

Geography 22600: Environmental Conservation: Resource Management

Department of Geography and Environmental Science

SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor:	Ramiro Campos
Term:	Spring 2021
Office:	ONLINE via Zoom
Class Meeting Days:	Tuesdays and Fridays. ONLINE and Synchronous
Class Meeting Hours:	02:10 pm – 3:25 pm. ONLINE and Synchronous
E-Mail:	rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu
Class Location:	ZOOM: Please see Blackboard announcements for Zoom Registration and Link
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 4-5 pm; other times by appointment ONLY
Course Mode:	Entirely Online

Course Description

This course introduces students to environmental studies with a focus on the geographic aspect of policy and management of resources. The course will examine issues pertaining to sustaining our resource base (biodiversity, food, soil, water and energy), a review of factors influencing sustainable use, and how humans have impacted these key elements of the natural system. This course will focus primarily on the social sciences and ethics and how they inform our management of natural resources.

Course Overview

This course will introduce learners to the approaches and problems associated with resource conservation in the first stages of the Anthropocene, a proposed era in which human activity has a geologically significant impact on the earth's atmosphere and ecosystems. Learners will be introduced to how political economy, political ecology, and environmental ethics are contributing to our understanding of broad issues such as population and world hunger, water and air pollution, forest management and soil conservation, environmental racism, and how these approaches are being remedied by championing a sustainable approach to managing human and non-human societies. The course will be split into (roughly) two sections: the first is a crash course into the fundamentals of political economy, ecology and ethics as it relates to resource conservation; the second will discuss how understanding political ecology has informed efforts to create a sustainable world.

Class attendance and class participation are a critical part of the semester grade. This means that you must be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day. Imagine that you will be required to give a 2-minute (informal) oral presentation about course materials at the beginning of each lecture.

My teaching philosophy is predicated on the belief that students learn best from their peers, so while the first 4-5 weeks of the course will be conducted in a standard lecture format, the course will shift to a seminar format by the end of September or early October.

I also want you to reject the idea of learning as a passive activity; your goal should be to learn how to **communicate effectively** what you are thinking and learning.

However, any lecture period can develop into a seminar format at any time. I encourage you to ask questions and I expect you to answer other students' question. We always learn best from our peers.

Course Objectives / Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The course is designed to introduce students to the key concepts, themes, methodologies and tools of natural resource conservation. At the end of the course, learners should be able to:

1. Understand how human activity, broadly defined by history and political economy, informs our understanding of the ecological crisis
2. Apply the lessons that ethics, political economy, demography, ecofeminism, colonial history and UN SDG's gives us to resource use, globalization, population growth, environmental racism and novel ecosystems
3. Apply the philosophies of ecology, ecofeminism, climate justice and the science of conservation to evaluate current resource management approaches
4. Apply different approaches to creating a sustainable society by broadly linking energy use, sustainable agriculture, wildlife preservation, patriarchy, neoliberalism and environmental racism to evaluate the movement for sustainable cities as potential drivers of climate justice

Suggested Texts and Materials

1. **HIGHLY SUGGESTED:** Paul Robbins, John Hintz and Sarah A. Moore. 2014. Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction. 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell. ISBN 978-1-118-45156-4
2. **Additional Readings: will be posted on Blackboard**
3. **For further consideration:** Daniel Chiras and John Reganold. 2010. Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future, 10th Edition, Pearson. ISBN-13: 9780132251389

Hunter College Policy on Academic Honesty

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonest, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

It is your own responsibility to understand the college's rules concerning appropriate behavior and what constitutes plagiarism. My penalty for plagiarism or cheating will result in giving you an automatic zero for the assignment or exam for the first time, an F for the course if it is repeated. The college may also take further disciplinary action.

Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. **It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY**, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230. If you need disability-related accommodations for your work in this course, please let me know.

CUNY Assistive Technology Services:

As we all adjust to instruction in a distance learning environment, the CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS) and Media Accessibility Project (MAP) are here to continue to support CUNY students with disabilities. The [CATS website](#) features updates on assistive technology resources, including how-to guides, videos, accessibility resources, and other important information with easy and simple [installation instructions](#) for CUNY students. As a friendly reminder, the following software is available to students for free at-home use, CATS Assistive Technology Lab Package:

Kurzweil 3000 and WYNN are reading and writing software programs used primarily by students with learning disabilities.

