

Critical Thinking – Ecosystem Management

EBIO 4800, Spring 2009

HUMN 190; T,Th 2:00-3:15

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Course Description

Ecosystem management (EM) is an approach to sustainably restore and maintain the composition, structure, and function of ecosystems. The success of EM is based on the ability of practitioners to collaboratively develop a vision for desired future condition amongst a variety of stakeholders that integrates ecological, institutional, and socioeconomic perspectives. In this course we will examine the historical and current role of ecosystem management as an approach to managing public lands in the US. Students will actively practice and develop tools in critical reasoning through a series of individual and group activities in both written and oral form throughout the semester that address current issues in managing ecosystems.

Grading and Assignments

Seminar leadership 10%

Research Proposal 15%

Public Hearings (2 oral presentations) 10% land manager + 10% public = 20%

Research Paper 25%

Oral Presentation of Research 10%

Participation 20%

Special Note on Participation—Due to the nature of this course with the limited number of lectures and emphasis on group activities, participation is critical to the success of this course. Thus participation will contribute to 20% of your final grade. Since grading participation may be a highly qualitative and subsequently difficult task, I will grade participation in a different way

that many other courses. The course participation grade will be based on: 1) self-evaluations and 2) attendance. For the self evaluations, I will ask that each one of you keep a learning journal throughout the semester. This journal will contain all your written assignments and notes documenting your participation throughout the semester. For your benefit you may want to keep a short journal tracking your contributions in class, specific knowledge and skills you have obtained with each assignment, and how the things you have learned may apply to your life or how information from this course may have changed your views. I will provide a handout later in the semester describing what the final self evaluation should look like, which also provides tips on writing the evaluation and the information that should go into the evaluation. Second, consistent attendance is critical to building a sense of community within the classroom. Attendance is mandatory on days when we have guest speakers and when your classmates are giving oral presentations. I will allow one unexcused absence during this time before points are deducted for attendance. These two components, in addition to my overall impression of your participation throughout the semester will lead to your final participation grade.

Late assignment policy- A half letter grade will be deducted for each day that an assignment is late.

Required Text:

Gary K. Meffe, Larry A. Nielsen, Richard L. Knight, and Dennis A. Schenborn. 2002. Ecosystem Management Adaptive, Community-Based Conservation. Island Press, Washington, DC.

Disability Policy:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Policy on religious observances:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you foresee any conflicts with this class schedule, please see me at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Classroom Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at

http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Student Honor Code:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

Ecosystem Management Class Schedule

DATE	DAY	ACTIVITY	READING	IMPORTANT DATES
1/13	T	Introduction	EM p. 1-7	
1/15	TH	Lecture/seminar: The landscape scenario	EM p. 25-41	
1/20	T	Lecture/seminar : History of natural resource management	EM Chapter 2	
1/22	TH	Lecture/seminar: Environmental legislation in the 20 th century		
1/27	T	Documentary Film: Greatest Good Part I and post-viewing class discussion		
1/29	TH	Documentary Film: Greatest Good Part II and post-viewing class discussion		
2/3	T	Lecture/seminar: Addressing uncertainty and complexity in EM	EM Chapter 3 p. 79-88	
2/5	TH	Lecture: Writing research proposals and papers		
2/10	T	Campus Fieldtrip: Using the library		
2/12	TH	Lecture/seminar: Managing populations and species	Chapter 6	
2/17	T	Guest Speaker: TBA		
2/19	TH	Lecture/seminar: Managing populations and communities at the landscape level	Chapter 7	Research Proposals Due
2/24	T	Lecture/seminar: Landscape-level conservation	Chapter 8	
2/26	TH	Lecture/seminar: Managing biodiversity across landscapes	Chapter 9	
3/3	T	Lecture/seminar: Working in human communities	Chapter 10	
3/5	TH	Town Meeting I		
3/10	T	Town Meeting I		
3/12	TH	Town Meeting II		
3/17	T	Town Meeting II		
3/19	TH	Data AnalysisWorkshop: Data analysis and interpretation		
3/24	T	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
3/26	TH	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK		
3/31	T	Guest Speaker: TBA		
4/2	TH	Town Meeting III		
4/7	T	Town Meeting III		
4/9	TH	Town Meeting IV		
4/14	T	Town Meeting IV		
4/16	TH	Writers Workshop: Peer-review of research paper drafts		Research Paper Drafts Due
4/21	T	Student Presentations- Individual research projects		
4/23	TH	Student Presentations- Individual research projects		
4/28	T	Student Presentations- Individual research projects		
4/30	TH	Final Day –Wrap up student presentations		Research Papers Due

