

ENVS 300 INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Fall 2007  
ASSISTANT PROF. GLENN FIELDMAN, INSTRUCTOR T.A.: David Friedman  
OFFICE: HSS 330; (415) 405-2431; glenn@sfsu.edu  
HOURS: 11:30-12 MW, and by app't.

### SYLLABUS

As the introductory course in S.F. State's interdisciplinary environmental studies program, this course has several objectives:

- 1) To explain and emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and solutions and the corresponding interdisciplinary nature of the ENVS program. This will be illustrated through both lectures and readings.
- 2) To explain the environmental impacts of the U.S. political/economic system as a system.
- 3) To acquaint students with the history, dynamics, and problems of, as well as opportunities for, environmentalism as a movement, especially in the United States but also globally.
- 4) To encourage students to become effective actors on behalf of the environment, and to understand the necessary, intimate connections between environmental defense and social justice in the 21st century, both in the U.S. and globally.

### WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM STUDENTS:

- 1) **Regular class attendance and participation.** You will not be graded on your attendance per se, but you will have a difficult time passing the class if you do not come. In the event you are on the borderline between an A- and a B+, for example, at the end of the semester, good attendance will help you.
- 2) **Timely completion of the assigned readings;** in addition to the textbooks, students are asked to follow current environmental events through regular newspaper reading and seeking out environmental news on the internet.
- 3) **Two exams** (each will include some essay questions), one at midterm, one final. Study guides will be provided prior to each exam. Exams will be 40% of final grade.
- 4) **Five short papers (1-1/2 -2 single-spaced pages each** in 12-point font.) Each paper should be based on a *newspaper article that is relevant to a topic we have discussed in class* during the period before the paper is due, and each paper should also cite at least one of the *assigned readings*. In the course of the semester, you will need to show that you have read *all* of the assigned books. Newspaper articles don't have to be specifically "environmental." For example, trade, the construction of new airports, etc., are economic activities that have profound environmental consequences, so you can use articles about such subjects (and by the way, feel free to cite more than article in a given paper.) If you need help getting started, see David or me—but do not wait until a day or two before the assignment is due. If you would like help with your writing, please contact the Learning Assistance Center (drop in at HSS 348, call (415) 338-1993, or e-mail [lac@sfsu.edu](mailto:lac@sfsu.edu).) Papers will be 60% of final grade. **Get them in on time; late papers will be penalized and will not be accepted at all if more than a week late.**

**Plagiarism**—the use of material drawn from articles, books or any other source without citing and/or using quotation marks when appropriate—is a serious offense and may result in ZERO credit for the assignment, depending on how much of the assignment is plagiarized. **DON'T DO IT! (It's easier to detect than you may think.)** If you're not sure how or what to cite, ask David or me for help.

If you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact me. The Disability Programs and Resource Center is available to facilitate reasonable accommodations. The DPRC, located in SSB 110, can be reached by telephone at 338-2724 (voice/TTY) or by e-mail at [dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu).

### REQUIRED READING

Philip Shabecoff, *A Fierce Green Fire*

Hannah Holmes, *Life on the Lawn*

John Bellamy Foster, *The Vulnerable Planet*

Spray and McGlothlin, *Global Climate Change*

Required internet readings shown with topics below

Newspaper (the San Francisco Chronicle is fine) at least 3x per week

RECOMMENDED: "Living on Earth" radio show, KQED (88.5 f.m.) Saturdays, 4 p.m., and "Quest" (also on KQED) on urban environmental problems, Friday mornings @ 8:30

**APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE:**

Aug. 29 Introduction to course

Sept. 3 Labor Day; no class

Sept. 5-10 Indigenous Americans and Europeans: ways of life, ways of thought. Read Bellamy Foster, 1 & 2, Shabecoff, 1, and "Introduction to Indigenous Traditions," by John Grim, Yale University. Website: Forum on Religion and Ecology (locate with a Google search)

Sept. 12-17 Environmental transformation: The European conquest of the Western hemisphere and its consequences. Read Shabecoff, 2, and Part I ("Spring") of Holmes.

**Paper #1 is due Sept. 19**

**Last day to add or drop: Sept. 24**

Sept. 19-Oct. 15: Capitalism and democracy, American style. Read: Foster, 3, Spray and L McGlothlin, 5, Part II of Holmes.

**Paper #2 is due Oct. 8**

Oct. 17-24 Preservationism, conservationism, and the Progressive Era. Shabecoff, 3, Foster, 4. Holmes, Part III.

**Midterm is Oct. 29**

Oct. 31-Nov. 14 The affluent society and the emergence of mainstream environmentalism; law, politics, science and the courts. Bellamy Foster, 5-6, and Shabecoff, 4-7.

**Paper #3 is due Nov. 14**

**Last day to withdraw: Nov. 16**

Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving break. No class. Finish Holmes, and read Shabecoff, 8-10.

Nov. 26-Dec. 3. Successes and failures of mainstream environmentalism; grassroots challengers. Shabecoff, 11. Also read "The Death of Environmentalism" by Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus at Grist website, and Carl Pope's response on behalf of the Sierra Club at Sierra Club website ("Pressroom") December 2004 (or just do a Google search using author's name, article title or description)

**Paper #4 is due December 5**

Dec. 5-12. Conclusion: Rethinking environmentalism. Finish Bellamy-Foster and Shabecoff. Spray/McGlothlin, 1-4, and 6-7.

**Final exam: December 19, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.**

**Paper #5: Due December 19. Hand in with final exam.** If you want your final and paper mailed to you, please bring a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the final exam (3 stamps should be enough). I will mail the papers to you sometime in January, after the holidays.