

ENVS 002: International Environmental Studies

Spring 2016

Lectures: Marsh Life Sci. 235, MWF 8:30am-9:20am; Labs: Find the location & time on myUVM or the SOC

Professor: Dr. Ingrid L. Nelson

Email: ilnelson@uvm.edu; Office: 212 Old Mill; Office Hrs. by appointment: Wednesday 9:30am-11:00am; Thursday 4:00pm-5:30pm (On 2/17, 3/16, 4/13 and 4/27 Wednesday office hours are 9:30-10:00 and 11:45am-12:45pm) Contact Cathy Trivieres at the ENVS main desk to make an appointment: (802) 656-4055.

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Benjamin Dube; benjamin.dube@uvm.edu; Office hours by appointment only

Cody Aylward, caylward@uvm.edu; Office hours by appointment only

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (Lab Sections):

Juli Tyson (A01), Akriti Bhargava (A02), Molly Helfend (A03 & A05), Nina Jenson (A06), Caroline DeCunzo (A07), Sammie Ibrahim (A08), Madeleine Lyman (A09), Rebecca Fox (A10), Amy Harkins (A11), Jeremy Romanul (A12), Sophia Hoffacker (A13), Carolyn Richards (A14), Braden Lalancette (A15)

Course Overview

This course offers an introduction to six key international environmental issues: biodiversity, fresh water, agriculture and food, energy, climate change and waste. We explore each of these interconnected issues through introductions to six different analytical approaches that are commonly practiced in environmental studies (protected areas, ecosystem services, agroecology, environmental justice, environmental governance and political ecology). We root each issue and approach to a grounded case study and its local, national and global connections. The course reviews key concepts that are likely familiar to students at this stage of learning, but that we reexamine from critical and diverse perspectives. Students of all interest areas and majors are welcome in this course, which is a foundational course for the Environmental Studies Major and fulfills the University of Vermont's D2 (Human and Societal Diversity) and Sustainability requirements.

Learning Objectives¹

After completing and reflecting on experiences in this course, students should be able to:

- i. Engage in informed conversations that begin to reveal the complex dimensions of 'nature,' the 'environment,' and 'sustainability' across diverse and international contexts (*knowledge/foundations*),
- ii. Develop writing, studying and group-based communication skills that integrate and synthesize economic, historical, ecological, cultural and scientific perspectives (this entails working independently and in groups and encouraging peer- and self-assessment (*application/integration/skills*),
- iii. Think critically about sustainability and other specific environmental practices across a diversity of cultural values and across multiple sites of local, national, global and networked relevance (this entails pausing, reflecting and taking the time to listen to the seemingly obvious, the banal and the

¹ These learning objectives combine themes from UVM's General Education 'Sustainability Learning Outcomes' and pedagogical approaches in L. Dee Fink's *Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses* (2013).

daily facets of life that can be drowned out by more popular narratives about the environment) (*human dimension/personal/values/skills*),

- iv. Begin, as members of society, to deliberately recognize and assess how specific environmental narratives and interventions impact their own lives, shape their behavior and in turn, impact the lives of others (*human dimension/personal*),
- v. Become more interested in and take responsibility for communicating with greater precision as they express their concerns and develop their curiosity (*caring/skills*),
- vi. Develop a greater desire to read texts more than once, by relating to and understanding the text differently each time (through this process, students will build a clearer sense of which analytical approaches they would like to explore in greater depth and what knowledge and skills will be required to do so) (*learning how to learn*).

Course Materials

1. **Required Text:** Morris, K.S., Nelson, I.L., Méndez, V.E. and S. Ali. 2015. *International Environmental Studies*. San Diego: Cognella (order online from the publisher or from the UVM Bookstore). This is the 'First Edition,' not the preliminary edition.
2. **Additional required readings** will be posted on Blackboard or distributed by your Teaching Assistants (UTAs) in your lab section.
3. **iClickers** will be used during lectures for participation and assessment (available at the UVM bookstore).
4. **Recommended writing resource:** Billig, M. 2013. *Learn to Write Badly: How to Succeed in the Social Sciences*. Cambridge and New York: CUP (on reserve in Bailey/Howe Library).

Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade
Course Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab attendance, participation and short activity work (10%), • Lecture attendance (5%), • Blackboard pre-lecture reading quizzes (5%). 	20%
Reflective and Integrative Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section review quizzes (iClicker) (6%), • Writing/lab assignments (28%). 	34%
Major Examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm I (12%), • Midterm II (14%), • Final Exam (20%). 	46%
Total	100%

Guide to Assessments & Related Policies (specific instructions and rubrics will be posted in Blackboard or distributed by your UTA):

Lab attendance, participation and short activity work (10%): You must attend all lab section meetings, beginning the first week of the semester (Monday sections will begin during Week 2). If there is a major foreseeable conflict, you as the student are responsible for contacting your Lab TA and they will help you find a lab on another day of the week to attend (that one time) instead. This must be arranged in advance. If you miss a lab for an unforeseen medical or other situation and if it is not possible for you to attend another lab session that week, please contact your Dean of Students in your college to furnish any appropriate documentation and to inquire about appropriate accommodations through their offices (professors and TAs are not supposed to view any doctor's

notes, etc.). Always inform your Lab TA and both Graduate TAs (Ben and Cody) that you are working with your Dean to address the absence. You are responsible for all weekly writing assignments and for staying in touch with your TA. Participation in lab involves a combination of discussion, activity participation, peer-review and other work. You will set expectations for participation in your first lab session of the course and finalize these expectations during your third lab session. Late arrival to lab will result in a lower participation grade.

Lecture attendance (5%): Ideally, you should attend every lecture. But, you *can* miss up to 4 lectures for the entire semester without penalty to your grade (the negative effects of absences on your exam results and assignments, however, are fairly inevitable). This should cover any issues with unforeseen weather, illness, family or work emergencies, etc. Thus, DO NOT EMAIL PROF. NELSON or the Graduate TAs about any of these types of reasons for lecture absences. After the first week of class, you will sit with your lab section in the lecture hall. This makes for a “community” setting and allows TAs to easily pass information to you. Your Lab TA will be marking your attendance at lectures. It is your responsibility to make sure your Lab TA has you marked down as present on their list for that day of lecture. Any discrepancies in the records should be clarified with your Lab TA. Show up on time to get on the list. The lecture hall doors close 15 minutes into the lecture (8:45). After 8:45 no one will be allowed into the room due to how distracting late arrivals are to others in the room. To minimize distraction, please do not engage in any noisy or distracting activities in class (beverages in closed containers and a small snack such as a granola bar are allowed but DO NOT BRING BREAKFAST TO CLASS). Cell phone use is not permitted in any UVM class, including this one. Do not make work for others by leaving your trash behind. Please respect the instructor and guest speakers by giving them your full attention. Laptop use is not permitted unless an individual has received special permission from the instructor; this accommodation can be revoked at any time.

Blackboard pre-lecture reading quizzes (5%): Readings are due shortly before the day listed in the course schedule. Reading quizzes will become available in the main course Blackboard site 47 hours before the lecture for which they are due. Students must complete and submit the reading quiz in Blackboard **BY 12:30am** before the scheduled 8:30am lecture. For example, shortly after lecture finishes on a Monday (9:30am) the reading quiz for the coming Wednesday’s lecture will become available in Blackboard. Students should be sure to read the assigned reading for Wednesday’s lecture anytime up until before they take the quiz on Tuesday evening before 12:30am (Wednesday). The Blackboard quiz will automatically close at 12:30am and students will not be permitted to access or retake this quiz under any circumstance. **These quizzes cannot be made up.** The questions gauge your initial comprehension of the reading and they can form the basis for section quiz and exam questions. It is a violation of the academic integrity code to ask anyone else to take the quiz for you.

Section review quizzes (6%): These occur on the last day of each textbook/course section. Section review quizzes help to gauge understanding of core concepts and identify ‘trouble spots’ needing review ahead of midterms and the final. Many of these questions will appear again in similar form on the Midterms or Final. Section Review Quizzes will be multiple-choice with the iClicker. It is your responsibility to bring your iClicker to lecture every day. These quizzes can only be made up via arrangement with the Graduate TAs and are ultimately subject to the professor’s discretion. Taking a quiz for a friend is a violation of the academic integrity code and will not be tolerated. First violations will result in a 0% for the entire Section Review Quiz grade for the course. A second violation can result in a failing grade for the course.

