GEOG*3210: Management of the Biophysical Environment

Fall 2018 Course Outline
Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, University of Guelph

Provisional - SUBJECT TO REVISION

A complete course syllabus will be distributed in the first week of class

Course Instructor:

Dr. Faisal Moola, PhD
fmoola@uoguelph.ca (put 3210 in subject)

Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
TBD

Lectures:

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:20, ROZH 120; Friday Online Component

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 will be treated with particular attention given on the intersection of Indigenous Peoples and their rights with colonial law and policy.

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;
- Be familiar with the significance of Indigenous Rights in resource development conflicts, including Treaty and Aboriginal Rights as well as Canada’s obligations as a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
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
- Effective peer-to-peer commentary and cross-cultural communication skills
- 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 2:30 – 3:20, 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

25% Mid-term Exam
35% Short written Assignment
40% Final Exam (Take home)

Mid-Term Exam (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 Assignment (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. You will be responsible for writing a briefing-note submission on a current environmental issue to a real policy-maker and to offer recommendations on how to resolve the issue.

Final Exam (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 format will be short answer and essay questions.

*Note that all lecture material, including films, all readings and all online material may be covered on exams.*

University of Guelph Policy

Statements:

**E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly:
e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

**When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor [or the teaching assistant in the case of the proposal or essay] in writing,
with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. Where possible, this should be done in advance of the missed work or event, but otherwise, just as soon as possible after the due date, and certainly no longer than one week later. Note: if appropriate documentation of your inability to meet that in-course requirement is necessary, the course instructor, or delegate, will request it of you. Such documentation will rarely be required for course components representing less than 10% of the course grade. Such documentation will be required, however, for Academic Consideration for missed end-of-term work and/or missed final examinations. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.
(http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/08-ac.shtml)

**Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2018 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, November 2, 2018. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar
(https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c03/c03-fallsem.shtml).

**Copies of Out-of-Class Assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.
Academic Misconduct
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University’s policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors. To better understand your responsibilities, read the Undergraduate Calendar for a statement of Students’ Academic Responsibilities (https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c01/index.shtml); also read the full Academic Misconduct Policy (https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml). You are also advised to make use of the resources available through the Learning Commons (http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/) and to discuss any questions you may have with your course instructor, TA, or academic counsellor.

Instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion, can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. Similarly, students who find themselves unable to meet course requirements by the deadlines or criteria expected because of medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances should review the university’s regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration in the calendar (http://www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/08-ac.shtml) and discuss their situation with the instructor and/or the program counsellor or other academic counsellor as appropriate.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, is a serious offence at the University of Guelph. Please consult the Undergraduate Calendar for offences, penalties and procedures relating to academic misconduct. (www.uoguelph.ca/undergrad_calendar/08-amisconduct.shtml),