ZoomText Magnifier/Reader is a magnification and reading program tailored for low-vision users.

JAWS is a screen reading software program that enables blind or visually impaired users to read the text that is displayed on the computer screen using a speech synthesizer or refreshable braille display.

Fusion is a combination of JAWS screen reader and ZoomText Magnifier/Reader primarily

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

<http://www.cuny.edu/ab>

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College. a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444) b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

Basis for Overall Semester Grade.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Active Participation (Discussion Fridays)	10%
FIVE quizzes (2% each)	10%
FOUR Discussion Board Assignments (10% each)	50%
Three Reflection Papers (two 5% each, one 10%)	20%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

Most of your semester grade will depend on your participation in class as this will form the basis of the discussion board assignments. Other specifics as to the nature of the assignments will be explained on Blackboard for each assignment.

The Hunter College grading system is used in this course:

<http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/content.php?catoid=32&navoid=7880>

Grade Dissemination:

All grades will be posted on Blackboard in a timely manner. Delays to your grades might occur in cases where I may give an extension (to the whole class) or a weather emergency, etc.

Course Policies:

Extensions:

There are no individual extensions for assignments, quizzes, or the final exam UNLESS in the case of a documented medical emergency.

Grades of "Incomplete": No incomplete grades will be given.

Course Completion Policy: All work must be completed by the end of the semester. A "WU" grade will be given to students who do not, at the very least, complete the multiple-choice quizzes.

Extra Credit Policy:

There will be no extra credit assignments given for this course. I might be lying.

Syllabus Grade Change Policy:

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. Please check Blackboard for these changes.

Email: Please e-mail me ONLY after you have checked Blackboard for any announcements, and (preferably) also checked with 3 peers. My e-mail address is

rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu

Course Policies: Student Expectations

1. You are expected to always be mindful of your classmates and do nothing that will interrupt or disrupt the learning process of others (please keep your Zoom on mute when not speaking.)
2. You should consider yourself a scholar in this course, not just a student. You will be expected to learn how to produce knowledge, not just receive it.
3. Should you need to contact me, please email me at rcampos@hunter.cuny.edu, with GEOG 226 in subject line and sign your name as it appears in CUNYFirst. I will do my best to respond within 4 hours, except weekends, when I might take longer.
4. Please follow these links for discussion board etiquette and guidelines
 - a. https://www2.uwstout.edu/content/profdev/rubrics/discuss_etiquette.html
 - b. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVqWcrMPxfY>
 - c. <http://online.purdue.edu/comm/masters-in-communication/resources/netiquette-for-graduate-school-students>

Other CUNY Policies:

Online courses are subject to the same CUNY policies as are in-person courses regarding academic integrity, the acceptable use of computer resources, equal opportunity and non-discrimination, sexual misconduct, workplace violence, domestic violence, and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.

- CUNY Academic Integrity Policy: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policiesprocedures/academic-integrity-policy/>
- CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of Computer Resources: <https://www.cuny.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/cis/itpolicies/ComputerUsePolicy1.pdf>
- CUNY Policy on Acceptable Use of University Data in the Cloud: <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/pageassets/about/administration/offices/cis/information-security/security-policiesprocedures/Acceptable-Use-of-University-Data-in-the-Cloud-2019-8-19a.pdf> (and related Data Classification Standard: <https://www.cuny.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/cis/information-security/security-policiesprocedures/Data-Classification-Standard-CUNY-2019-8-19a.pdf>)
- CUNY Intellectual Property Policy: <https://www.cuny.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legalaffairs/policies-procedures/Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf>
- CUNY information on copyright: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/intellectualproperty/copyright-materials/>
- CUNY Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policiesprocedures/equal-opportunity-and-non-discrimination-policy/>
- CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct: <http://www.cuny.edu/wpcontent/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/legalaffairs/policies-procedures/Sexual-Misconduct.pdf>
- CUNY Campus and Workplace Violence Prevention Policy: <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/pageassets/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/CUNY-Campus-and-WorkplaceViolence-Prevention-Policy-2.28.11-and-amended-9.26.2011.pdf>
- CUNY Domestic Violence and the Workplace Policy: http://policy.cuny.edu/generalpolicy/article-v/#policy_5.061
- CUNY Procedures for Implementing Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments: <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legalaffairs/policies-procedures/reasonable-accommodations-and-academicadjustments/>

