

IDIS 110
World Geography and Global Issues
Culture, Place, and Environment
Fall, 2013

Class Location: Memorial Hall 302
Tuesday/Thursday 2:35pm-3:45pm

Instructor: Professor Elisabeth Stoddard

Office: Zinzendorf 102

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm-5pm or by appointment

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Course Description and Objectives

Course Description

This course will provide students with an introduction to the numerous relationships between human societies and their physical environments, with an emphasis on the significance of place, space, culture, political-economics, and sustainability. We will use geographic concepts to understand nature-society issues across the globe. Among the major themes considered are human adaptations to 'natural' environments, human use and transformation of the environment, questions of environmental limits and sustainability, the politics of nature, and the significance of human-environment relations in both industrialized and less industrial societies.

This course meets Moravian College's M5 Cultural Values and Global Issues general education requirement. It does so through an examination of the ways in which different cultural values and political dynamics which shape our environment and global physical landscapes. We will consider how different understandings and interpretations of "nature" shape global issues, such as conservation, climate change, national identity, and hazards.

Course Objectives

- Students should be able to explain the role that culture and politics plays in shaping the environment and the physical landscape.
- Students should be able to explain the role that science and politics plays in shaping our understanding and conceptualization of nature.
- Students should be able to identify the role of culture and politics in current events and global policy issues surrounding nature-society relationships.
- Students should become more aware of their own cultural values and the common environmental issues we face, making them more prepared to contribute positively to our global future.

Required Texts

Required reading assignments for this course are listed in the class schedule. We will not be using a textbook; instead, we will be using chapters from books, articles, and mixed media that will be **made available through Blackboard**. The assigned readings and exercises are key for a given day's lecture and discussion, as well as for assignments and exams. Therefore, it is *essential* that you do the reading or other assignments for a given class *before* coming to that class.

Attendance, participation, exams, assignments, and grades

Attendance

Class lectures and discussions will cover material that is NOT detailed in the readings, such as key concepts that will be covered on exams. Therefore, it is critical for every student to attend class regularly. You have one unexcused absence for the semester. All other unexcused absences will be deducted from your attendance grade.

Attendance will be taken daily and will count towards 10% of your grade.

Praxis Assignments and Question Sets

You will have 2 question sets and 2 praxis assignments. Praxis refers to putting theory or concepts into practice. For your praxis assignments, you will look for examples of the concepts we are discussing in class in the global news media. You will write one brief paragraph that summarizes the news article and one brief paragraph that explains how particular concepts from class help to explain ideas within the article. The goal of praxis and the question sets is to help you internalize what you are learning and to make you more prepared for the exams and final paper. Praxis and Question sets turned in late will receive a 10% deduction for each day late. If you need to turn in an assignment late, please talk to me before the assignment is due, and we can try to work something out.

Each praxis assignment and question set is worth 5%, for a total of 20% of your grade.

Global news media sources:

- NY Times World: <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html>
- Public Radio International: <http://www.pri.org/>
- BBC News World: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/>
- CNN World: <http://edition.cnn.com/WORLD/>
- All Africa: <http://allafrica.com/>
- Asia News Network: <http://www.asianewsnet.net/home/>
- Europe News: <http://europenews.dk/>
- National Geographic international websites:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/siteindex/international/>

- BBC News-Middle East: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east/
- Al Jazeera: <http://english.aljazeera.net/>
- World Press: <http://www.worldpress.org/>
- The Antarctic Sun: <http://antarcticsun.usap.gov/>
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/>
- National Public Radio (US and World): <http://www.npr.org/>

Exams and Quizzes

There will be two exams, which will each cover about 5 weeks of course material.

These exams are both worth 15%, for a total of 30% of your grade.

There will be two quizzes. Quizzes are intended to give you a sense of the style of questions that will be on the exams. The quizzes will consist of one question, based on the reading for class that day. *Quizzes are each worth 5%, for a total of 10% of your grade.*

Make-up exams. No make-up exams will be given unless the absence is (1) *prearranged with and approved by me* or (2) *the result of a documented emergency* (such as a serious injury). **Documentation is necessary in any case.** *The exam will be a zero unless these conditions are met.* Any other excuses will not be accepted. In the case of flu or other illness, the make-up exam will be either an essay or a verbal exam with the instructor, at my discretion.

