Environment and Society
ENVST-UA 101
Spring 2016
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 - 3:15
5 Washington Place, Room 102

Please note that you must also sign up for a required recitation (002-007)

Professors:
Dale Jamieson (dwj3@nyu.edu; 998-5429), office hours Thursday, 330-5 or by appointment @ 285 Mercer, 9th fl
David Kanter (david.kanter@nyu.edu; 998-3876), office hours Tuesday 3:30-5 or by appointment @ 285 Mercer, 9th fl

Teaching Assistants:
Illiana Paul (imp250@nyu.edu), office hours Tuesday, 3:30-5:00, @ 285 Mercer, Room 904
Derek Sylvan (derek.sylvan@nyu.edu), office hours Thursday 11:00-12:00 @ Wilf Hall 318

Description:
A systematic survey of central concepts and issues relating to environment and society including environmental history and concepts of nature and the environment; the rise of environmentalism; environmental skepticism; anthropogenic global change; population and consumption, ecological footprint analysis and other environmental indicators; environmental justice; public goods and collective action problems; regulatory regimes; environmental politics; environmental movements; environmental values; environmental protest and disobedience; and the future of environmentalism. This course is a gateway to the Environmental Studies major and minor, and one of its core courses. It will cover a very significant amount of demanding material, in order to prepare students for upper-level courses. This course will be challenging, and students should expect a steep learning curve. Teaching Assistants will be available to help students along the way.

Reading:
Texts will be made available via NYU Classes

Requirements:
You are required to attend every lecture and recitation and do all of the assigned reading. In addition you are required to write 3 essays of 750-1000 words. You will have the option of rewriting one of the first 2 papers in response to comments, but with no guarantee of an improved grade. For each assignment you will have the choice of writing an essay on one of about 3 topics. Late papers will only be accepted if you have a
very good excuse and notify your TA by the due date at the latest. The only exceptions to this policy are at the absolute discretion of the instructors and will result in a reduced grade. Paper 1 will be assigned 2/23 and is due by the end of the day on 3/1; paper 2 will be assigned on 3/29 and is due at the end of the day on 4/4. Paper 3 will be assigned on 5/5 and is due at the end of the day on 5/12. Optional rewrites are due by the end of the day on 5/5. In addition you will be required to post questions or comments on the readings eight times during the semester (no more than one posting per class). You will also be graded for attendance and participation in your recitation. If you need to miss a class or recitation, or you fall ill, please contact your recitation leader or one of the professors ASAP. Missing more than one recitation without permission will negatively impact your grade. “A lot” of absences (i.e. five or more recorded by your recitation leader) will cut your attendance grade by around half. “A couple” of absences (i.e. 2-3 recorded by your recitation leader) will reduce it by about 10%.

Grading:
The essays will determine 60% of your grade, postings 20%, and attendance and participation in recitation 20%

Plagiarism and Academic Support:
Plagiarism results in failure in the class and referral to your academic dean. Examples of plagiarism include: copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes and references; not citing a source used in your papers; citing internet information without proper citation; presenting someone else’s work as your own; or inadvertently copying verbatim from any source. More detail can be found at http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity. NYU offers academic support and tutoring at the University Learning Center: www.nyu.edu/cas/ulc , (212)998-8085.

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

1/26: Course overview and introduction

1/28: Ideas of Nature
Read McKibben, Steffen et. al., Weisman

2/2-2/4: Ideas of Nature continued
Read Merchant, Snyder, Leopold

2/9-2/11: Environmentalism and Environmental Movements
Read Muir, Carson, Bullard

2/16-2/18: Environmentalism and Environmental Movements continued
Read Gottlieb, Shellenberger & Nordhaus, Guha
Read Malthus, Taylor & Buttel, Chertow, Ehrlich & Daily

3/1-3/3 (first paper due): Population and Consumption continued
Read McDonough, Maniates, Kolankiewicz

Read Hardin, Ostrom, Petrzelka & Bell, Van Vugt, Hourdequin, Anderson & Leal

3/15-17 Spring Break

3/22-3/24: Values and Justice
Read Thoreau, Goodin

3/29-3/31 (second paper assigned): Values and Justice continued
Read Passmore, Holland, Schlosberg

4/5-4/7: Environmental Controversies (Fisheries)
Readings TBD

4/12-4/14: Environmental Controversies (Urban vs. Rural)
Read Owen, Abbey

4/17-4/19: Environmental Controversies (Green Revolution vs. Agrarianism)
Read Borlaug, Berry

4/26-4/28: The Anthropocene
Read Allenby, Keith

5/3-5/5 (third paper assigned, optional rewrite due, last day of lecture): TBA

5/12: Third paper due