Course Title:
Seminar in Economic Geography: Sustainability, Economics and Natural Resources

Course Number:
GEOG 6230-223

Course Description:
We have come to a state of difficulty with our planet because we are seeking to consume more than she can provide. Sustainable solutions to these difficulties involve rethinking the way our economy works. This course analyzes four major resource issues from a geographic perspective and within the context of five major schools of economic thought. The 4 major issues include: 1) the emerging global fresh-water crisis, 2) feeding the world’s population, 3) the geopolitics of energy resources and, 4) biodiversity. An analysis of the contribution toward solving environmental issues from a range of economic perspectives provides insight into a variety of sustainable solutions available to address the complex and often conflictual relationship between the operation of the economy and the health of the planet.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: January 31 – February 5, 2012
Location: Geilenkirchen, Germany. See Site Director for classroom location.
Hours: Tue – Fri 6:00 – 9:30 pm; Sat-Sun 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 2, 2012

Site Director:
Valerie Peterson Borro. Phone: 065-44-3654; DSN 423-3654; DSN Fax: 366-6230; E-mail: apshape@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Sally Gros, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of Geography, SEC 505
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:
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).


3. 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.

In addition to the readings from the textbook you also need the following readings which are available through electronic reserve:


4. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

A major objective of this course is to analyze major resource issues from a geographic perspective within the context of the major schools of economic thought in order to propose effective, sustainable solutions. The 4 major issues include: 1) the emerging global fresh-water crisis, 2) feeding the world’s population, 3) the geopolitics of energy resources and 4) biodiversity. Specific objectives include the ability to:

- Explore the 5 major schools of economic thought to gain an understanding of the role of economics in addressing resource/environmental issues.
- Evaluate 4 contemporary resource issues.
- Explore the opportunities for sustainable solutions and to suggest ways in which to take action.
Course Outline:

Tuesday – The Major Schools of Economic/Environmental Thought
- Five Page Introductory Paper Due
- In-Class Assignment #1 handed out
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Cato, Ch. 1-7, 8, 10, & 12

Wednesday – Feeding the World’s Population
- Assignment #1 Due
- Assignment #2 handed out
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Deenen et al
  - Ehrlich et al
  - Harper, Ch. 5
  - Mosely (found on learn)
  - Walsh

Thursday – Emerging Global Fresh-Water Crisis
- Assignment #2 due
- Assignment #3 handed out
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Cato, Ch. 14
  - Barlow and Clarke
  - Gleick, Ch. 2
  - Shiva, Ch. 1

Friday – The Geopolitics of Energy
- Assignment #3 due
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Klare Ch. 1-3, 6, 9

Saturday – Biodiversity
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Tuxill and Bright
  - Cutter & Renwick Ch. 8

Sunday – Exploring Sustainable Solutions
- Please come to class having read the following:
  - Cato Ch. 12 & 15
  - Cutter Ch. 15
  - Tilbury et al

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 study of economics has evolved over the last 150 years into five major schools of thought. Summarize the major tenets of these different schools and their take on the relationship between
resources development and health of the planet as outlined by Cato in Ch. 1-7 (2011). Discuss the contribution of each to addressing the challenge of producing effective strategies and solutions that balance resource development, economic growth and environmental sustainability.

If you are unsure what is required, do e-mail me with questions. Papers given grades lower than B may be rewritten, but I must receive them by the end of the course on Sunday.

2. **Participation and in-class homework/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. **Final 10 - 12 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 topics and guidelines will be discussed during class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Paper</td>
<td>First Class Session</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Class Assignments</td>
<td>During Class Sessions</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Not later than 15 days after class</td>
<td>35</td>
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Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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 Gross, 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 Geogr

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