NRRT 605 Course Outline, Fall 2015
Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Theory*

Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources
Warner College of Natural Resources
Colorado State University

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Office Hours
Thursdays 12-1pm
and by appointment

*Note: Syllabus subject to change at instructors’ discretion

Schedule: The class meets Thursdays 2:00-4:30pm in Forestry 217. Course ID#: 65589, Section 001, 3 credits.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this graduate-level course is to review social science concepts and research important to the management and conservation of natural resources. Through readings on social science theory and its application in a natural resources context, students will be exposed to current conservation issues and learn how those issues can be addressed through an understanding of human thought and behavior. Case studies will be presented and discussed in class in order to connect theoretical frameworks to on the ground management problems. The course will begin with an introduction to the human dimensions of natural resources field of study, including key themes of research on the social aspects of outdoor recreation. This will be followed by an in-depth look at social psychology applications, and then by an examination of contributions of other social science disciplines to conservation and natural resource-related topics.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will review major concepts, theories, and disciplinary perspectives in human dimensions of natural resources. Through this course, students will:

- Understand the role and importance of human dimensions research in conservation and natural resource management
- Understand the role of theory in human dimensions research
- Become familiar with specific social science concepts and theories commonly applied in human dimensions
- Realize the varied contributions and approaches of different social science disciplines to the human dimensions field

In addition to providing students with information in these areas, an outcome of the course may be to spark ideas for thesis or dissertation research.
III. COURSE MATERIALS

1. Required Text:

   [Referred to in syllabus as “Social Science Concepts” – Purchase at CSU Bookstore]

2. Required Articles/Book Chapters:
   Additional readings will be assigned for certain topics. These readings are noted on the syllabus and will be made available to you on Canvas (or in some cases via email and/or website links) prior to the class session in which they will be discussed.

IV. COURSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Academic Integrity
This course will adhere to CSU’s Student Conduct Code and Academic Integrity Policy described in the 2015-2016 General Catalog: [http://www.catalog.colostate.edu](http://www.catalog.colostate.edu). All students are expected to familiarize themselves with these policies.

Student Athletes / Special Needs
If you are a student with university-approved circumstances that require special accommodations, it is your responsibility to let me know your needs at the beginning of the semester. I will then be able to make accommodations to assist you and help you succeed in this class.

Attendance and Participation
Prompt attendance of class sessions is a requirement for this course. You are expected to do the readings and come to class prepared for discussion. If you need to miss a class, please let me know in advance. It is your responsibility to communicate with me and/or fellow classmates regarding announcements and course content that were covered during a missed class.

Written Assignments
Written assignments completed outside of class must be typed and double-spaced and use American Psychological Association (APA, 6th Edition) style for formatting in-text citation of references and reference lists. I encourage you to take advantage of the University’s writing center for assistance with written assignments. Details can be found at [http://writing.colostate.edu/](http://writing.colostate.edu/). Also see [http://www.apastyle.org/](http://www.apastyle.org/) and [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/) for more details on APA formatting.

Late Assignments, Makeup Work, and Extra Credit
All assignments are due via email no later than the beginning of class on the designated date. Late assignments will be de-valued at 5% per day, including weekends, and will be assigned a zero after five days. If at any time you are concerned about your grade in this course, you are encouraged to communicate with me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester if you are having problems with the class or assignments. There will be no extra credit offered in this course.
V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Grades will be based on performance on:

- **Thought/Reaction Papers**: At various times throughout the semester, students will be asked to write a brief (2-3 pages, double-spaced) paper to demonstrate thinking about course topics. Papers (total of 6) will be developed outside of class, and due dates are noted in the syllabus.

- **Class Participation/Discussion**: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. Students will also be asked to select a topic area relevant to the course and lead an in-class session on that topic area. Student-led sessions are noted in the syllabus, and additional information about content and expectations for these sessions will be provided in class.

- **Final Paper**: Students will write a paper on a particular “theoretical or conceptual domain” relevant to the course and to their research pursuits. This paper will provide an extensive literature review on the domain of interest, demonstrating how it has been applied and why it is important to understand in a conservation/natural resource-related context. Papers must be between 10 and 20 double-spaced pages (not including reference lists) and contain a minimum of 20 references (beyond any listed on the syllabus). More specific guidelines for the final paper, due December 14, will be provided in class.