Assignments

- *Environmental Racism/Environmental Justice Presentation*
Environmental racism is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on the poor, people of color, and other minorities. Environmental justice is the movement's response to environmental racism-- to not only address the unequal distribution of environmental hazards, but to also abolish them. We will spend a couple of weeks learning about the concepts of environmental racism and environmental justice. Then, in groups of 3, you will give a short presentation (10 minutes) to the class that details an example of environmental racism in areas inside and outside of the US, using presentation software (e.g. PowerPoint). You will also write a one page paper about what you learned from your topic and others. You will be graded by me and your partners. Grades from your partners will be kept confidential. These grades will be combined and will count for 20% of your final grade.
- *Final Paper*
You will research and write an approximately 5 page paper about a current or hypothetical future policy issue focused on relationships between humans

(culture/political-economy/social construction/knowledge/ethics) and the environment. First, you will give an overview of the issue (~ ½ page). Second, you will summarize arguments in favor of the policy (~ 1 page). Then, you will summarize arguments against the policy (~ 1 page). Next, you will defend *your* view on the topic--using 5-10 theories that we discussed in class (~1 ½ pages). These concepts must be highlighted in bold and briefly defined. You will end with a conclusion, discussing the future of the issue (~ 1 page). I will provide multiple suggestions for topics, but you should feel free to propose your own as well. This paper will count as your final exam, and will be via email attachment on our assigned exam day, Wednesday, December 11. You will be asked to hand in your final paper idea on April 18, and your final paper outline on April 23. I will comment on your paper idea and outline and return it to you during the next class periods. The final paper is worth 15% of your grade, with 5% of your final paper grade based on your final paper outline.

Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on the following components:

- Exam 1: 15%
- Exam 2: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Environmental Justice Presentations: 15%
- Final Paper: 15%
- Attendance: 10%
- Praxis Assignments/Question Sets: 20%

Grading scale

A: 94-100
A-: 90-93
B+: 87-89
B: 84-86
B-: 80-83
C+: 77-79
C: 74-76
C-: 70-73
D+: 67-69
D: 64-66
D-: 60-63
F: <60

Academic Integrity

Please act with personal integrity and be respectful of other students. Do not engage in, or tolerate, acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Your written work, including on exams, must be your own. A first infraction will lead to a grade of zero on the assignment or exam in question; a second incident will result in course failure. If you have any questions about how to use or cite sources, please talk with me before turning in the assignment in question. For more details on Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy, see:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

Accommodations and Educational Support

Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Learning Services and Disability Support. Ms. Mara's office is located at 1307 Main Street. She can be contacted by phone at (610) 861-1510 and by email at: marae@moravian.edu. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services. For more information on Moravian College's Disability Support Services, see: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>

Educational Support

The Writing Center is a free resource for improving your writing. At the Writing Center, trained Moravian students can help you to improve your writing. They can help at any stage of the writing process, whether you haven't started the assignment and need help picking a topic, or you're near the end and want to check that everything is in order. The Writing Center is on the second floor of Zinzendorf Hall, and the phone number is 610-861-1592. Their hours vary each semester, but they are generally open Monday-Thursday mornings, afternoons and evenings, and Sunday evenings. For more information on educational support (e.g. tutoring), see:

<http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/tutors.htm>

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments Due
WEEK ONE: Introduction, Environmental Determinism, and Culture and the Environment		
Tues 8/27	1) Geography the discipline: themes and regions 2) Environments determining culture: environmental determinism	None
Thurs 8/29	The impact of culture on the landscape	Mitchell, D. 2000. <i>Cultural Geography: a Critical Introduction</i> , pp. 20-36.
WEEK TWO: Population, Environmental Scarcity, and Markets		

Tues 9/3	Population and Scarcity	Quiz: One question given at the start of class based on the reading. *Read the “Key Terms” first, then read Hartmann, 1995. “Key Terms” for Robbins et al., 2010 Ch. 2 (3 pages) (I will post Ch.2 for your reference in case you want to look at it) Hartmann, B. 1995. “The Malthusian Orthodoxy” <i>Reproductive Rights and Wrongs: The Global Politics of Population Control</i> , selections from Ch. 2.
Thurs 9/5	Market-Based Solutions to Environmental Problems	Robbins et al, 2010. “Markets in Commodities” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 3.
WEEK THREE: Environmental Resources, Scarcity, and Uneven Access		
Tues 9/10	Uneven Access to Resources	Daniel, S. 2011. “Land Grabbing and Potential Implications for Food Security” in <i>Sustainable Agricultural Development</i> , Ch. 2.
Thurs 9/12	Bottled Water: resource scarcity, uneven access, and water grabbing	Robbins et al, 2010. “Bottled Water” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 13. Exam review sheet will be given out at the end of class. Praxis assignment #1: population, scarcity, access to resources. Submit via email by Mon. 9/16 by 10 pm.
WEEK FOUR: Review and Exam I		
Tues 9/17	Review for Exam	Students will be broken into exam review groups. Each member of exam review groups are responsible for coming in with 5 defined terms. Bring review sheet, course materials, and laptops to class for group review session.
Thurs 9/19	Exam 1 in class	Exam 1 in class
WEEK FIVE: Movie: Wasteland and Political Economy Perspective		
Tues 9/24	Movie: Wasteland	No assignments due
Thurs 9/26	Political Economy Perspective	Robbins et al, 2010. “Political Economy” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 7.
WEEK SIX: Political Economy Perspective in Practice and The Social Construction of Nature		
Tues 10/1	Political Economy Perspective: French Fries Group exercise in class: Question Set #1: We will break up into 5 groups. Each group will come up with the	Robbins et al, 2010. “French Fries” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 14. Be prepared for group exercise in class: have Chapter 14 with you (or notes from them) in order to work on questions in groups. Also have your notes from Ch. 7:

