

Critical Thinking – Public Lands Management

EBIO 4800/5800, Spring 2008

STAD 135; T,Th 12:30-1:45

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Office Hours: T, Th, 1:45-2:45

In this course we will explore theory and practices in critical thinking in the context of public lands designation and management. 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. Tools and practices in critical reasoning will be applied to controversies surrounding both historical and current issues in public lands designation and management with special emphasis on western US public lands.

Grading and Policies:

Argument Papers: 20%

2, 2-page papers

Group Projects: 20%

2 oral presentations

Final research paper 20%

Oral presentation of research paper 15%

Participation: 25%

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 25% 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 2) peer evaluations and 3) attendance. For the self evaluations, I will ask that each one of you keep a personal “portfolio” throughout the semester. This portfolio 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 have provided a handout 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. The second component to the course participation grade will be peer evaluations. At the end of the semester, I will pass out a short evaluation form and each of you will evaluate members of your research group. Finally, 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.

Readings:

There is no assigned text book for this course. I will send out reading assignments as pdf files throughout the semester.

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/>

**ENVS 4800 Class Schedule
Spring 2008**

Date	Day of the Week	Lecture or Activity	Assignment due dates
Jan. 15	T	Introduction to class	
Jan. 17	TH	Lecture/Seminar: History of Public Lands Disposition (1776-1891)	
Jan. 22	T	Lecture/Seminar: Critical thinking	
Jan. 24	TH	Lecture/Seminar : Period of Public Lands Reservation (1891-1905)	
Jan. 29	T	Documentary Film: The Greatest Good Parts I and II	
Jan. 31	TH	Seminar: Focus the Nation, Climate Change Impacts on U.S. National Parks	Arguments due
Feb. 5	T	Lecture: History of public lands management (1905-1960)	
Feb. 7	TH	Lecture: Public Lands Management (1960-present)	
Feb. 12	T	Documentary Film: The Greatest Good Part III	
Feb. 14	TH	Lecture/Seminar: Timber harvests on public lands	Responses due
Feb. 19	T	Guest Speaker: Mark DeGregorio, NPS	
Feb. 21	TH	Lecture/Seminar: Livestock grazing on public lands	Summary due
Feb. 26	T	Lecture/Seminar: Oil and gas leasing on public lands	
Feb. 28	TH	Guest Speaker: Sharon Friedman, US Forest Service	
Mar. 4	T	Public Hearing 1: Public Speakers	
Mar. 6	TH	Public Hearing 1: 1 Land Managers	
Mar. 11	T	Public Hearing 2: Public Speakers	
Mar. 13	TH	Public Hearing 2: 1 Land	

		Managers	
Mar. 18	T	Public Hearing 3: Public Speakers	
Mar. 20	TH	Public Hearing 3: 1 Land Managers	
Mar. 25	T	No Class, Spring Break	
Mar. 27	TH	No Class, Spring Break	
Apr. 1	T	Guest Speaker: TBA	
Apr. 3	TH	Public Hearing Issue 4 Public Speakers	
Apr. 8	T	Public Hearing: Issue 4 Land Managers	
Apr. 10	TH	Workshop: How to write a research paper	
Apr. 15	T	Guest Speaker: TBA	
Apr. 17	TH	Oral presentation of research papers: Session 1	
Apr. 22	T	Oral presentations of research papers: Session 2	
Apr. 24	TH	Oral presentations of research papers: Session 3	
Apr 29	T	Oral presentations of research papers: Session 4	
May 1	TH	Oral presentation of research: Session 5 Class conclusions LAST DAY OF CLASS	Research Papers due