

**GEO 200 – Sections 001 & 002:
Conservation of Global Environments
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Wen Lin

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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Monday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm; and by appointment

Class Time and Place:

Section 001: Tuesday and Thursday 9:25 - 10:50 am, Cowley 201

Section 002: Tuesday and Thursday 12:40 - 2:05 pm, Cowley 201

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to some fundamental principles of the natural environment and examines current environmental issues and the basic concepts of environmental conservation. Topics considered include: history of conservation, population dynamics, food and hunger, biodiversity, air and water pollution, climate change, and resource use and environmental sustainability.

General Education Requirement: GEO 200 fulfills a General Education requirement for one course under Liberal Studies Component B, International and Multicultural Studies: Becoming a World Citizen.

Course Text and Readings:

You are responsible for doing all the readings as listed on the course schedule and assigned in class.

Text: Cunningham and Cunningham, 2006, 3 ed., *Principles of Environmental Science: Inquiry and Applications*.

Additional Readings: These will be assigned in class. They will be posted on D2L for you to download, or will be given as handouts in class. You should assume the material in these readings is important and it will be tested on.

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Attendance at lectures is essential to understanding the course material and for good performance on the exams. Attendance and participation for exercise 4 is required for full credit for this exercise.

Grading:

There will be 3 exams, 6 exercises and 5 (out of 6) quizzes. Your course grade will be assessed as follows:

3 exams = 60 %

5 quizzes = 10%

6 exercises = 30%

- 1) **Exams:** The exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The multiple choice portion of the exams will not be returned to you. Material for the exams will be taken from lectures, exercises, videos and the assigned readings. The exams will draw firstly on the material presented during class, so class attendance is extremely important. The final exam is not comprehensive.

You are expected to take the exams at the scheduled time. Make-up exams will be given ONLY for exceptional circumstances, such as illness or university-approved event, and proof will be required. In cases where you have a scheduling conflict for a university-approved event, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me at least TWO WEEKS BEFORE the exam. In the case of emergencies, it is YOUR responsibility to notify me that you will be unable to attend, preferably BEFORE the exam or else WITHIN 24 HOURS after the exam.

- 2) **Quizzes:** There will be 6 in-class quizzes but only 5 will count toward your final course grade. This means that you may miss one quiz as your lowest quiz score will be dropped. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions. **They will not be scheduled and may be given at any time. There are no make-ups for missed quizzes, no exceptions.**
- 3) **Exercises:** The exercises consist of a variety of activities that you will complete outside of class. You will be expected to turn in typed answers to questions. Due dates are given on the course schedule.

Grade Scale:

A = 100-93%, AB = 92-88% B = 87-83% BC = 82-78% C = 77-70% D = 69-60% F = 59% and below

Disability Accommodations: If you have a documented disability, please come and see me as early as possible in the beginning of the semester and I will make every effort to accommodate your special needs. Please note the following important information:

“Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, or hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the instructor and the Disability Resource Services Office (165 Murphy Library) at the beginning of the semester. Students who are currently using Disability Resource Services will have a copy of a contract that verifies they are qualified students with disabilities who have documentation on file in the Disability Resource Service Office.”

Videos: Videos related to the course will be shown regularly throughout the semester. Information provided in the videos may be included on the exams. There will be very few (if any) opportunities to make-up videos missed in class.

Incompletes: I do not give incompletes except for medical or similar emergencies, and proof will be required.

Uncollected Student Work: Student work that has not been collected by the student will be disposed of at the end of 4 weeks into the following semester.

Academic Misconduct (Cheating and Plagiarism): Academic misconduct is a violation of the student honor code. Please read the code available on the university web site and be sure to understand it. <http://www.uwlax.edu/records/97-99/UG-Cat/regulat.html> . All work handed in for this class must be your own. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in the failure of the assignment, exam, or the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the Eagle Eye for a detailed definition of academic misconduct: <http://www.uwlax.edu/StudentLife/main2.html> . For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/MurphyLibrary/plagiarism.html> .

Course Schedule:

The schedule outline is subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due Time	Text and Additional Readings
1	9/8, 9/10	Class introduction; A brief history of US conservation		Leopold, "The Land Ethic" (available on D2L); Chapter 1
2	9/15, 9/17	U.S. environmental policy; Food chains/webs and energy	Exercise 1 due: Thursday, September 17 (submit to D2L Dropbox by midnight)	Ch. 15 Ch. 2: pp. 36-38
3	9/22, 9/24	Species populations; Human populations: introduction	Exercise 2 due: Thursday, September 24 (submit to D2L Dropbox by midnight)	Ch. 3: 49-62 Ch. 4: 74-79
4	9/29, 10/1	Human populations: demographics Exam 1: Thursday, October 1		Ch. 4: 79-91
5	10/6, 10/8	Introduction to biodiversity; Biodiversity: Overview of ecosystems, threats and preservation		Ch. 3: 62-70 Ch. 5
6	10/13, 10/15	Introduction to ecosystem conservation; Ecosystem conservation: Forests, prairie, wetlands	Exercise 3 due: Thursday, October 15 (submit to D2L Dropbox by midnight)	Ch. 6
7	10/20, 10/22	Ecosystem conservation: Forests, prairie, wetlands; Approaches to conservation: Species vs. ecosystem		Ch. 6
8	10/27, 10/29	Food and environment		Ch. 7
9	11/3, 11/5	Exam 2: Tuesday, November 3; Atmospheric basics		Ch. 9: 198-213
10	11/10, 11/12	Stratospheric ozone an air pollution; Addressing climate change	Exercise 4 due in class Tuesday, November 10 - attendance required	Ch. 9: 213-226
11	11/17, 11/19	Water resources: use and		Ch. 10

		pollution		
12	11/24, 11/26	Introduction to energy Thanksgiving: No class on Thursday, November 26		Ch. 12
13	12/1, 12/3	Energy: fossil fuels and nuclear; Energy: alternatives	Exercise 5 due: Thursday, December 3 (submit to D2L Dropbox by midnight)	Ch. 12
14	12/8, 12/10	Consumption and waste	Exercise 6 due: Thursday, December 10 (submit to D2L Dropbox by midnight)	Ch. 13: 307-318
15	12/15	Sustainability		Ch. 14: 328-338
Finals	12/17; 12/21	Exam 3 (Final Exam) Section 001: Thursday, December 17, 10:00am - 12:00 noon Section 002: Monday, December 21, 10:00am – 12:00 noon		