

NR541: Conservation Policy, Finance and Governance
Department of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources,
Colorado State University
Fall 2015

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Classroom: Forestry 217
Meeting time: Wednesday, 9:00am-10:40am
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:40-11:40am, and by appointment

Natural resource conservation may be understood as a form of governance through which governments and civil society mediate access to and control over natural resources. This course engages interdisciplinary scholarship across the social sciences to critically examine contemporary governance theories and practices relating to natural resource conservation. We begin with an introduction to concepts and frameworks for diagnosing the social dilemmas that underwrite conservation problems. We then examine emerging approaches to solving those dilemmas in a neoliberal 'glocalization' era in which governance authority and responsibility is shifting up to international and transnational institutions, down to local authorities, and out to non-state actors. This is an intellectually challenging course from which you will gain a conceptual toolkit for diagnosing conservation problems and evaluating potential interventions.

Evaluation and assignments:

Participation (50 points): 10%
Synergy assignment #1 (100 points): 20%
Podcast: (125 points): 25%
Research paper (150 points): 30%
Reading journals (75 points): 15%
Total points possible: 500

Percentage	Letter Grade
98-100%	A+
92-97%	A
90-91%	A-
88-89%	B+
82-87%	B
80-81%	B-
78-79%	C+
72-77%	C
70-71%	C-
65-69%	D
<65%	F

Participation:

We share responsibility for making this course successful. I will do my best to intrigue and challenge you, but what you get out of the class will also be a function of what you put into it. A significant portion of class meetings will include discussions. Students are expected to come to class having completed all the readings for that week and prepared to discuss them.

We will cover a significant amount of material in each meeting. If you need to miss a class due to an illness or emergency, please be proactive about notifying me. If you miss class and there is no extenuating circumstance, your participation grade will suffer.

Reading journal:

To help stimulate your thinking about the readings and facilitate engaging class discussions, you will write a number of critical reviews of assigned readings. Roughly one third of each journal entry should be devoted to summarizing the readings. The rest should be a balanced critique on what you consider to be the main strengths and weaknesses of the text and arguments therein. Each entry must also raise at least one question/issue you would like to discuss in class.

Each entry should be about one page long, and never more than 2 pages (12-point font, single spacing). Entries will be graded on a pass/fail basis. I will be looking for informed critical analysis. **Students who successfully complete 5 journal entries during the semester will receive full credit (15 points each). Entries are due by 4pm on Tuesday evenings before class** so that I can bring your ideas/questions into our class discussions the following morning.

Group Podcast:¹

Working in small groups, your challenge is to create a five minute documentary-style podcast aimed at a general public audience that:

- 1) Outlines a controversial environmental problem by briefly explaining its ecological, social, political, and policy parameters,
- 2) Describes current and/or proposed governance arrangements for addressing the problem,
- 3) Includes the perspective (voice) of at least two ‘real world’ people with a stake in the situation,
- 4) Explains the perspectives of others who might have different opinions about the issue.

In order to produce this podcast you will need to:

- Interview and audio-record at least two ‘real-world’ people.

¹ This assignment has been inspired by and adapted from a course taught at Stanford University called “A Transition to Sustainability.”

- Write a podcast script and record yourselves.
- Integrate your recording and clips of your interviews into the final podcast using GarageBand software (available on CSU library Mac computers) or other.

The project challenges you to succinctly describe an environmental governance problem and intervention, and accurately represent the views of others. *Note that I am not asking you to take a position or make an argument.* The goal here is to increase your understanding of the complexity of environmental governance issues and give you practice at articulating that complexity to others in a creative way. One paragraph topic proposal due: Sept 16. Final podcasts due: Nov 11

Research paper

Each student will select a conservation governance instrument that is currently being implemented in your project site to analyze in a final research paper. In this paper you will:

- Conceptualize the governance problem using course concepts
- Describe the current governance arrangement
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the current approach
- Make an argument for either maintaining the status quo or pursuing an alternative approach, based on a set of clearly articulated evaluative criteria. Your argument should draw linkages between local conditions/experiences and the academic literature.