Writing/lab Assignments (28%): The *written assignments* have specific guidelines and rubrics that encourage critical analysis of the course material and build upon the lab activities, lecture content and readings. The combination of these writing assignments is worth more than both of your midterms combined. The length and format of each assignment will vary (short essays, revised drafts, formal letters, image analysis and others). All written work should be typed and proofread for errors and neatness. Your Lab TAs and grad TAs can help you identify specific skills that will require improvement for success in the course and in later courses at UVM. **No assignments will be accepted via email.**

Exams (46%): There are two midterms (the first is worth 12% of your final grade and the second is worth 14% of your final grade) and a final exam (20%). Exams will be part multiple choice, part fill-in-the-blank and part essay. The TAs will offer study sessions before the exams for those who are interested. You are expected to be in class for all exams; **missing an exam means failing the exam.** If you cannot take an exam on the scheduled day and time, you must present correspondence citing your reason and supported by your advisor or college dean. Make-up exams are granted solely at the discretion of the professor. Students with registered learning accommodations should make alternative exam arrangements with the ACCESS office in the Exam Proctoring Center.

Extra Credit (up to 1%): You can earn one extra credit in this course, which is worth one section review quiz grade (1%). Our course Graduate TAs Ben and Cody will post pre-approved extra-credit opportunities in Blackboard in 'Course Materials' in the 'Extra Credit Opportunities' folder. You must go to the event and submit a 1-page reflection via email to Prof. Nelson. Your write-up is due within one week (7 days) of the event that you attended. Send information about any proposed events to your Lab TA and our Graduate TAs via email (subject: ENVS 002: Proposed Extra Credit Option). They will notify you of the approval and post the event in Blackboard after consulting with Prof. Nelson.

Course Grading*

A+: 98-100%; A: 93-97.9%; A-: 90-92.9; B+: 88-89.9; B: 83-87.9; B-: 80-82.9;

C+: 78-79.9%; C: 73-77.9%; C-: 70-72.9%; D+: 68-69.9; D: 63-67.9; D-: 60-62.9; F: below 60%

**Warning letters:* If a student has earned a D+ or lower in class, they and their advisor will receive a warning letter suggesting they seek out ways to improve their work or consider withdrawing from class. If you receive one of these letters, please ask your TA or Prof. Nelson for guidance in improving your work.

General Course Policies and Resources

Fostering a Critical and Responsible Learning Environment: Throughout the course, please feel free to express your ideas and enter into dialogue with your fellow students. Although I encourage you to express your views, I expect that you will be courteous to others, respect different views, and refrain from personal attacks—both in class and on-line. In this class we do not debate, we discuss. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by these expectations and all policies outlined in this syllabus will result in a reduced course engagement grade or disenrollment.

Late work: Late Writing Assignment work will only be accepted as outlined in the Assignment Guidelines unless you provide documentation from Student Services in your Dean's Office.

Academic Integrity: All submitted work must be your own. You must distinguish your own words and ideas from those of others by utilizing proper citations and references. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Please also refer to UVM's Code of Academic Integrity and the Academic Integrity Program in The Center for Student Ethics and Standards for further clarification.

ACCESS: I encourage students with documented disabilities to contact me in **the first two weeks of classes** to discuss and arrange accommodations in co-ordination with the ACCESS office. In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Disability Services on campus. ACCESS works with students and faculty in an interactive process to explore reasonable and appropriate accommodations via an accommodation letter to faculty with recommended accommodations as early as possible each semester. Contact ACCESS: A170 Living/Learning Center; [802-656-7753](tel:802-656-7753); access@uvm.edu; or www.uvm.edu/access.

Athletic and religious schedule accommodations follow UVM policy, which can be viewed at <http://www.uvm.edu/cses>.

Recording and Transmission of Course Materials: Consistent with the University's policy on intellectual property rights, teaching and curricular materials (including but not limited to classroom lectures, class notes, exams, handouts, and presentations) are the property of the instructor. Therefore, electronic recording and/or transmission of classes or class notes is prohibited without the express written permission of the instructor. Such permission is to be considered unique to the needs of an individual student (e.g. ADA compliance), and not a license for permanent retention or electronic dissemination to others.

