Course Instructor:  Dr. Robin Roth  
Hutt 131; e-mail: robin.roth@uoguelph.ca (put 3210 in subject)  
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 -1:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:  
TBD

Lectures:  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:20, ROZH 102; Friday Online

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine the concepts and methods used by the state to manage the natural environment. Through an investigation into contemporary environmental issues in Canada (with occasional reference to other areas of the world) we will develop an understanding of the particular rationales for and evolution of state management. Important trends and issues are treated with particular attention to Indigenous rights.

At the end of the course you should be able to:

- Identify and explain the rationales for state-led resource management including conflict, uncertainty, resource collapse, common property, externalities
- Identify and explain resource management strategies including command and control, adaptive management, co-management, public participation
- Critically apply course concepts in order to engage how current environmental changes and conflicts are represented in the popular media

Skill Acquisition

In addition to learning the content, this course is designed to improve your abilities in:

- Communicating the nuance and complexity inherent in environmental issues clearly and effectively
- The use of advanced concepts in the analysis of popular media
- Effective and concise writing

Course Expectations

The course will introduce you to the course material through a combination of lecture, discussion, guest lectures, film and debate. My expectation is that you gain insight into the benefits and challenges of state resource management. I hope that you will be motivated to explore these issues and topics further in academic, professional, community and/or personal pursuits. I do not expect you to agree with me or with each other or to adopt a fixed approach or to merely absorb a fixed package of "facts". I do expect an intensive engagement with the subject matter and with the process of learning in the class. I will encourage respectful debate,
discussion and dialogue as we explore issues that I believe to be critical to how we live in the world.

**Course Format**

Though the course is scheduled for M, W and F from 11:30-12:20, we will rarely be meeting on Fridays. Regular lectures will be held on Monday and Wednesdays with Friday activities being online. This is what is referred to as a ‘blended’ format. The online component is required and is crucial in meeting some of the learning objectives in this class. See the weekly schedule for more details.

**Required Readings**


Additional readings will be assigned as required and available on Courselink

**Evaluation**

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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>Online Discussion</td>
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<td>35%</td>
<td>Short written Assignments</td>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>Final Exam (Take home; due December 7th)</td>
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**Mid-Term Exam (FRIDAY October 13, in class, 25%)**

The objective of the mid-term is to ensure that you review and critically engage with the material introduced in lectures, films, and readings. The mid-term exam will be a mix of short answer and essay questions. It will cover material from the lectures and readings of weeks 1-6.

**Short Written Assignments (35%)**

A key component of this class is to connect what we’re doing in lecture and in the readings with what is happening right now in the world beyond our classroom. Through the use of newsactivist, an online scholarly blogging site located at www.newsactivist.com, you will post three blogs throughout the semester (400-500 words worth 10% each). There is also a 5% introductory assignment and a 2% bonus for most commented on post. Detailed assignment worksheet to be handed out on the first day of class.

**Final Exam – (Take home, December 7, 40%)**

The final exam will cover material from the whole term, although it will be more heavily focused on material from after the mid-term. The exam will be distributed in-class on November 30th and due December 7th @ 21:00. The format will be short answer and essay questions.