

Gundars Rudzitis
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Geography 420
Fall, 2012

Land, Resources and the Environment

Brief Description:

This course considers the concept of land and property, and the various resource and environmental conflicts that have arisen over the use and regulation of private, public, and communal lands, both in the American West and internationally.

We examine alternative ways of organizing or modifying societies drawing upon alternative approaches rooted in a geography-of-limits, social justice, ecological economics, bioregionalism, political ecology and the place-based literature. We also focus on what can be learned about sustainability from an indigenous perspective, using examples from American Indian Nations and other indigenous groups around the world.

Grading Procedure and Attendance Policy

The course is run in a lecture-group discussion style. There will be periodic quizzes based on the reading assignments, lectures, and videos. I will drop the quiz with the lowest grade and the average of the remainder will count for 70 percent of your grade. There will be no makeup quizzes. If you don't take a quiz, for whatever reason (medical, athletic, idleness and sloth, other, ...etc.), it will count as the one dropped. There will be no midterm or final exam. The remaining 30 percent of your grade will be from class participation. This is an active learning environment and participation in class discussions based on the readings, lectures and you own life experience is an integral part of the class. Also, in accordance with UI attendance policy, if you miss three classes you can expect to drop one grade. Four or more absences normally will result in a D or F.

Books:

P. Robbins, *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2012.

W. R. Travis, *New Geographies Of The American West: Land Use and the Changing Patterns of Place*, Island Press, 2007.

S. Deb, *The Beautiful and the Damned: A Portrait of the New India*, Macmillan, 2012.

R. Patal, *The Value of Nothing: How to reshape society and redefine democracy*, Picador, 2009.

G. Rudzitis, editor, 2nd edition, *Visions of a Future Sustainable Palouse*, Sustainable Idaho, 2012. This should be available later in the semester.

Additional article readings will be put on electronic reserve at the library and will be indicated on the monthly readings handouts.

Initial Reading Assignments: Please do the readings before coming to class.

Mon. 8/20 Introduction to course

Wed. 8/22 Chapter 1 in Paul Robbins, *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, 2nd edition, 2012.

Fri. 8/24 Robbins, chapters 2

Mon. 8/27 Robbins, chapter 3

Wed. 8/29 Robbins, chapters 3 & 4

Fri. 8/31 Robbins, chapter 4

Mon. 9/3 No class Labor Day

Wed. 9/5 Quiz 1, Robbins, chapters 1 to 4.