The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Seminar in Resource and Environmental Geography: Global Environmental Challenges

Course Number:  
GEOG 6240-220

Course Description:  
Humanity faces mounting environmental challenges at the global scale that make continued development at the present rates both undesirable and unsustainable. The most serious of these problems are those that alter the course of life and lead to the destruction of ecosystems. This course analyzes four specific global environmental challenges. An historical analysis of environmental thought at both the national and international levels provide a window on current understanding of how humans interact with their natural environment and how these interactions will shape our future. A central objective is to facilitate critical thinking on global issues and suggest ways in which sustainable solutions can be developed.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: November 29-December 4, 2011  
Location: Lakenheath, England. See Site Director for classroom location.  
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 31, 2011

Site Director:

Laura Kenning. Phone: 44-1638-52-6186; DSN 226-6186; Fax: 44-1638-532827; E-mail: aplakenheath@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Sally Gros, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma  
Department of Geography, SEC 684  
Norman, OK 73019

Telephone Number: 405-412-8167  
Fax Number: 405-325-6090  
E-mail Address: sgros@ou.edu

Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

1. Materials posted on the Electronic Reserve system: Access the OU Electronic Reserves Page at http://libraries.ou.edu/eresources/reserves/; enter OU NetID (4x4) and password, and select course and access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
Instructional Materials (available through electronic reserve):


Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to analyze the following four major global environmental challenges within the context of the historical origins of current environmental thought: 1) the implications of continuing human population growth, 2) the emerging global fresh-water crisis, 3) the challenge of climate change, and 4) biodiversity loss. Specific objectives include the ability to:

- Explore the historical origins of current environmental thought to gain an understanding of the complex interactions between humans and the environment.
- Assess the controversies surrounding these four global issues
- Explore the opportunities for sustainable solutions and to suggest ways in which to take action
Class Schedule

**Tuesday – Historical Perspectives on Environmentalism**
- Five Page Introductory Paper Due
- In-Class Assignment #1 completed in class
- In-Class Assignment #2 handed out
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Cutter and Renwick
  - Hardin
  - Harper, Ch. 8
  - Haynes

**Wednesday – Implications of Continuing Human Population Growth**
- Assignment #2 Due
- Assignment #3 handed out
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Ehrlich et al
  - Speidel

**Thursday – Emerging Global Fresh-Water Crisis**
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Barlow and Clarke
  - Gleick, Ch. 2
  - Shiva, Ch. 1

**Friday – Biodiversity Loss**
- Assignment #3 Due
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Easton and Goldfarb, Issue 4
  - Tuxill and Bright

**Saturday – Challenge of Climate Change**
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Harper, Ch. 3
  - IPCC

**Sunday – Exploring Sustainable Solutions**
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Cahn
  - Tillbury et al
  - Rootes

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

The course format is lecture-discussion, with the emphasis on discussion. It is expected that you will have completed the readings ahead of time and will be prepared to discuss the questions raised by these readings.

1. A five-page paper (double-spaced) due at the first meeting of class will earn 35% of your grade.

   **Paper Guidelines:**
   
   The ideologies of American Environmentalism have evolved over the last 100 years into collective action and movement organizations. Summarize the perspectives of the major American Environmental Movements as outlined by Harper, Ch. 8 (2008). Compare and contrast the distinct waves of US environmentalism to the relatively new development of environmental movements in the third world as discussed by Haynes (1999).
If you are unsure what is required, do e-mail me with questions. Papers given grades of lower than B may be rewritten, but I must receive them by the end of the course on Sunday.

2. Three short writing assignments assigned during the week of class will earn 30% of your grade and will be graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Principal criteria for grading are clarity of expression and the application of the ideas in the course to new problems. These assignments will usually be extensions of modifications of one of the discussion questions dealt with in class or raised by the readings. Papers graded Unsatisfactory may be rewritten and re-writes must be submitted by the end of class on Sunday.

3. A Final 7 – 10 page paper (double-spaced) will earn 35% of your grade. The final paper should be sent as soon as possible and not later than 15 days after the end of the course in order to properly credit you.

Paper Guidelines:

“Our vision is a world in which there are many opportunities to learn about sustainable development. A world where a skilled population makes informed decisions in their home, community and working lives and in their leisure activities. A world where people understand and take responsibility for the impact they have on the quality of life of the people, locally and globally.”

(Sustainable Development Education Panel, 1999)

Based on the materials covered in the course and the class discussions, select one of the global environmental challenges analyzed and discuss the major issues associated with this environmental challenge. Then, examine the potential for the development of sustainable solutions to address this challenge. What is necessary to promote sustainable development? What are the major obstacles that make it difficult to promote sustainable development? Are there alternative solutions to this global environmental issue?

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Paper</td>
<td>First Class Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement;
- assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Copyright

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Sally Gros, Ph.D.

Education

- B.A. in Geography, University of Oklahoma
- M.A. in Geography, University of Oklahoma
- Ph.D. in Geography, University of Oklahoma

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs Professor since 2003
- Lecturer, University of Oklahoma
- Director of Advising, Department of Geography

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

GEOG 6240 Seminar In Resource and Environmental Geography: Global Environmental Challenges

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Natural Resource Geography
- Environmental Conservation
- Remote Sensing of the Environment
- Digital Image Processing
- Air Photo Interpretation

Representative Publications and Presentations


Major Professional Affiliations

- Association of American Geographers
- American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
- National Geographic Society
- Sierra Club