EnvS 4000:

Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management (HD-NRM)

Syllabus for Fall 2016

Course Ref. No. 41979; 3 credit hours

MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:45, NR 105

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Layne Coppock. Professor, Dept. of Environment and Society (EnvS). Office: NR 140. Office Phone: (435) 797-1262. Email: Layne.Coppock@usu.edu. Office Hours: By appointment.

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA): Ms. Gwendwr Meredith. Email: gwendwr@aggiemail.usu.edu. Office hours: To be announced. Office: NR 229.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces students to concepts and approaches that underlie or describe how people interact concerning natural resource management in the western United States. Major topics include: (1) Diagnosing and managing stakeholders; (2) how people’s attitudes towards natural resources are shaped; (3) the organizational cultures of different management agencies; (4) principles of teamwork and leadership in problem-solving; (5) how resource tenure systems affect stewardship; (6) constraints affecting the adoption and diffusion of technology and management innovations; and (7) collaborative learning for conflict management. Best practices for hosting public meetings and collecting information from people, as well as effective modes for public communication, outreach, education, and regulation, will also be addressed.

The general course format will be based on lectures, but in-class activities will be frequent. Activities will prominently include discussions in a break-out group format that highlight materials from readings and oral presentations. Guest speakers will bring real-world perspectives to the course as well.
KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
The key learning objectives for this course include:

1. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories;
2. Developing professional skill sets, competencies, and points of view;
3. Learning to apply concepts and methods to improve thinking and problem solving; and
4. Gaining factual knowledge concerning terminology, methods, etc.

READINGS:
There are no books required for this course. Rather, a series of papers and reports are posted on Canvas and organized by specific class periods.

CANVAS:
Nearly all course-related information will be posted at our Canvas website. Each class period corresponds to a module in Canvas. If you have questions about Canvas, please see the instructor or the TA. Sometimes email will be used in addition to Canvas to communicate with students.

GRADING:
Total possible points will be about 580. Letter grades will be roughly based on the traditional point scale (A, A-, B+, B…etc.) but grades may be curved at the end of the course depending on student performance. The final curve may be down or it may be up. Grades are assigned based on how people’s cumulative point totals clump together at the end. Points will be approximately distributed as: (1) Pop quizzes, group discussions, attendance, and short homework assignments (about 200 points or 34% of the total); (2) two mid-term exams (about 220 points overall or 38% of the total); and (3) a cumulative final exam (about 160 points or 28% of the total).

Attendance and class participation are very important. Those who regularly attend class and actively contribute to discussions may be rewarded with a “significant bump” in their final letter grade. Those who regularly miss class may be penalized in their final grade. This is not an online course; regular failure to attend class is rude behavior. An indicator of poor attendance is missing
too many quizzes or discussion sessions, and this can bring on a further grade penalty. Attendance will be taken on a regular basis and points may be given to reward those in attendance and penalize those who are absent.

There may be opportunities to gain extra credit, but it depends on what situations occur during the semester. For example, if a notable speaker is giving a seminar on campus that relates to our course material, some extra-credit points to attend and report on that seminar could be offered—but this would be announced in advance.

How does a student position him or herself for a “good grade” in this course? (1) Keep up with the readings and study guides; (2) attend help sessions before the exams; and (3) attend class and participate! All exams, quizzes, and group discussions will all be held in this classroom. Other student-assessment details—including the style of exams—will be reviewed later.

Absences can only be excused in the case of illness, personal emergencies, or time conflicts arising from official university commitments. Written documentation will typically be required to justify excused absences. Students need to communicate with the instructor with respect to any planned absences, especially if they are extended or otherwise unusual.

Opportunities to make-up work or testing events that have been missed as a result of excused absences will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Missed work that results from unexcused absences cannot be made up.

**DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (DRC):** USU is required by law to help disabled students participate fully in all programs, activities, and services. If you have a disability, documented by the DRC, that requires note-takers, interpreters for the deaf, extended testing time, etc., let the instructor know as soon as possible. The DRC may also help provide course material in alternative formats like large print, Braille, and diskette. See the DRC web site [http://www.usu.edu/drc/](http://www.usu.edu/drc/)
COUNSELING: USU offers an excellent counseling center (TSC 306) on campus for individuals, groups, and couples. Services include consultations, crisis appointments, and therapy animals are on site. All services are confidential and most are free of charge. See the USU web site http://www.usu.edu/counseling/

STUDENT ETHICS: The Quinney College of Natural Resources follows the USU Student Code regarding academic integrity. Please see Article VI of the USU Student Code for details at http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct. Students caught cheating on quizzes or exams or plagiarizing the work of others will receive an F for their efforts.

Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards their peers and instructors to encourage an open and positive learning experience for all. Cell phones, iPods, etc., need to be shut off when the class period gets underway. Use of laptops, iPads, etc., is only allowed if a student is taking notes from our lectures or researching information in the context of a class discussion.

Let’s Have a Great Semester!