RUBRICS

Participation Rubric

Participation will be graded by

1. how prepared you came to class,
2. how reliable were you to answer questions asked by the instructor,
3. how often you asked questions of the course material in class, whether readings, or assignments
4. and, especially, **how much you contributed to the learning environment.**

Reflection Paper Rubric

Papers will be graded by

1. how well you answered the question asked, how well you examined all the material provided for the assignment, if you meet the word count minimum, and how many course concepts you utilized as appropriate to this assignment.
2. whether your post had a clear introduction and body with clear flow, with no spelling or grammatical errors, and how well your response went beyond description.
3. how well you synthesized the materials provided to illuminate course concepts.
4. how well you incorporated superb outside academic knowledge and/or your own personal and/or family/work knowledge to further illuminate course concepts.

Blackboard Rubric

Rubrics will be used to grade your Blackboard assignments and class participation. Each Blackboard assignment will be graded for two categories: completing the assignment which will consist of a 1000-word reflection piece; and responding to at least **four** peers' assignments in a coherent and constructive manner as to produce more discussion by your peers.

The Discussion Board will be graded by

1. how well you answered the prompt, how well you examined all the material provided for the assignment, if you meet the word count minimum, and how many course concepts you utilized as appropriate to this assignment.
2. whether your post had a clear introduction and body with clear flow, with no spelling or grammatical errors, and how well your response went beyond description and how well you synthesized the materials provided to illuminate course concepts.
3. how well you incorporated superb outside academic knowledge and/or your own personal and/or family/work knowledge to further illuminate course concepts.
4. **how well you understood your peers' posts, and how well you used course concepts to reference their best or weakest points.**

Please check Blackboard for the different rubrics used for the different assessments used in this course.

Tentative Semester Outline

Please pay attention to Blackboard for additional readings.

WEEK	TOPIC	Learning Outcome:	Your responsibilities
Week 1 Jan 29 – Feb 2	<u>The Ecological Crisis</u>	We will discuss the course and the course map and what you should expect to learn in this course!	
Week 2 Feb 5 – Feb 9	<u>Lessons from Ecology</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • systems approach to ES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ thermodynamics ○ nutrient cycles/trophic levels ○ ecological succession ○ biomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 1 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
February 12		<u>NO CLASSES SCHEDULE THIS FRIDAY</u>	
Weeks 3 and 4 Feb 16 – Feb 26	<u>History and Political Economy</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • orthodox economics • heterodox economics • the robbery of nature • neoliberalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coase Theorem ○ Tragedy of the Commons ○ Market optimism and carbon pricing ○ Hegemony 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 2 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Weeks 5 and 6 Mar 2 – Mar 12	<u>The Social Construction of Nature and Environmental Ethics</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use vs intrinsic value • Social constructions—discourse, narratives, ideology and decentering • Biocentrism • Religious Ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 3 • Discussion Friday #4 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Weeks 7 and 8 Mar 16 – Mar 26	<u>Population Growth: The Ecofeminist Response</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malthus and Famine • Human population growth and sustainability • World Hunger • Ecofeminism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 5 • Discussion Friday #6 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Mar 27 – Apr 4		<u>SPRING BREAK</u>	

Week 9 Apr 6 – April 9	<u>Foundations of a Sustainable Society</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extractivism • Restoration Ecology • Reconciliation Ecology • Regrets Solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 7 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Week 10 April 13 – Apr 16	<u>Important Environmental Laws</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEPA • Clean Air Act • Clean Water Act • Endangered Species Act 	
Week 11 Apr 20 – Apr 23	<u>Invasive Species and Pest Management/Novel Ecosystems</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to love invasive species • IPM • Soils • Novel ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 8 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Week 12 Apr 27 – Apr 30	<u>Environmental Racism</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders • Climate gentrification • SDG #11 • Brownfields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 9 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Week 13 May 4 – May 7	<u>Sustainable Cities</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities as drivers of climate justice • Designing Cities • Lessons from around the planet • OneNYC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Friday # 10 • See Blackboard for additional readings/videos
Week 14 May 11 – May 14	<u>Looking Forward</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break Open the Household • Making cities sustainable • Revisiting Ethics • Becoming Good Ancestors 	

Expected Final Exam Date and Time: May 18, 2021, 2 pm – 4 pm