Your analysis should be substantiated with references to scholarly articles or books AND sources that give you insight into the on-the-ground experiences with your case study topic, including but not limited to project documents/reports, grey literature (i.e. white papers, research reports), newspaper articles, blogs, and web material. Your paper should be no longer than 12 pages, excluding references; double-spaced; and in 12 point Times New Roman font. Due: December 2.

Grading policies:

Late submissions will be penalized by 20% of the total possible points for each day late, including weekends. All grade contestations will result in a full-scale re-grade, which may, in turn, result in either an increase, maintenance, or decrease in grade.

Physically and Learning Disabled Students

Any physically or learning disabled student who is working with the Learning Disabilities Program or Academic Advance Program, please talk to me during the first week of class.

Colorado State University Student Conduct Code

All activities of HDNR students, including those in this course, are governed by the Colorado State University Student Conduct Code, available here:

<http://www.conflictresolution.colostate.edu/prohibited-conduct-individuals>

<u>Course Schedule</u>		
Topic	Date	Readings and Assignment Due Dates
	Wednesday Aug. 26	CLTL Orientation – No class
Course introduction: What is governance?	Wednesday Sept. 2	Lemos, M. C., & Agrawal, A. (2006). Environmental Governance. Annual Review of Environment and Resources, 31(1), 297-325. Bryant, R. L. & G. A. Wilson (1998) Rethinking environmental management. <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> , 22, 321-343.
Field trip	Wednesday Sept. 4	Field trip to Silver Sage Windpower (Laramie County, Wyoming)
Part I: Diagnosing environmental problems		
Political ecology diagnostics	Wednesday Sept. 9	Forsyth, T. 2003. <i>Critical Political Ecology: The Politics of Environmental Science</i> . New York: Routledge. Chapter 2: Environmental science and myths.
Collective action diagnostics	Wednesday Sept. 16	Hardin, G. (1968). The tragedy of the commons. <i>Science</i> , 162(3859), 1243–1248. Ostrom E., Gardner, R., Walker, J. 1994. Rules, games and common pool resources. University of Michigan Press, Chapter 1 pp. 3-21. Podcast proposals due
Sept. 21-25: Synergy Week 1 –Water Supply in the Northern Front Range		
Part II: Intervening		
Emergence of self governance	Wednesday Sept. 30	Ostrom, E. 1990. <i>Governing the Commons</i> . Cambridge University Press: New York. Pgs. 1-14; Chapters 2 and 3. National Public Radio, Planet Money, Bottom of the Well, July 22 2015 (listen to podcast- MP3 file)

Multi-level governance	Wednesday Oct. 7	Singleton, S. 2000. Co-operation or Capture? The Paradox of Co-management and Community Participation in Natural Resource Management and Environmental Policy-making. <i>Environmental Politics</i> 9(2): 1-21.
Oct 12-16: Synergy Week 2		
Market-based approaches	Wednesday Oct. 21	Stavins, R. and Whitehead, B 2005. "Market-based environmental policies," <i>Debating the Earth</i> , Chapter 16, pp. 229-238 Christmann, P., & Taylor, G. (2002). Globalization and the environment : Strategies for international voluntary environmental initiatives. <i>The Academy of Management Executive</i> , 16(3), 121–136.
Oct. 26-30: Synergy Week 3		
Multilateral Environmental Agreements	Wednesday Nov. 4	Speth, J.G., & Haas, P. (2006). <i>Global Environmental Governance</i> . Island Press: Washington. Chapter 4: Environmental Accord: Treaties and International Environmental Law.
Student presentations	Wednesday Nov. 11	Podcast screening
Alternative forms of global governance	Wednesday Nov. 18	Betsill, Michele M. 2001. "Mitigating Climate Change in US Cities: Opportunities and Obstacles." <i>Local Environment</i> 6 (4): 393–406.
Nov. 23-27 Fall Recess – No class		
Part III: Managing conflict in environmental policy		
Conflict and negotiation	Wednesday Dec. 2	Susskind, L., Levy, P.F., and Thomas-Larmer J. <i>Negotiating Environmental Agreements</i> . Island Press: Washington, D.C. pgs. 1-40 Research papers due

**Negotiation
simulation**

**Wednesday
Dec. 9**

Negotiation simulation instructions – to be distributed