Points for specific assignments:

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<tr>
<th>Grading Summary</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Discussion</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thought/Reaction Papers (6 @ 5 points each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>100% Total</td>
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Grades will be based on the total points accumulated from requirements listed above. Instructor will use +/- Grading. Grades will be assigned as follows.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94–97</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60</td>
<td>Less than 60</td>
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VI. COURSE CONTENT AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE*

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to change this schedule at any time during the semester. Changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

SECTION I:
OVERVIEW OF HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

August 27th
- Course Introduction & Review Expectations for Class Assignments

September 3rd
- Human Dimensions of Natural Resources: An Introduction & Overview

Social Science Concepts: Chapter 1


Additional Background (Not Required):


**September 10th**

- **Human Dimensions of Natural Resources: An Introduction & Overview (Cont'd)**

See Readings for 9/3

**SECTION II:**

THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

**September 17th**

*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 1 - The Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Field of Study*

- **Social Aspects of Recreation: Overview of Research Themes & Applications**


- **Motivations & Experience-Based Management**


September 24th
*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 2 - Managing for Optimal Experience (Csikszentmihalyi's Flow Theory)

  o *Class Project Session*

October 1st
*DUE: FINAL PAPER & STUDENT-LED SESSION TOPICS

  o Social Aspects of Recreation (Cont’d)

See Readings for 9/17

SECTION III:
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN THOUGHT & BEHAVIOR - A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY APPROACH

October 8th

  o Overview of a (Social) Psychology Approach in Conservation & Natural Resources: Introduction to Attitude/Behavior Theory


  o Attitudes

Social Science Concepts: Chapter 4


**Additional Background (Not Required):**


**October 15th**

*MID-SEMESTER COURSE EVALUATION*

- **Values**

  Social Science Concepts: Chapter 6


- **Norms**

  Social Science Concepts: Chapter 5


**October 22nd**

*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 3 – Topic TBD*

- **Attitude/Behavior Change & Communication Lessons Learned from Social Psychology**


Additional Background (Not Required):


Crompton, T. (2010). Common cause: The case for working with our cultural values. Surrey, UK: WWF-UK. (also see http://valuesandframes.org/)

Conservation on a human scale: The RARE approach. (brochure materials posted, also see www.rareconservation.org)

SECTION IV:
EMERGING THEMES & NEW DIRECTIONS IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY APPLICATIONS

October 29th

*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 4 – Biophilia

Emerging Themes & New Directions in Social Psychology Applications: A Brief Overview

A Biological Basis for Human Behavior?

Social Science Concepts: Chapter 2


Emotions

Social Science Concepts: Chapter 3


November 5th

*DUE: FINAL PAPER OUTLINE

Psychology & Social-Ecological Systems Science


The One Health Concept


One Health Initiative Websites (links will be provided)


**SECTION V:**
MORE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES

November 12th
*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 5 – Children & Nature Movement*

- More on the Contributions of Different Social Science Disciplines: A Brief Overview
  - Environmental Education & Communication


**Additional Background (Not Required):**


November 19th
- Contributions of Anthropology and Sociology to Conservation & Natural Resources


Additional Background (Not Required):


o *Student-Led Sessions*

November 26th

**FALL RECESS - NO CLASSES THIS WEEK**

December 3rd

o Contributions of Political Science and Economics to Conservation & Natural Resources


Additional Background (Not Required):


- **Student-Led Sessions**

**December 10th**

*FINAL COURSE EVALUATION*

*DUE: THOUGHT PAPER 6 - 100 Questions Exercise*

- "Milking the Rhino" Video: Challenges & Opportunities for Integrating Human Livelihood Considerations in Conservation

- Bringing It All Together: A Case Study Exercise Integrating Different Social Science Perspectives

**Week of December 14th (FINAL EXAMS WEEK)**

*FINAL PAPER DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5:00 PM*