

ENVST 2100 / UGS 2100
Introduction to Environmental Studies
Spring 2008, Tue & Thu 10:45-12:05, SW 134

Instructor

Julia Corbett

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Teaching Assistant

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Course Description

Students of today will encounter environmental issues in unfathomable proportions throughout their lifetimes. An engaged, knowledgeable citizenry will be key to understanding, adapting to, and solving environmental challenges. This course is designed to engage students' interest by examining human-environment relations from a variety of disciplines. Course material will come from several sources. First, University of Utah faculty will present a series of guest lectures on actual environmental research being conducted on campus in various departments. Second, course readings examine human-environment relations throughout this country's history and occurring right now in the Intermountain West. And third, several professionals from the community will discuss their work in environmentally related jobs. The course will expose students to a diverse range of research, viewpoints, and approaches to studying environmental issues, and will provide a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to the great wealth of research and teaching the university offers on environmental issues. Students will hear a dramatic range of opinions, be exposed to many different kinds of intellectual inquiry, and meet a significant number of faculty from many disciplines.

Course Format and Framework

The first class of each week will feature a different guest faculty member who will present a summary of his or her work and/or research on environmentally relevant issues. The second class of each week will discuss readings and will integrate the material from the guest faculty into an ***analytical framework*** focused on four considerations of environmental issues:

Natural Considerations: habitat, equilibrium, ecology, physical processes

Economic Considerations: cost-benefit analysis, risk analysis, who benefits vs. who pays, the redistribution of wealth via environmental resources.

Political Justice Considerations: the distribution, environmental justice, perceptions of fairness, the relationship between beneficiaries, distributors, and sacrificers.

Cultural Considerations: traditions and practices, cultural norms, quality of life, non-economic values, social goods, and communication styles.

Required Reading

Clarke, J.N., and Cortner, H.J., The State and Nature: Voices Heard, Voices Unheard in America's Environmental Dialogue (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002).

High Country News - You can get a subscription from: www.hcn.org Available as e-newsletter or print subscription for \$10 per semester or \$24 for full year. Sign up **NOW!**

Grading

There will be four exams, each worth 25 percent of your grade. The exams will not be comprehensive. Each exam will be based on: 1) material presented by the guest lecturers, 2) topics discussed in class, and 3) material from the required readings. There is **no** opportunity for extra credit in this class.

1st Exam: Feb. 7 – Material covered: Jan 8 - Feb. 5

2nd Exam: Feb. 28 – Material covered: Feb. 12 - 26

3rd Exam: Mar. 27 – Material covered: Mar. 4 - 25

4th Exam: April 29 – Material covered: April 1 - 22

NOTE: We will have a Web-CT site for this class. You are responsible for checking this site for important information, announcements, and schedule changes. The site also will allow you to access your exam scores.

Consultation

Adrienne and I will be happy to meet with you during office hours or by appointment. If you need help, **please** contact one of us. We very much enjoy meeting and talking with students!

Etiquette

Please turn off all cell phones and all other devices that go beep in the night. These devices are an inconsiderate intrusion on your classmates, instructor, and guest lecturers. Please do your utmost to arrive **on time** to class! Given the room arrangement and the array of guest lecturers who have graciously agreed to talk to our class, it is extremely disruptive and impolite to arrive late (or leave early). Thank you!

Important University Dates - Spring 2008 Semester

Last day to drop (delete) classes	Wed., January 16
Tuition payment due	Tue., January 22
Last day to add, CR/NC, or audit	Tue., January 22
Last day to withdraw from classes	Fri., February 29

Accommodation

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss such accommodations. To establish the existence of a disability and/or to request reasonable accommodation for this class, contact the Center for Disabled Student Service (162 Olpin Union Bldg., 581-5020). The Center will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notice to the Center for Disability Services.

Academic Dishonesty

The *Student Code* details the rights of students in the classroom, including student misconduct and academic dishonesty (such as cheating on exams and plagiarism). Read the code at:

<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>

Academic dishonesty includes:

Cheating: giving or receiving unauthorized assistance on any academic work.

Plagiarism: presenting the language, structure or ideas of another person as one's own original work.

Falsification: any untrue statement, either oral or written, concerning one's own academic work or the academic work of others, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.

Original work: all academic work undertaken in this course must be original, i.e. it must not have been submitted in a prior course or be submitted in a course being taken concurrently without prior approval of instructor.

Content Accommodations

“Content accommodations” will not be made; students who find the content of this course to violate their beliefs should drop the class.

Course Outline

Reading assignments are from text *State & Nature*. As issues come out, *High Country News* articles will be assigned.

Date	Lecturer	Reading Assignment	Notes
T – 1/08	Corbett/Cachelin		
H – 1/10	Corbett/Cachelin	I: Intro, 1, 2, 4	
T – 1/15	Fred Montague - BIOL		
H – 1/17	Corbett/Cachelin	I: 3, 6	
T – 1/22	David Chapman - GEO		
H – 1/24	Corbett/Cachelin	II: Intro, 8, 9,10, 12	
T – 1/29	Miguel Mostafa - PHYS		
H – 1/31	Focus the Nation panel		
T – 2/05	Corbett/Cachelin	HCN	
H – 2/07	Exam 1		Exam 1
T – 2/12	Craig Denton - COMM		
H – 2/14	Corbett/Cachelin	III: Intro, 13, 14, 15, 17	
T – 2/19	Andrea Brunelle - GEOG		
H – 2/21	Corbett/Cachelin	IV: Intro, 20, 21, 23	
T – 2/26	Steve Tatum - ENGL		
H – 2/28	Exam 2		Exam 2
T – 3/04	Dan McCool - POLS		
H – 3/06	Corbett/Cachelin	V: Intro, 24, 25, 27, 28	
T – 3/11	Caitlin Cahill - FCS		
H – 3/13	Corbett/Cachelin	VI: Intro, 29, 32	
T – 3/18	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
H – 3/20	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
T – 3/25	Amy Wildermuth - LAW		
H – 3/27	Exam 3		Exam 3
T – 4/01	Carol Werner – PSY		
H – 4/03	Corbett/Cachelin	VI: 33, 35, 37	
T – 4/08	Dan Dustin – PRT		
H – 4/10	Corbett/Cachelin	VII: Intro, 40, 41, 42, 43	
T – 4/15	speaker		
H – 4/17	Corbett/Cachelin		
T – 4/22	Panel of enviro. professionals		Last Day of Class
T – 4-29	Exam 4, 10:30-12:30		Exam 4