GEOGRAPHY 370
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
FALL 2008
Tu/Th 9:30-10:45 (Section 1)/2:00-3:15 (Section 2)

GENERAL INFORMATION:
Instructor: Kathleen Farley, Ph.D.
Office/Phone: Storm Hall 313, 594-8472
Email: kfarley@mail.sdsu.edu
Office hours: Tues 3:15-4, Wed 1-2, or by appointment
Behind the Stories, 3rd edition. San Francisco: Pearson Benjamin
Cummings. (referred to as “text” in course schedule)
Prerequisites: Geography 101 or 102
Blackboard: There is a Blackboard website for this class, which will have
copies of this syllabus, copies of course assignments, additional
readings, and class announcements

COURSE OVERVIEW:
The relationship between people and the environment is fundamental to the functioning
of our society. We depend on natural resources for everything from the production of
food to the provision of water. At the same time, our activities and choices, including the
kinds of products we buy and the kind of transportation we use, will influence how well
the environment supports our society into the future. In order to manage natural resources
effectively, we need to develop an understanding of the science behind the systems we
are trying to manage as well as an understanding of how environmental and societal
priorities interact in the effort to translate that science into policy.

The first part of the course will be divided into 5 broad environmental themes: energy,
water, air, soils, and biological diversity. The second part of the course will focus on
approaches to environmental management and conservation. By the end of the semester I
hope that you will be able to:
• understand the major management and conservation issues associated with energy,
water, air, soils, and biodiversity
• identify and differentiate among approaches to environmental management and
conservation
• evaluate critically the ways in which information on the environment is
communicated and discussed
• analyze complex environmental problems and issues
• distinguish among conservation strategies and recognize them in their application
• articulate your own reasoned positions on environmental issues
• value environmental science as a basis for developing informed opinions and policies
on environmental issues
• work effectively in groups and collaborate with classmates
Grading:
Grading for the class will be divided as follows:

- 2 mid-term exams: 100 points each (200 points total)
- 3 assignments: 50 points each (150 points total)
- In-class participation and presentations: 50 points total
- Final Exam: 100 points
- TOTAL: 500 points

Help and Feedback:
Office hours are intended to provide individual help, discuss problems or interests, or just to get acquainted. I am more than happy to work with you during these times or, if my office hours conflict with your schedule, at other times. Please don’t miss out on getting help because you are reluctant to ask for it. I also invite you to provide comments or suggestions about the course, its content, the way and pace at which the information is presented, the exams, or other course issues.

Assignments:
1. Assignments #1-2, article critiques: Over the semester, each student will write reviews of 2 assigned articles related to the environmental themes and/or to the approaches to conservation discussed in class. These assignments will contribute to several of the goals of this class; in particular, they are intended to foster your ability to critically evaluate the ways in which information on the environment is communicated.

2. Assignment #3, take-home assignment: This assignment will be handed out at the end of class on November 20 and should be submitted by e-mail on November 25. We will not have a class meeting on November 25, so this assignment will take the place of that class.

In-class Participation and Presentations:
- Over the course of the semester, groups of students will be responsible for giving short presentations. These will include presenting synopses and interpretations of readings or videos as well as overviews and interpretations of fieldtrips. There will also be a number of group activities done in class which will be included in this grade.

Class Policies:
1. Exams: You are responsible for all information covered in lecture, including guest lectures, videos, podcasts, and other types of presentations, as well as reading assignments. Exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Mid-terms will focus on the material covered since the previous exam; however, they also may draw on material covered earlier in the semester. The final exam will be cumulative. No make-up exams will be given.

2. Readings: You are responsible for doing all readings prior to class and for coming to class prepared to discuss them. In addition to the readings noted in the schedule,
students are responsible for occasional supplemental readings that will be assigned during the semester.

3. **Assignments:** All assignments must be typed, with 12 point font and 1 inch margins on all sides. They should be printed double-sided, if possible. Hand-written or improperly formatted assignments will not be accepted. Points will be deducted for grammatical and spelling errors. Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date.

4. **Late assignments:** Full credit for late assignments will only be given in case of documented illness or another valid, documented reason. Twenty percent will be deducted for each day that an assignment is late; after one week, no late assignments will be accepted.

