ENVS 2340: Natural Resources and Society
Syllabus Fall 2021 (This syllabus is subject to modification.)

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UTF: Ashley Nielsen  Ashley.nielsen@aggiemail.usu.edu.  Office Hours: to be determined.

Course Objectives:
(1) To understand the current predicament of humans on planet Earth in a sustainability perspective with particular reference to agriculture, energy, and water as natural resource systems and ecosystems as service systems.
(2) To learn to analyze and draw conclusions from various forms of visual presentations of data such as graphs, diagrams, and GIS-based maps.
(3) To learn to analyze natural resource issues and use through the techniques of benefit-cost, systems, and footprint analysis

Readings:
Required textbook: Natural Resources Sustainability: An introductory synthesis
Open-access educational resource on Canvas.

Natural Resources Sustainability: An introductory synthesis

I. Introduction
1. Natural Resources Sustainability in a Nutshell
2. Lessons from Environmental History

II. Nature’s Role
3. Physical Geography and Geology
4. Ecology

III. Societies Role
5. Human Population
6. The Neoclassical Approach
7. Ecological Economics
8. Industrial Ecology
9. Institutional Economics
10. Political Ecology

IV. Resource-by-Resource

V. Moving Toward Natural Resources Sustainability
15. Policy
16. Envisioning a sustainable way of life

Readings: One of the following books:
Guns Germs and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies (1999) (Pulitzer Prize)
Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed (2005)
The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals (2006)
The New Map: Energy, Climate and the Clash of Nations (2020)
Earth: The Operator’s Manual (2011)
More From Less: The surprising story of how we learned to prosper using fewer resources- and what happens next (2019)

Assignments and Grading

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter-based quizzes</td>
<td>(2-15; Open-book, Multiple Choice)</td>
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**Natural Resources Sustainability: An introductory synthesis**

I. Introduction
1. Natural Resources Sustainability in a Nutshell
2. Lessons from Environmental History

II. Nature’s Role
3. Physical Geography and Geology
4. Ecology
Carbon game 5%
Nitrogen game 5%

III. Societies Role
5. Human Population
6. The Neoclassical Approach
7. Ecological Economics
8. Industrial Ecology
9. Institutional Economics
10. Political Ecology

IV. Resource-by-Resource
Water game 5%
Energy game 5%

V. Moving Toward Natural Resources Sustainability
15. Policy
16. Envisioning a sustainable way of life

Cost-benefit Exercise 10%
Footprint Exercise 10%
Chapter quizzes 30%

Attendance/Participation/Feedback 10%
Medium of Instruction

**Blended Web-broadcast via Canvas and Zoom.**
Primary course materials (textbook, lectures, etc.) will be available on Canvas for asynchronous online use, organized in Chapter-based Modules.
Announcement, Q&A, Content discussion on Canvas

Scheduled class will occur using Zoom and will focus on review/discussion, assignments, group work, and other activities. After the first week, the class will be divided into two groups that meet weekly within the TR 5:15 – 6:30 time-slot.

**Course policies**

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Students are expected to produce original work. Plagiarism or falsification of any kind will be subject to disciplinary action. Offences will be referred to Utah State University Admissions office. The USU policy for academic honesty can be found at: usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/article6.cfm. Please review this document to understand the Utah State University policy on academic honesty. If you have questions or concerns about the policy, please contact your instructor or academic advisor.

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 used 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, and denial or revocation of degrees.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
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 Disability Resource Center (435-797-2444), 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.