GEOG 4500 Geography of Environmental Management

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Syllabus: Spring 2002

1. Objectives and Description

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the role of geography in understanding human-environment interactions, especially in terms of how humans attempt to manipulate the natural environment to achieve their goals. More specifically, the objectives are (1) to introduce students to a broad range of human efforts to manage the natural environment, (2) to identify the objectives of those environmental management projects, and (3) to identify critical issues (physical, cultural, political, and economic, etc…) associated with those efforts to manipulate the natural environment.

This course has two components: (1) roundtable discussions and (2) a final project. Students are expected to attend and participate in each discussion, to present an article review for a specified number of discussion topics, and to participate in a final project poster competition.

Lastly, students are encouraged to use this opportunity to discuss human attempts to manage the natural environment in an open forum designed to promote both awareness and debate. Graduate students are especially encouraged to use this opportunity to explore and develop research topics.

2. Discussion Topics

Topics to be discussed in this course may include, but are not limited to, the following list: population growth, climate change, economic development, water resources, agriculture, forestry, wildlife & fisheries, natural hazards, and tourism. These topics will be addressed in general discussions on global issues and in specific discussions on the major regions of the world.

3. Article Reviews

Students are required to present an article review for 6 of the 9 roundtable discussions to be held in this course.

The article review will be restricted to 1 page of text -- No Exceptions! However, students are encouraged to bring support materials (maps, photographs, tables, figures, etc…) to class for discussion purposes.

Student will distribute a copy of the 1 page article review to each member of the class at the beginning of the discussion.

*See GEOG 4500 Home Page for specific instructions on Article Review Format.
4. Final Project

Students are required to present their final project research in a poster competition at the end of the course. The final project will consist of an in-depth literature review that focuses on a specific issue or environmental management project. The student may choose to expand on one of the topics discussed in class or may choose a completely different topic.

If the topic is an environmental management issue (e.g., population increase, global warming, etc…) then the student must include site-specific examples (i.e., impacts at specific geographic locations). If the topic is an environmental management project (e.g., Three Gorges Dam project), then the student must include specific information on the location, objectives, methods, and impacts of the project.

*See GEOG 4500 Home Page for specific instructions on Final Project (Poster) Format.

5. Final Grades

Article Reviews: 60 points

Each article review (6 required) will be worth a maximum score of 10 points. Failure to review the required limit of 6 articles will result in a penalty of 10 points per article.

Class Attendance: 40 points

Students are required to attend 6 roundtable discussions in which they present an article review and 4 additional class sessions: the 3 roundtable discussions in which they do not intend to present an article review and the discussion on the format of the Final Project. Students will be awarded 10 points for each one of these 4 additional class sessions attended.

Final Project: 100 points

The final project will be worth a maximum of 100 points.

Final Project / Poster Competition Awards (to be chosen by the students)

- 1st place: 20 points
- 2nd place: 10 points

Final Grades will be determined by dividing the total number of points accumulated by the total number of points possible (points accumulated / points possible = final percentage).

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<th>D</th>
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