SYLLABUS
SPRING TERM 2016
University of Central Florida
Political Science Department
GEO 2370 Resource Geography
CB1 0103 Mo-We 3:00 - 4:20pm
Professor: John R. Swanson

Classes begin January 11, 2016 Classes End April 25, 2016 Final Exam May 2, 2016

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Analysis of basic principles and problems associated with development, use, conservation, and management of natural resources, with special emphasis on the United States.

TEXTBOOK:

Introduction to Geography: People, Places and Environment, Dahlman, Bergman and Renwick, 5th ed. Pearson, Prentice Hall. ISBN 13 978 0 321 69531 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide the student with the basic principles associated with resource development and use.
2. Students will learn about the use, conservation and management of natural resources.
3. Define natural resources and become familiar with specific examples.
4. Analyze the economic factors that control the use of natural resources.
5. Investigate the political importance on natural resource issues.
6. Examine the ecological effects of natural resource consumption.
7. Debate the ethical implications of exploitation vs. conservation vs. preservation.
8. Investigate the issues associated with agriculture, grazing, forestry, and biodiversity.
9. Analyze the use of water resources.
10. Understand the cultural factors that influence the use of natural resources.
11. Investigate traditional and non-traditional energy resources.
12. Investigate the possibility of sustainability.
13. Reciprocal discussions on selected environmental resource issues and topics.

In addition to the specific course objectives mentioned above, the course will also reinforce the following competencies wholly or partially.

Competency 1. Think critically and make reasoned choices by acquiring, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating knowledge.

Competency 2. Read, listen, write, and speak effectively.

Competency 3. Understand and apply quantitative information to changing world circumstances.

Competency 4. Evaluate your own and other's values from individual, cultural, and global perspectives.

TEXTBOOK READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS:

Class 1	M 1/11/16	What Is A Natural Resource - Teams - Research Topics	
Class 2	W 1/13/16	Environmental Models and Concepts - Research Topics	
	M 1/18/16	NO CLASS MLK Jr. DAY	
Class 3	W 1/20/16	Chapter 1	Introduction to Geography - Describing The Earth
Class 4	M 1/25/16	Chapter 2	Weather and Climate
Class 5	W 1/27/16	Chapter 3	Landforms
Class 6	M 2/01/16	Chapter 4	Biochemical Cycles
Class 7	W 2/03/16	Test I	Chapters 1 - 4: Models and Concepts
Class 8	M 2/08/16	Chapter 5	Population and Migration
Class 9	W 2/10/16	Chapter 6	Cultural Geography
Class 10	M 2/15/16	Chapter 7	The Geography of Languages and Religion
Class 11	W 2/17/16	Chapter 8	The Human Food Supply
Class 12	M 2/22/16	Chapter 9	Earth's Resources - Environmental Protection
Class 13	W 2/24/16	Test II	Chapters 5 - 9
Class 14	M 2/29/16	Chapter 10	Earth's Resources - Environmental Protection
Class 15	W 3/02/16	Chapter 11	A World of States
Spring Break	March 6, 2016 thru March 12, 2016		
Class 16	M 3/14/16	Chapter 12 - 13	Economic Growth - Globalization
Class 17	W 3/16/16	Test III	Chapters 10 - 13
Class 18	M 3/21/16	Due Date for Team Projects - Team Presentations Begin	
Class 19	W 3/23/16	Team Presentations	
Class 20	M 3/28/16	Team Presentations	
Class 21	W 3/30/16	Team Presentations	
Class 22	M 4/04/16	Team Presentations	
Class 23	W 4/06/16	Team Presentations	
Class 24	M 4/11/16	Team Presentations	
Class 25	W 4/13/16	Team Presentations	
Class 26	M 4/18/16	Team Presentations	
Class 27	W 4/20/16	Team Presentations	
Class 28	M 4/25/16	Team Presentations - Final Exam Review	
Class 29	M 5/02/16	Final Exam 4:00 pm – 6:50 pm	

These lectures and class schedule may be covered as discreet topics and/or integrated with other topical areas in an order which is at the discretion of the professor. These and other topics may be expanded, elaborated, and/or modified at the discretion of the individual professor and is in no way intended to be comprehensive or all inclusive. Students may contact me through the Political Science Department Office or by webmail.ucf.edu. **Office Hours are Monday and Wednesday 12:00 noon to 2:30 pm or by appointment.**

TEAMS:

Students will be grouped into five (5) member teams. Each team will work as a unit discussing assignments, reviewing for exams, and preparing a research paper organized around The Model For Studying A Place.

TEAM PROJECTS:

A team project will ask students to examine a contemporary natural resource issue from various academic disciplines and work in a coordinated effort to write a final report. The team will organize their report around the Model For Studying A Resource. (Below) **The report will be in MLA Format, no longer than 30 pages in length and be typed, double spaced with one inch margins, and bound.** Due date for the written report is class number 20. Team presentations will begin with class 20 and continue through class 28. The project will be assessed from the perspective of your peers as well as the professor. Each student must be an active participant in both the written and oral presentation to receive full credit for the activity. Thus, 20% of your course grade termed team presentation will be based upon your attendance and involvement in class discussion, your ability to interact with a group, your written report, and your presentation. Grading of the project will be based on the four competencies listed above. Attendance is mandatory for each presentation.

TESTING AND GRADING:

There will be a total of three short answer essay and multiple choice tests on readings from the textbook, lecture notes and classroom discussion, and one cumulative multiple choice final exam (each worth 100 points). Also, 100 possible points will be given for the written research assignment and class presentation. (25 group interaction, 50 written paper, and 25 presentation). Five hundred (500) possible points.

Arrangements for Make-up Tests must be made by the class following the date of the missed test.
Make-up Tests must be made within two weeks of the of the date of the missed test
There will be no make-up tests for the Final Exam without documented extreme emergencies, the consent of the professor, and in accordance with UCF Policy.

GRADING SCALE:

GRADE	PERCENT	POINTS
A	95 - 100	475 - 500
A-	90 - 94	450 - 474
B+	87 - 89	435 – 449
B	84 - 86	420 – 434
B-	80 - 83	400 – 419
C+	77 - 79	385 - 399
C	74 - 76	370 - 384
C-	70 - 73	350 - 369
D+	67 - 69	335 - 349
D	64 - 66	320 - 334
D-	60 - 63	300 – 319
F	< 60	< 300

ATTENDANCE:

It is important to be in attendance at each meeting of this class. Attendance is mandatory during the team presentations. Attendance policy as described in the UCF Student Catalog will be followed.

UCF POLICY:

All policies contained in the UCF Student Catalog will be followed.

MODEL FOR STUDYING A RESOURCE:

I Location and Physical Characteristics: Where Found, Perpetual, Renewable, Potential
II Population: Who uses, Education, Age, Income, Gender, Culture, Political, Social Conditions
III Economic: Issues, Ownership, Technology, Political, Scarcity, Supply/Demand, Substitution
IV History: Changing Conditions , Political, Human/Nature, Conservation, Preservation, Exploitation
V Problems and Prospects: Environmental, Economic, Local, Regional, National, Global, Space/Universe

Parts I, II, III, and IV of the Model are factual information and require footnotes for your source. Part V. is your analysis and conclusion and must be in your own words.

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