5. **Attendance:** I do not take formal attendance, but there will be some in-class exercises, done either individually or in groups, and you must be present in order to receive credit for those exercises.

6. **Special accommodations:** If you will need special accommodations due to a documented disability, or if you will miss class due to participation in a university-sponsored sport, due to a religious holiday, or for another documented and valid reason, you must let me know within the first two weeks of class.

7. **Cheating:** Cheating, including plagiarism, is not acceptable. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on that exam or assignment and will be reported to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me, or see this website: http://wps.prenhall.com/hss_understand_plagiarism_1/0,6622,427064,-00.html

8. **Schedule:** The schedule is subject to change; topics may be covered on a different day than scheduled.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Sept</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sept</td>
<td>Perceptions of the environment, sustainability, and the scientific method</td>
<td>text: ch.1 and pp.674-5</td>
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**ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES & ISSUES**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sept</td>
<td>Energy basics, the carbon cycle, energy from fossil fuels</td>
<td>text: ch.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Sept</td>
<td>Global climate change</td>
<td>text: pp.504-516</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Sept</td>
<td>Global climate change: effects and responses</td>
<td>text: pp.516-539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Sept</td>
<td>Alternative sources of energy</td>
<td>text: pp.575, 579 (table), 588-598 and ch.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Sept</td>
<td>Watersheds, the hydrologic cycle, water resources</td>
<td>text: pp.412-429</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Additional Information</td>
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| 30 Sept| Water quantity: water in California: FIELDTRIP TO WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN | *Archibold and Johnson, 4/4/07  
review: [http://www.thegarden.org/history.html](http://www.thegarden.org/history.html) |
| 2 Oct  | Water quality and water pollution                                      | text: pp.429-439         |
| 7 Oct  | Midterm #1                                                              |                         |
| 9 Oct  | The atmosphere; air pollutants; CO₂ as a pollutant                      | text: ch.17 (pp.473-488)  
*Kintisch, 9/8/06 |
| 14 Oct | Types of air pollution: ozone depletion, acid deposition                | text: ch.17 (pp.488-495)  |
| 16 Oct | Air pollution in southern California                                    | *Barringer, 8/3/05       
*A.P., 8/9/07 |
| 21 Oct | Soil formation and soil erosion                                        | text: ch.9 (pp.233-243)   |
| 23 Oct | Desertification and salinization                                       | text: ch.9 (pp.244-258)   |
| 28 Oct | What and where is biodiversity? Assignment #2 due                       | text: ch.11 (pp.294-301)  
*Zimmer, 3/6/07 |
| 30 Oct | The value of biodiversity                                              | text: ch.11 (pp.301-323)  |
| 4 Nov  | Threats to and protection of biodiversity                               | *Dean, 9/5/06            
*Zimmer, 1/23/07 |
| 6 Nov  | Midterm #2                                                              |                         |

**APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & CONSERVATION**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Veterans Day – NO CLASS</td>
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| 13 Nov | Conservation vs. preservation; resource management                    | text: pp.26-37 and      
pp.329-331          |
| 18 Nov | Parks and other protected areas: FIELD TRIP TO MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK | text: pp.348-353         |
| 20 Nov | Policy and legislation                                                | text: pp.57-83           |
| 25 Nov | Economic approaches: conservation easements: NO CLASS MEETING, take-home assignment (Assignment #3) due by e-mail by the end of the regular class meeting time | *Lucas, 9/27/04          
*Lee, 9/20/05          
*Archibold, 11/5/06    
*Seelye, 7/3/03         |
| 27 Nov | Thanksgiving – NO CLASS                                               |                         |
| 2 Dec  | Economic approaches: markets and ecosystem services                    | text: pp.37-52           
*Daily et al. 2000     |
| 4 Dec  | Alternative and “green” production and consumption                    | *Williams, 7/1/07        
Pollan: pp.239-261     |
| 9 Dec  | The land ethic and deep ecology                                       | Leopold: pp.239-51       |
| 11 Dec | Environmental action                                                  | text: pp.658-671         |
| 18 Dec | **FINAL EXAM:** 10:30-12:30 (SECTION 1)                               |                         
1:00-3:00 (SECTION 2)  |

*available on Blackboard