

GEO 3370 (Section 4126 / Spring, 2005)
CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES
PROFESSOR ABE GOLDMAN

Tue 5th & 6th period (11:45 AM -1:40 PM); Thurs 6th period (12:50 – 1:40 PM)
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COURSE THEMES

This course deals with human use and management of resources and related environmental issues. The class begins by examining aspects of the history of resource use and population growth, from pre-agricultural societies through the Industrial Revolution. Conceptual perspectives on resource issues are then explored, with viewpoints that range from optimistic to grimly pessimistic. The second portion of the course examines a number of important resource issues, including modern population growth, food supply, biotechnology in agriculture, energy sources, air pollution, climate change, water supply and dams, and wilderness and biodiversity. Many current resource debates will be discussed, and the course stresses the importance of variations between industrialized and developing countries in resource conditions and priorities.

COURSE READINGS

A series of articles, book chapters, and other readings is available in a course pack at **Orange & Blue Textbooks** (309 NW 13th Ave; phone: 375-2707).

REQUIREMENTS

Course grades are based mainly on **two examinations** and **two review papers**. Class attendance and participation will also be considered in the grade. The exams are tentatively scheduled for **Tue. Feb. 22 & Fri. April 29** (@ 8AM). Tentative due dates for the papers are **Tue. Feb. 8** and **Tue. April 5** (see below). (*Dates are subject to possible change.*)

Approximate weightings for the course grades are as follows:

Two exams: 55% Two review papers: 40% Attendance & participation: 5%

Each **exam** may include multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. Each exam covers material from that section of the course. The last exam does not include questions from earlier parts of the course.

The **papers** are short (~5 pp) reviews and discussions of one or more articles or chapters in suggested readings that supplement the main course readings. Students will be able to choose among a number of suggested topics and readings. Tentative due dates are **Tue. Feb. 8** and **Tue. April 5**. Further details and requirements will be discussed in class.

You need to attend lectures and do the assigned readings if you expect to do well in the course. The lectures do not necessarily repeat the material from the readings, and the exams include material from *both the lectures and the readings*. Class attendance and participation in discussions will be considered in course grades.

WEBSITE: The syllabus, reading list, study guides, and other course information will be posted on the course website found at: www.geog.ufl.edu (search under Spring course syllabi). Some course material will be available only at the website, not in paper handouts.

- NOTES**
- (1) A student must have a **legitimate documented reason** for missing an exam date. A makeup exam may be permitted within a limited time span after the exam, if the student has a legitimate documented excuse.
- (2) An overdue paper will be penalized (unless the student has a **legitimate documented reason** for the delay). A paper overdue by one week or more will receive a failing grade.
- (3) Plagiarism on the papers may result in a failing grade for the course and referral for disciplinary action by the University of Florida.
- (4) All course work must be completed by the end of the term. There will be **no incomplete grades**.

COURSE OUTLINE (GEO 3370, Spring, 2005)

Approximate dates

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| 1. | <u>Resources in History & in Traditional Societies</u>
A. Pre-agricultural societies; extractive resources
B. Agricultural origins & the creation of new resources
C. Energy in pre-industrial societies & the Industrial Revolution | 1/4 – 1/25 |
| 2. | <u>The Demographic Transition & Population Growth</u>
A. Population growth in the 19 th & 20 th centuries
B. Projections & impacts of 21 st century population | 1/25 – 2/3 |
| 3. | <u>Resource Concepts & Philosophies</u>
A. Malthusians vs cornucopians: Debates on resources, population, & environment | 2/8 – 2/10 |

Review paper #1 due Tue Feb. 8

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| 4. | <u>Food, Food security, & Biotechnology</u>
A. The Green Revolution & 20 th c. food production; Food security & famine
C. Genetically modified crops: potentials & hazards | 2/15 – 2/24 |
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EXAM #1: Tue. Feb. 22 [date subject to change]

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| 5. | <u>Energy, Air Pollution, & Climate Change</u>
A. Energy use & supply
B. Air pollution & control
C. Climate change: science & policies | 3/8 – 3/22 |
| 6. | <u>Dams; Water Scarcity & Conservation</u>
A. Dam construction & impacts
B. Water scarcity, conflict, & conservation | 3/24 – 4/5 |

Review paper #2 due Tue April 5

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| 7. | <u>Fisheries, Biodiversity, & Wilderness</u>
A. "The war against fish"
B. Wilderness, biodiversity, & the human imprint | 4/7 – 4/19 |
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EXAM #2: Friday April 29 @ 8 AM [date subject to change]