	answer for one question on page 265 in Robbins et al, 2010, Ch. 14 “French Fries”. The group will have to explain these answers to the class. Everyone in class who participate in researching and presenting the answers will get credit for the assignment.	Political Economy.
Thurs 10/3	The Social Construction of Nature	Robbins et al, 2010. “Social Construction of Nature” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 8
WEEK SEVEN: The Social Construction of Nature in Practice & Gender and the Environment		
Tues 10/8	The Social Construction of Nature: Wolves Question Set #4: We will break up into 5 groups. Each group will come up with the answer for one question based on page 201 in Robbins et al, 2010, Ch. 11 “Wolves”. The group will have to explain these answers to the class. Everyone in class who participate in researching and presenting the answers will get credit for the assignment.	Robbins et al, 2010. “Wolves” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 11. Be prepared for group exercise in class. The exercise (described to the left) involves answering questions based on page 201 from your reading (above). I will alter these questions to incorporate social construction of nature concepts. Please have Chapter 11 with you (or notes from them) in order to work on questions in groups. You will also need your notes from Tuesday’s class on the social construction of nature
Thurs 10/10	Gender and the Environment	Quiz: One question given at the start of class based on the reading. Rocheleau et al (1996) Gender and Environment: A Feminist Political Ecology Perspective Denton (2002) Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts, and Adaptation: Why Does Gender Matter?
WEEK EIGHT: No Class; Fall Break		
Tues 10/15	No class; fall break	No class; fall break
Thurs 10/17	No class; Prof. Stoddard @ conference	
WEEK NINE: and Environmental Ethics		
Tues 10/22	Environmental Ethics	Robbins et al, 2010. “Environmental Ethics” in <i>Environment and Society: a Critical Introduction</i> , Ch. 5 Praxis assignment #2: Environmental ethics and knowledge, gender and the environment, and the politics of conservation. Submit via email by Mon. 3/18

		by 10 pm.
Thurs 10/24	Exam Review	Students will be broken into exam review groups. Each member of exam review groups are responsible for coming in with 5 defined terms. Bring review sheet, course materials, and laptops to class for group review session.
WEEK TEN: Exam II and Introduction to Environmental Justice		
Tues 10/29	Exam 2 in class	Exam 2 in class
Thurs 10/31	Environmental Justice (EJ) EJ Movie: Semper Fi: Always Faithful	Shrader-Frechette, 2002, "Introduction" in <i>Environmental Justice: Creating Equality, Reclaiming Democracy</i> , pp. 3-18.
WEEK ELEVEN: Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice		
Tues 11/05	EJ: Topics, Concepts, Social Movement Project partners will be assigned Project Assignment and Rubric will be handed out Sign up for presentation dates	Shrader-Frechette, 2002, "Distributive Justice, Participative Justice, and the Principle of Prima Facie Political Equality" in <i>Environmental Justice: Creating Equality, Reclaiming Democracy</i> , Ch. 2. Cole and Foster, 2001, "A History of the Environmental Justice Movement" in: <i>From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement</i> , Ch. 2 pp. 19-33.
Thurs 11/07	Work on EJ presentations with partners at the library	Meet at library ready to work with partners on project
WEEK TWELVE: Environmental Justice Project Presentations		
Tues 11/12	EJ presentations	Groups give EJ presentations Group member graded rubrics due by 8pm
Thurs 11/14	EJ presentations	Groups give EJ presentations Group member graded rubrics due by 8pm
WEEK THIRTEEN:		
Tues 11/19	Local Environmental Justice Issues	Environmental justice paper due: Monday, 11/18 by 10pm as a document attachment via email (stoddarde@moravian.edu)
Thurs 11/21	Field Trip: Proposed Incinerator in Allentown	Field Trip: Proposed Incinerator in Allentown Final paper idea due: One Paragraph:

		Wednesday, 11/20, by 10pm as a document attachment via email (stoddarde@moravian.edu)
WEEK FOURTEEN: Thanksgiving Break-No Class		
Tues 11/26 & 11/28	Thanksgiving Break. No class.	Thanksgiving Break. No assignments.
WEEK FIFTEEN: Final paper outline and review		
Tues 12/03	Research time in library for final paper	Meet in library to begin researching final paper and to start creating your final paper outline
Thurs 12/05 final	Final Paper Outline Workshop	FINAL PAPER OUTLINE DUE IN CLASS, TYPED OUT ON PAPER See Blackboard for Details
FINALS WEEK		
Fri 12/11	Final Paper Due	Final Paper Due by 4:30 pm Submit paper as a word document via email to (stoddarde@moravian.edu) by 4:30 pm