Use of student work: This course may use course participation and documents created by students for educational purposes. In compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, works in all media produced by students as part of their course participation at UVM may be used for educational purposes. It is understood that registration for and continued enrollment in a course where such use of student works is announced constitutes permission by the student. After the course has been completed, any further use of student works will meet one of the following conditions: (1) the work will be rendered anonymous through the removal of all personal identification of the work's creator/originator(s); or (2) the creator/originator(s)' written permission will be secured.

COMMUNICATIONS

Given the size of the course, we need to follow a strict communications protocol for questions or issues you may have related to course content and logistics. If you have any questions, consult the following resources in the following order:

1. The course syllabus and assignment guidelines.
2. Blackboard: Main course and lab section announcements pages.
3. Your Lab TA (have their email and other contact information on hand).
4. Both Graduate TAs (Ben and Cody will get back to you within 48 hours in most cases).
5. Prof. Nelson (you must type 'ENVS002' in the subject line or you may not receive a timely response).

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change due to scheduling logistics and solicited TA input.

ENVS 002 Course Schedule 2016 – Exams and SRQs firm, lecture topics/readings subject to change

Week	Date	Topic	Lab & Assignment	Readings
1	Mon. Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday		
	Wed. Jan. 20	Course Introduction	Lab Introductions, 'Assignment 1 (A1): Introduction to Biodiversity'	Course Syllabus
	Fri. Jan. 22	Species Concepts, Biodiversity & Counting Life		Textbook Introduction; Section 1, Part A
2	Mon. Jan. 25	Making Parks Protect Biodiversity	'Making Species Lists' Lab (A2) (A1 Due in Monday's lecture)	Section 1, Part B
	Wed. Jan. 27	In-Class Film: <i>The Guide (2014)</i>		Wilson 2014, 1-15 (.pdf, BB)
	Fri. Jan. 29	Making Species Lists Protect Biodiversity		Tsing 2005, 155-70 (.pdf, BB)
3	Mon. Feb. 1	Gorongosa and Crisis Narratives	'Protected Areas & Parks' Lab (A3) (A2 Due in Lab)	Schuetze 2015 (.pdf, BB)
	Wed. Feb. 3	'Celebrities/drones/tech./social media in conservation'; iClicker Section 1 review quiz		Section 1, Part D (conclusion)
	Fri. Feb. 5	Introduction: Global Fresh Water		Section 2, Part A
4	Mon. Feb. 8	Ecosystem Services	'Ecosystem Services' Lab (A4) (A3 Due in Lab)	Section 2, Part B
	Wed. Feb. 10	Applying Ecosystem Services in Australia's Murray-Darling Basin		Section 2, Part C
	Fri. Feb. 12	Expertise, calculation and ES		Section 2, Part D
5	Mon. Feb. 15	President's Day Holiday		
	Wed. Feb. 17	Critique of Ecosystem Services; iClicker Section 2 review quiz	'Agriculture, Land Tenure and Labor' Lab (A5) & Exam Wrapper (A6) (A4 Due in 2/16-2/22 Labs)	Online film/lecture TBA
	Fri. Feb. 19	MIDTERM EXAM I		
6	Mon. Feb. 22	Introduction to Agriculture & Global Food Systems		Section 3, Parts A & B
	Wed. Feb. 24	Land and resource tenure and labor		Section 3, Part C
	Fri. Feb. 26	Guest Lecture: <i>Dr. V. Ernesto Méndez</i>		Section 3, Part D
7	Mon. Feb. 29	International Financial Institutions and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)	'IFI Interventions Lab (A7) (A5 & A6 Due in Lab, Tuesday Labs turn in work in Wednesday's lecture)	Graeber 2011 (Introduction) (.pdf, BB)
	Wed. Mar. 2	Forestry as agriculture and carbon solution		Study for upcoming quiz;
	Fri. Mar. 4	Critical Perspectives on Agroecology; iClicker Section 3 review quiz		Section 3, Part E
SPRING BREAK				
8	Mon. Mar. 14	Introduction to Energy Production and Energy Politics	Reflective Writing Lab (A8) (A7 Due in Lab)	Section 4, Part A
	Wed. Mar. 16	Environmental Justice Approaches		Section 4, Part B
	Fri. Mar. 18	Communities of the Mekong River		Section 4, Part C
9	Mon. Mar. 21	EJ Networks, Scale and Mapping Politics	'Energy and Environmental Justice' Lab (A9) (A8 Due in Lab)	Review links, BB
	Wed. Mar. 23	Guest Lecture: <i>Dr. Jennie Stephens</i>		Article posted in BB
	Fri. Mar. 25	Critical Perspectives on Environmental Justice; iClicker Section 4 review quiz		Section 4, Part D
10	Mon. Mar. 28	MIDTERM EXAM II		
	Wed. Mar. 30	Introduction to Global Climate Change Conflicts	COP timelines and diagrams Lab (A10) (A9 Due in Lab)	Section 6, Part A
	Fri. Apr. 1	In lecture Activity led by TAs		Section 6, Part B

