

# GEOGRAPHY 673: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY

**Fall Semester, 2008**

**Class Time: W 2-5p**

**Location: Kendall 202**

**Instructor: Joel Hartter**

**Office: 103B Huddleston Hall**

**Phone: 862-7052**

**Email: joel.hartter@unh.edu**

**Office Hours: M 11-1p or by appointment**

Contacting your instructor by email is preferred. Students should put GEO 673 in the subject line of the email.

## **Texts**

No formal text for this class. Readings will be provided in class via Blackboard

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with a sampling of current environmental issues, presented in a geographic context. Geographers are inherently interested in the spatial arrangements of resources, landscapes, and people. As such, this course will emphasize the importance of spatial scale as well as temporal scale in discussions and analysis. The course is not a political ecology of contemporary global environmental issues, but inevitably environmental issues are politically charged, and so politics and policies will to some extent (with or without intention) be interjected. It is ok to have a political ideology linked with the topics discussed in class, as long as students back their opinions up with facts, and as long as students respect all classmates regardless of viewpoint. The course will be interactive and students are expected to participate every class period. This is a writing intensive course, so there will also be plenty of opportunity to present your arguments and opinions on issues in written form. Although this is not an English course, the quality and content of your writing will be considered in your graded assignments as I believe writing is one of the most important skills you will use throughout your life.

## **Grading and Assessment**

### *Reaction papers – 40%*

Out of the 8 topics we discuss in class, I want you to discuss your reaction and position to 4 of those topics. Use what you have learned in class and in the readings to strengthen your arguments or position. Papers should be a minimum of 4 double-spaced typed (New Times Roman 12 point font, 1" margins) pages. References **MUST** be cited properly (not just listed) and do not count towards the 4 page length requirement. Note: points will be taken off for improper citations. If you have questions about citations, please come and see me. You must have at least 4 references. Readings from class may be used to support your argument, but do not count towards the total required references. A maximum of 2 websites may be used as references. Reaction papers are due 1 week following the completion of the topic by 2p in hardcopy and electronic form – no exceptions.

*Reaction paper re-write*

You have the option of re-writing your graded reaction paper for 50% of the deducted points. Re-written papers are due 1 week after it is handed back in class. To receive credit, you must turn in 1) electronic copy of re-write and 2) original graded hardcopy.

*Position paper and presentation – 35%*

Pick an important environmental issue either at the national or global scale and explore this issue. I want you to write a position paper written to the US Senate Advisory Committee on the Environment, and argue for or against the US’s position. Why should we get involved? Why should we not get involved? Is our current position incorrect or is it appropriate? Start off by providing a well-written, thorough background on the issue and then construct a well-thought out and organized argument. Remember, you will need references to support your argument. Cite them in the body of the text as well as at the end of your paper. Write this paper as a formal report. Spend lots of time on this; make it a professional report, as this is the majority of your grade. There will be opportunities to revise this paper and rewrite during the semester. At the end of the semester, you will give a 15 minute talk to define the problem and then persuasively argue your position. **More details will be provided in class.**

Rough draft – 5%

Paper – 25%

Presentation – 5%

*Final Exam (Essay) – 15%*

*Participation – 10%*

Below is a breakdown of how letter grades are assigned

95-100%	A	77-79%	C+	67-69%	D+
90-94%	A-	73-76%	C	63-66%	D
87-89%	B+	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-
83-86%	B	60-69%	D	below 60%	Fail
80-82%	B-				

**Notes**

(1) A student must have a **legitimate documented reason** for missing an exam date. A makeup exam may be permitted within a limited time span after the exam, and **ONLY IF** the student has a legitimate documented excuse.

(2) An overdue paper will be penalized (unless the student has a **legitimate documented reason** for the delay). A paper overdue by one week or more will receive a failing grade.

(3) Plagiarism and cheating are both academic crimes. Never (1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself, (2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class, or (3) cheat on an exam. If you do so, it will result in a failing grade for the class, and further ramifications at the University level. Please see me if you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism. Anyone caught cheating on an exam will be reported to the college.

Note: You must properly cite all of your sources. Failure to do so correctly constitutes plagiarism.

(3) Please note the University has no tolerance for students who break the University Academic Honesty Policy. Please see the Students Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities Handbook for a full description (<http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/srrr0708.pdf>).

(4) All course work must be completed by the end of the term. There will be **no incomplete grades given**.

### **General Rules**

While some circumstances make being absent from classes unavoidable, students are expected to attend all classes. It is the student's responsibility to attend classes and the student who fails to do so will also suffer the consequences of being absent, such as missed concepts, etc. Talking during the class lecture is not permitted because it is disruptive and prevents others from receiving their money's worth (they too have paid for the course). Students will not be required to remain in the class and may leave at anytime if they must talk. Students must turn off all pagers, cell phones and other noise making devices as this too is disruptive.

### **Dissemination of Information**

Information will be posted regularly to the course website. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for any changes to the course schedule, and for updates on quizzes and exams.

### **Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to be punctual, decently dressed, and to turn their cell-phones off prior to the commencement of lectures. Students are expected to attend every class.

### **Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with Disability Services for Students in the Memorial Union Building, Room 118 (862-2607) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

## Tentative Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Sept. 6	Class intro Human population, poverty, and environmental stress
Sept. 13	Human population, poverty, and environmental stress
Sept. 20	Feeding the world – agriculture and biotechnology
Sept. 27	US forest management – timber, wildlife, wildfire, forest health Part 1: Old growth
Oct. 1	US forest management – timber, wildlife, wildfire Part 1: Forest health, wildfire, salvage logging
Oct. 8	Biodiversity, wilderness, protected areas
Oct. 15	Biodiversity, wilderness, protected areas
Oct. 22	Water
Oct. 29	Water
Nov. 5	Fisheries
Nov. 12	Fisheries
Nov. 19	Energy and alternative fuels
Nov. 26 – no class	
Dec. 3	Energy and alternative fuels
Dec. 10	TBD
Final Exam	<b>TBD</b>