quiz, or passing notes during exams, working on someone else's papers, **you will receive a failing grade for the assignment.** No exceptions, as these are serious charges. Familiarize yourself with what the term means at: <http://libguides.wvu.edu/plagiarism>

Grading/Assignments

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Points</i>
Ecological Footprint	15
Quiz #1	20
Quiz #2	20
<i>Cascadia Scorecard</i> paper	20
Final exam	25
Total	100

A	>95.0%	95
A-	>92.5%	92.5
B+	>87.5%	87.5
B	>82.5%	82.5
B-	>80.0%	80
C+	>77.5%	77.5
C	>72.5%	72.5
D	>67.0%	67
F	<66.0%	66

Assignment Policy

- There is no such thing as a late paper! All assignments are due *at the beginning of class period*. With appropriate documentation, I'm sympathetic to illnesses, family emergencies, and other conflicts. If in doubt, just ask. **I repeat: do not e-mail me assignments.**
- Disputes about grading must be addressed within one week of the assignment or test. Your

dispute must be written and given to me in person, upon which we will discuss your situation.

- Please see me if you have disability or accommodation issues, and we'll work on them together.

Class will begin and end on time based on the clock in the Fraser 3. I often make announcements at the beginning of class, so be prompt. And please, no shuffling of papers five minutes prior to the end of class.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to course LEAD (extra credit opportunities) Cascadia Scorecard model	<i>Garbage Land</i> , Introduction, chapters 1-4
	History of environmentalism <i>Wild by Law</i> video Ecological Footprint assignment due in 1 week	
2	Environmental impacts of <i>Global Climate Change</i> – what it means for skiers, farmers, kayakers, gardeners, etc. - Hurricane Katrina	<i>Garbage Land</i> , chapters 5-9 Online readings
	Water Pollution Ecological Footprint Paper due	<i>Garbage Land</i> , chapters 10-11
3	Discuss <i>Garbage Land</i> Part I of <i>Super Size Me</i> DVD	<i>Garbage Land</i> , chapters 12-14
	<i>Part II of Super Size Me</i> DVD	<i>Affluenza</i> , Intro through chapters 3
4	Quiz #1	<i>Affluenza</i> , chapters 4-7
	Health and the environment Pesticides Food choices – organics, GMOs	<i>Affluenza</i> , chapters 8-14 Online: No Bar Code and Our National Eating Disorder
5	<i>The Wilderness Idea</i> video Discuss <i>Affluenza</i> chs. 1-20	<i>Affluenza</i> , chapters 15-20
	Public land and resource management	<i>Affluenza</i> , chapters 21-25
6	<i>Oil on Ice</i> DVD <i>Affluenza</i> , chs. 21-30	<i>Affluenza</i> , chapters 26-30
	ANWR slide show Alan Kearney, photographer	Cascadia Scorecard
7	Discuss <i>Cascadia Scorecard</i> "Seven Wonders"	

	Quiz #2	
8	Affluenza video Discussion of American "way of life" and personal consumption choices	
	Environmental impacts of consumption The "Secret Life of Stuff"	
9	Who's Counting? video	
	Global population	
10	Course Review – what have we learned?	
	Final Exam	