11	Mon. Apr. 4	European Union Climate Policy	Climate Lab (A11) (A10 Due in Lab)	Video links posted in BB
	Wed. Apr. 6	Sustainable Development and the Green Economy		Rio+20 Documents (.pdf, BB)
	Fri. Apr. 8	The Green Economy, Governance and Climate Change		Section 6, Part C
12	Mon. Apr. 11	Critical Perspectives on Environmental Governance; iClicker Section 6 review quiz;	Bodies, plasticizers and miasmas lab (A12) (A11 Due in Lab)	Section 6, Part D Liboiron 2013 (.pdf, BB)
	Wed. Apr. 13	Introduction to Political Ecology		Section 5, Parts A & B
	Fri. Apr. 15	Bees and Endocrine Disruptors		Revisit/review Liboiron
13	Mon. Apr. 18	<i>Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch</i> (2012) film	Combined Assignment (A13-14) (A12 Due in Lab during week 13)	Section 5, Part C
	Wed. Apr. 20	The global trade in waste & policy, politics and scale: TB117		Slater 2012 (.pdf, BB)
	Fri. Apr. 22	Nonhuman agency		Research readings for combined assignment
14	Mon. Apr. 25	Practicing political ecologies		Research readings for combined assignment
	Wed. Apr. 27	Critical Perspectives on Political Ecology, iClicker Section 5 rev. quiz		Section 5, Part D
	Fri. Apr. 29	Partial Course Review for Final Exam		Textbook Conclusion
15	Mon. May 2	Lab Groups Present in Class	No Labs. (Present Assignment A14 in Lecture Mon. & Wed.)	Study & project work
	Wed. May 4	Lab Groups Present in Class		Study & project work
FINAL EXAM, Friday, May 6th, 7:30am-10:15am			In Marsh 235 (our lecture location)	

Full citations for select additional required readings posted in Blackboard

Graeber, D. 2011. *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*. Brooklyn, NY: Melville House, pp. 1-19.

Liboiron, M. 2013. Plasticizers: A twenty-first-century miasma. In J. Gabrys, G. Hawkins and M. Michael (eds.) *Accumulation: The material politics of plastic*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 134-49.

McGonigal, J. 2011. Be a Gamer, Save the World. *The Wall Street Journal*. 22 January 2011. Available at: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052748704590704576092460302990884> (Last Accessed 22 February 2016).

Naylor, L. 2012. Hired gardens and the question of transgression: lawns, food gardens and the business of 'alternative' food practice. *Cultural Geographies* 19(4): 483-504.

Schuetze, C. 2015. Narrative Fortresses: Crisis Narratives and Conflict in the Conservation of Mount Gorongosa, Mozambique. *Conservation and Society* 13(2): 141-153.

Slater, D. 2012. How Dangerous is your Couch? *The New York Times Magazine*, http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/09/magazine/arlene-blums-crusade-against-household-toxins.html?_r=0 (last accessed 2 March 2015).

Tsing, A.L. 2005. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 155-70.

United Nations (UN). 2012. United Nations Resolution 66/288 (A/RES/66/288) 'The Future We Want,' adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2012. Available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/476/10/PDF/N1147610.pdf?OpenElement> (last accessed 24 February 2016).

Wilson, E.O. 2014. *A Window on Eternity: A Biologist's Walk Through Gorongosa National Park*. New York: Simon & Schuster, pp. 1-16.