

ANTHROPOLOGY/BIOLOGY/GEOLOGY 397
SENIOR SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The senior seminar in environmental studies is an opportunity for students in the Environmental Sciences Concentration to bring to bear their diverse expertise and perspectives on environmental issues. It is meant to be a "coming together" of different sub-disciplines, and a forum for the exchange of different viewpoints.

The seminar meets once per week, for three hours (with a fifteen minute mid-class break!). During the first meeting, we will choose an overarching theme to guide our discussions throughout the semester. Students will choose different subjects of interest under the rubric of this overarching theme, and prepare presentations for the class and lead a discussions on these topics. The number of presentations that each student will give throughout the course of the class depends to some degree on the size of the class, but will generally be between three and four. Each presentation should be thirty to forty minutes in length, and should provide an overview of the history, science, and important policy issues revolving around the topic, and should culminate in a series of questions or topics for class discussion. For each presentation, students should prepare two handouts: a detailed outline, containing abstracts and/or figures as appropriate, and an annotated bibliography with at least ten references. The Geology secretary can provide photocopying and overheads, provided that she receives them at *least 24 hours before needed for class*.

In addition to the student presentations, we will have a number days on which we view a video, read current items from the media, or have hands-on computer or lab experiences. These will be followed by written essays, generally on the order of 1500 words in length (about 5 double-spaced pages). I anticipate about 3-5 such exercises.

If there is sufficient interest, we might arrange for a field trip or two, or for introduction to WWW site construction for dissemination of our outlines and bibliographies.

Grading will be based on your presentations (both oral presentations and handouts), your participation in discussions, and on your written work, as follows:

Oral presentations (35%); organization, ability to provide context, accuracy of information, discussion leadership

Handouts (15%); organization, completeness, accuracy, right level of detail, neatness and legibility.

Participation in discussions (20%)

Written essays (30%)

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SYLLABUS

- 20 Jan *Organizational Meeting; decide on overarching theme*
- 27 Jan *Decide on individual topics*
Introduction to WWW site design; Assignment 1 (Due 10 Feb)
- 3 Feb The dust bowl (Leslie)
The Green Revolution revisited (Patti)
- 10 Feb The rise of agriculture (Miguel)
Bioremediation of land; principles of crop rotation (Becca)
- 17 Feb Capitalism and land use: History and future (Melissa)
Media discussion: Assignment 2 (Due 3 March)
- 24 Feb Agriculture and land use in less developed versus developed countries
(Lauren)
Sustainable forestry (Alisa)
- 3 Mar History of [rice] cultivation (Leslie)
Urbanization and city planning (Miguel)
- 10 Mar SPRING BREAK
- 17 Mar How the Nature Conservancy and other NGO's chose sites for
preservation (Lauren)
Media discussion: Assignment 3 (Due 31 March)
- 24 Mar Viability of permaculture outside of New South Wales (Becca)
Biological controls as an alternative to chemical pesticides and
herbicides (Melissa)
- 31 Mar Ethics of waste disposal (Patti)
Media discussion: Assignment 4 (Due 14 April)
- 7 Apr Suburbanization and the effects of lawns on water quality (Alisa)
Land use changes as a function of transportation systems in place
(Becca)
- 14 Apr Valuation of land—A cross cultural perspective (Miguel)
Natural Park Services in less developed versus developed countries

(Lauren)

- 21 Apr Nutrient content in organically grown produce (Alisa)
Ecotourism—The environmental answer? (Patti)
- 28 Apr U.S. Federal lands: categories, purposes, drawbacks, threats (Melissa)
Ethics of land use in America (National Park System and land
conservation) (Leslie)