

San Francisco State University
GEOG/ENVS 600:
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS & SOLUTIONS

Fall 2009

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Website is on ILearn (Be sure you have a usable SFSU account, or have your SFSU account forwarded to your other email account)

Schedule: Class meets TuTH 9:35-10:50 am in 278 HSS. I expect you to be on time!

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course examines several major environmental problems at global, state, and local levels. We will discuss basic ecological concepts and mechanisms involved and the impact of these phenomenon on animals, plants, and humans. We will also discuss possible solutions and strategies to improve the environmental state of the world.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Cunningham, William, and MaryAnn Cunningham. 2009. Principles of Environmental Science. 5th edition. McGraw Hill Publishers (4th edition is okay too but you'll have to watch for different pages) Reserved readings are required and are available on ILearn

EXAMS & GRADING: There will be 3 exams and 3 quizzes required. You will also be required to perform 5 hours of specific environmental service (discussed below). A short newspaper assignment as well as two writing assignments will also be required. Exams will cover readings, handouts, lectures, speakers, slides, movies, and any other material assigned or discussed in class. Exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and short essay. The Final Exam will be cumulative.

<u>GRADING:</u>	Points
Quizzes (3) each	10
Exam I	40
Exam II	50
Final Exam	70
Volunteer service and Write Up	40
Addt. Assignments	70
Attend/Participation	10
TOTAL	300

Grading will be on a percentage basis: 100-90% A, 90-80% B, 80-70% C, 70-60% D. Plus/minus grades will be assigned for points near the margins. Attendance will be taken and participation will influence "borderline" grades. No extra credit is available.

Course Policies:

This is a large class and you are expected to respect your instructor and fellow classmates by arriving to class **on time** and by remaining quiet while class is in session. Be aware that you disrupt class and prevent others from learning when you come to class late and talk while information is being presented. You will be asked to leave the class if you persist in these behaviors. You will be given time for small group and whole-class discussions.

Cell phones must be turned off before you attend class. If your cell phone rings during the class period, you may be dismissed from the class or I may answer it

Be aware that the range of abilities and backgrounds in the class is large. What may seem quite easy to you may seem difficult to others, and vice versa. Be prepared to share your knowledge with others and to learn from your classmates.

The nature of this course, in both breadth and content, draws on themes that may provoke independent thought and opinions. In fact, you may be moved to comment/ask questions in this course. I encourage independent thought and student participation to the fullest of my ability. However, you should be aware of a few brief conditions and qualifications that I would like you to observe. I encourage you to be curious, participate in a mature manner and treat your colleagues with the highest degree of respect and professionalism. I, in turn, will treat you and the opinions/beliefs you may hold in an equal manner. Please raise your hand if you have a question/comment. I will moderate all discussions in a fair and equal manner. Please help this university, this course and your colleagues foster an environment of critical thought, learning and mutual understanding as we explore the world.

Students who need special accommodations should please contact me the first week of course and we will work with the Disability Resource Center to make arrangements. Any other special accommodations/questions/situations should be directed to me the first week of course.

Academic Integrity:

The University has established codes concerning proper academic conduct and the consequences resulting from improper behavior. Please be aware of these policies. The most important of which are academic misconduct. Please be aware of these codes as they are observed from this classroom to the California Code.

(1) Students are responsible for knowing the San Francisco State University regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism that are described in the University Bulletin.

(2) Misconduct includes, but is not limited to: cheating on exams; fabrication of reports, assignments, sources, etc.; plagiarism or the reproduction of others' work without **proper** acknowledgment; interfering with another student's work; or helping another student cheat.

(3) Plagiarism is specifically defined as copying another person's words without appropriate acknowledgment. This includes: (a) quoting another person's actual words; (b) paraphrasing another person's words; (c) use of another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or (d) borrowing of facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.

(4) The essays you write for this course are to be substantially your work. That is, long block quotes, paraphrasing or copying from the text or any other source, and copying another student's work are unacceptable.

You should READ the readings PRIOR to the lecture.

Please note: this schedule is subject to change. Please check Ilearn site for updates
RR = reserve reading (check ILearn)

Week of		Assigned (Chapter)
8/25	Introduction to Course Scientific Method	p. 1-22 (1)
9/1	History/Policies Economics of the Environment	p. 352-373(15) p. 340-349 (14) RR 1
9/8	SFSU Closed 9/8 Economics (film)	
9/15	Systems /Matter Env/Biogeochemical Cycles	p. 25-46 (2)
9/22	Ecological Processes	p. 47-72 (3) RR2
9/29	EXAM 1 Biodiversity/Biomes	p. 94-124 (5)
10/6	Biodiversity/Biomes` (cont)	RR4
10/13	Human Population	p. 74-92 (4) RR3
10/20	Air Pollution, Acid rain	p. 201-231 (9)
10/27	Global Climate Change EXAM II	RR5
11/3	Water Pollution/Oceans	p. 232-262 (10) RR6
11/10	Food Safety/Pesticides VOLUNTEER PAPERS DUE 11/12	p. 152-177, RR7
11/17	Toxics/Garbage	p. 310-330 (13)
11/24	T-giving break: No Classes	
12/1	Energy	p. 283-309 (12)
12/8	Land Use, Deforestation Environmental Ethics	p, 330-352 (14) RR8
12/15	FINAL EXAM 8:30-10:30	

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT (40 points)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE (**START EARLY... time tends to fly by**)

DUE NOVEMBER 12 BY 9:35 AM

For this assignment you are required to complete a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer work during the semester. **THIS VOLUNTEER WORK MUST BE PERFORMED FOR AN ORGANIZATION OR GROUP THAT TRIES TO SOLVE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OR DEALS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.** I will also alert you to volunteer opportunities when they materialize. Check the bulletin board for other opportunities. You should choose an organization to volunteer with by making your own arrangements and having them approved by me prior to beginning. Check I Learn class web site for other volunteer opportunities. Don't procrastinate!!!!

In addition to the 5+ hours of volunteer work, you are required to write a 2-3 page paper on your volunteer experience.

This paper must include the following:

What kind of work did you perform?

What environmental problem did this work address?

Did the work directly contribute to solving this problem, if so how? If not, why not?

Was the group you worked with effective in lessening or helping to solve the environmental problem?

Are there other alternatives to solving this particular environmental issue? If so what are they?

What was your overall impression of your volunteer experience?

Would you choose to work with this group again? Why or why not?

Remember to attach the volunteer form to the paper when you turn it in.

PAPER DUE: No later than Nov. 12 at the beginning of class. Feel free to turn it in early. **This paper is required to pass this class.** No incompletes will be given! Remember you can hand in your paper early.

COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM AND HAVE IT SIGNED BY THE ORGANIZATIONS'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OR DIRECTOR. If you work with 2 different agencies use 2 forms.

VOLUNTEER FORM

Student Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

Phone: _____

Volunteer Coordinator or Contact: _____

Hours of work completed: _____

Type of work performed:

Signature of Student _____ Date: _____

Signature of Coordinator: _____ Date: _____