MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30-11:20, BUS 320

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. Background on Dr. Coppock is at https://qcnr.usu.edu/wats/htm/directory-plugin?memberID=816

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT:  **Daniel Bishop.** Office: NR 213. Email: daniel.bishop@aggiemail.usu.edu Office Hours: By appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course takes a global perspective concerning relationships between human kind and the natural environment. Major themes include: (1) How geography has shaped historical patterns of world conquest and domination; (2) why complex societies collapse; (3) current issues and trends in human welfare and the global environment; (4) climate change; and (5) energy in a changing world.

IDEA KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The key student learning objectives for this course are:

1. Gaining factual knowledge about environments and societies worldwide;
2. Learning to apply knowledge and approaches to improve thinking and problem-solving;
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view; and
4. Acquiring a stronger interest in learning by asking questions and seeking answers.

*We want to inspire you, help you become better informed, and stimulate thinking about your career plans!*
READINGS AND OTHER SOURCE MATERIALS:

Required Books


Three copies of Diamond and two copies of Lomborg are on reserve at the Merrill-Cazier Library. Used copies of both books can be found at local or online booksellers at very reasonable prices. Despite that both books are over 15 years old, they are classics and offer good background material for reflection and debate.

Other Source Materials

We will also rely on other materials that include magazine or newspaper articles, scientific papers, technical reports, book chapters, films, and web pages. Reference books will include: (1) *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed,* by Jared Diamond (2006); (2) *The Collapse of Complex Societies,* by Joseph Tainter (1988); (3) *The Long Emergency,* by James Kunstler (2005); (4) *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet* and (5) *Resource Wars—The New Landscape of Global Conflict,* both by Michael Klare (2009 and 2001, respectively); and (6) *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization,* by Lester Brown (2008). Details on these and other materials will be provided later.

CANVAS: Nearly all course-related information will be posted on 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 messaging will be used in addition to Canvas to communicate with students.

GRADING AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: Total possible points will be about 550. 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, and short
homework assignments (about 125 points or 23% of the total); (2) three mid-term exams (about 270 points or 50% of the total); and (3) a cumulative final exam (about 150 points or 27% 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 is rude behavior. An indicator of poor attendance is missing too many quizzes or discussion sessions, and this can kick-in additional penalties. If necessary, attendance may be taken and points given to reward those in attendance and penalize the “absentee students.”

How does a student position him- or herself for a “good” grade? First, keep up with the reading and fill out the study guides—all of the quiz material and much of the exam material is from the study guides; (2) attend the help sessions before the exams; and (3) regularly attend class and participate! (let us hear your voice!) Exams, quizzes, and group discussions are all 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 conflicts arising from official university commitments. Written documentation will be required for excused absences, and this should be submitted in advance. Students need to communicate with the instructor with respect to the nature of their absences, especially if the absences 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.
OTHER USU STUDENT RESOURCES:

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/

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 of Conduct regarding academic integrity. Please see Article VI of the USU Student Code for details at https://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode

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!