NATURAL RESOURCES AND SOCIETY ENVS 2340 | FALL 2015

Professor: Dr. Nat B. Frazer
E-mail: I prefer that you use the e-mail function on the course Canvas site. If Canvas goes down, you can contact me via my USU e-mail, nat.frazer@usu.edu [Be sure to put ENVS 2340 in the Subject Line!]
Office: Quinney College of Natural Resources (NR) 346
Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 1:30-3:00 PM or by appointment
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For short messages (requiring only a short reply) you can text me at (435) 232-7834.

Teaching Assistant: Robin Graham
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Course Description
ENVS 2340 is an integrated science course emphasizing social sciences in addressing 21st Century environmental challenges affecting humans and ecosystems. We will explore environmental, economic, and social frameworks within which humans contribute both to environmental problems and to their solutions in American and other cultures.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Explain how the nature, history, theories and methods of the social sciences contribute to our understanding of the relationships between humans and natural resources.
- Evaluate debates about the relational, cultural, historical, and natural contexts that shape the human experience in relation to natural resources.
- Compare and evaluate differences among people's attitudes toward and understanding of the environmental, economic, and social relationships between humans and natural resources.
- Clearly state your own positions on issues related to the relationships between humans and natural resources, and give empirically based arguments in support of your positions.

Course Resources
Canvas is the Learning Management System that we will use for our course. You can login to Canvas through MyUSU with your A-Number and strong. You will find a number of Student Tutorials for Canvas on the login page.

Technical Support
For any technical problems with your computer related to accessing Canvas, please contact the IT Service Desk at 435.797.HELP (4357). There is a “Live Chat” feature, hours of availability and email information on the http://online.usu.edu page.
Some documents in this course will be presented in PDF format. You will need Adobe Reader to view these files, which you can obtain for free at [http://get.adobe.com/reader/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/). Some Assignments may require you to submit a formatted text document or form. These files must be in .doc or .dox format created with Microsoft Word, or with OpenOffice writer (free download at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)).

**Textbooks & Reading Materials**

There are two textbooks for this course:


I suggest that you view the following 10 minute video on Reading Improvement as early as possible [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/videos/video_ri.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/videos/video_ri.html). You are expected to read assignments prior to coming to class. You should keep up-to-date on your reading to be able to perform well on quizzes and in class group participation activities. If you come to class unprepared, your other group members will be at a disadvantage. Please make sure you come to class prepared to engage with your fellow group members productively!

**i<clickers**

We will be using i<clickers in this course. They are available in the Bookstore for rent or purchase. Either the new model or the old model should work for this course. Note that you can share a clicker with a friend so long as you and your friend are not enrolled in the same class. You can also purchase or rent an i<clicker app for your smart phone.

**Videos**

We will view several videos during the semester. I will either show them in class or provide you with a link to YouTube or other on-line sites linked to Canvas where you can view a video at your convenience. It’s not always possible for me to include them in the course schedule, since new ones may become available after I publish the schedule. Check class assignments on Canvas and make sure you view any required videos before coming to class to perform well on quizzes and individual or group class participation.

**Course Activities**

You can earn up to a possible 1200 points in this class. Here is the breakdown by %:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Group Work</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests and Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Choice – Book Analysis, Conference Attendance, or Pop-Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Here is the breakdown by points and specific activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The following activities are required of all students for 1180 points:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation – [using i&lt;clicker or participating in group activities]</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Group Presentation – [on an issue from Natural Resources and Society] textbook</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Group Poster – [on an issue from Natural Resources and Society textbook]</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Pressure [on-line, open-book] Quizzes (12 @ 10 pts each)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyzing issues in Natural Resources and Society textbook (12 @ 10 pts each)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1 [You will take Test 1 together with your group]</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 [You will take Test 1 together with your group]</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Final Exam</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students must choose ONE of the three following options for 120 points:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend Restoring the West Conference Oct. 28-29 ($25 Registration Fee) &amp; one page paper [see syllabus for details concerning attendance requirements]</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Analysis (5-page minimum: see syllabus for approved list of books)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded Pop-Quizzes (6 @ 20 points each)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Policies**

**Instructor Feedback/Communication**

1. Robin, Mara, and I will use the Announcements tool in Canvas to communicate changes and other course information. **Be sure that your Canvas notifications are set to deliver Announcements to your preferred email address or text cell phone number.** To check and/or change your setting, look at the bar on the upper right hand side of the Canvas page and click on “Settings.” On the right hand side of the page that comes up you will see a box under Ways to Contact that shows your preferred e-mail address and options for “other contacts.” “You can change the email address or switch to text messaging.

**Student Feedback/Communication**

We welcome all feedback on the course. Our preferred method of communication with individual students is through Canvas, but if there are difficulties, you may use our individual email addresses -- be sure to include "ENVS 2340" in the Subject Line. We will respond to your messages within two working days (Mon.-Fri.).

If you experience a legitimate emergency (according to my standards) that results in your missing a graded class activity or completing required coursework on time, I expect you to communicate with me at the earliest possible opportunity. Please state the nature of your emergency, when you expect to be
able to return to class, and when/how you expect to be able to make up the work, if allowed.

**Syllabus Changes**
I have made every effort to present accurate and complete information on this syllabus, but reserve the right to make changes if needed. Because I am a human being, I sometime make mistakes. If you think you have found a mistake or inconsistency in the information on Canvas, please send me a message. If changes are made, or if I have to correct a mistake, I will notify the class through a Canvas Announcement.

In the event of any discrepancy between information on the syllabus and later changes communicated on Canvas, the updated information in CANVAS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE.

**Submitting Assignments**
Most assignments must be submitted via the Canvas course website in .doc or .docx format. Occasionally there may be assignments that you will be required to submit on paper.

**Course Fees**
There are no course fees for this course.

**Make-Up Work and Extra-Credit Work**
Provision will be made for Make-Up Work solely at my discretion and only if I deem that you missed an assignment due to unavoidable circumstances. If you know that you will miss a class, test, or exam and provide me with a reasonable justification BEFORE the event as soon as you become aware that you will have to miss it, I will typically (but still solely at my discretion) make arrangements for you to complete the assignment at another time. If you miss class due to sickness, a wedding, a funeral, a court date, participation in an athletic event, an Ambassador’s event, or other activity not under your control, I will expect to have proper documentation (letter from the physician or nurse who treated you, wedding announcement or obituary from newspaper, summons letter or letter from your attorney, coaching staff, Ambassador advisor, or other appropriate person) before allowing you to make up any missed work. It’s not that I don’t trust you, but I need to be fair to everyone and not “play favorites”—so I have the same rules for everyone.

**Final Grades**
Remember that you have some choices about what your grade will be based on.
Your grade will be based on a how many points you accumulate from a possible total of 1,200.

Your grade will be calculated based on the % of the total of 1200 points that you earned. I will use USU’s standard grade format to determine your letter grade. Your points will translate to a letter grade as follows: A (93-100%); A- (90-92%); B+ (87-89%); B (83-86%); B- (80-82%); C+ (77-79%); C (73-76%); C- (70-72%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%).

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity - “The Honor System”**
Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

The Honor Pledge
To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity,
each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."