

Conservation and Use of Natural Resources

(01:450:211:01) Index 27647

Fall Semester, 2009

Instructor: Roger Balm balm@rci.rutgers.edu

Office hours: Mondays, 2:00-5:00 PM in Lucy Stone Hall B-238 (Livingston Campus), or by appointment.

Class location and time: Lucy Stone Hall B269 (Livingston Campus): Tuesday, Friday 3 (12:00-1:20).

Text: A course packet of required readings specifically written for this course is available through the Livingston Bookstore. The approximate cost is \$15.

Course Overview

This course focuses on the United States experience in resource conservation and use, an experience distinctly different from that of any other country. All of the principal resource types will be investigated stressing the role of market forces, legal issues, stakeholder influence and government intervention. We will examine key legislation and regulatory frameworks and review some current best-practices in conservation that stress sustainable management of natural capital and environmental systems.

Schedule (topic dates approximate)

Class Date	Topic	Readings
1	Tues, Sept 1	Introduction and Orientation

<u>Unit 1: Concepts</u>		Chapter 1
2	Fri, Sept 4	Resource Definitions and Concepts
	Tue, Sept 8	Monday Schedule. No Class
<u>Unit 2: Historical Aspects of US Resource Management</u>		
3	Fri, Sept 11	Abundance and Exploitation
4	Tue, Sept 15	Sink Limits and Source Limits
5	Fri, Sept 18	Sink Limits and Source Limits
<u>Unit 3: Resource Economics and Law</u>		
6	Tue, Sept 22	Exam 1
7	Fri, Sept 25	Resources and the Market
8	Tue, Sept 29	Resources and the Market
9	Fri, Oct 2	Law, Property, and Resources
<u>Unit 4: Land and Life</u>		
10	Tue, Oct 6	US Soil and Land Base
11	Fri, Oct 9	US Soil and Land Base
12	Tue, Oct 13	Croplands and Food
13	Fri, Oct 16	Exam 2
14	Tue, Oct 20	Croplands and Food
15	Fri, Oct 23	The Forests
16	Tue, Oct 27	The Forests
<u>Unit 5: Water Resources</u>		
17	Fri, Oct 30	Water use and Supply Management
18	Tue, Nov 3	Water use and Supply Management
19	Fri, Nov 6	Water Pollution Control
20	Tue, Nov 10	Exam 3
21	Fri, Nov 13	Water Pollution Control

Unit 6: Energy

22	Tue, Nov 17	US Energy Mix	Chapter 8
23	Fri, Nov 20	Fossil Fuels and their Substitutes	Chapter 8
24	Tue, Nov 24	Fossil Fuels and their Substitutes	Chapter 8

Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday, Nov 25th-Sunday, Nov 29th

25	Tue, Dec 1	Energy and US Air Quality	Chapter 8
26	Fri, Dec 4	Energy and US Air Quality	Chapter 8
27	Tue, Dec 8	Resources and the Waste Stream	Chapter 8
28	Fri, Dec 11	Resources and the Waste Stream	Chapter 8

The final exam for the course will be held in our regular classroom on Wednesday, December 16th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM

Exams

There are three exams plus a final exam. Each of these exams (including the final exam) uses a multiple-choice format. The final grade for the course is the average of the final exam grade plus the two highest grades earned from exam 1, exam 2 and exam 3. The lowest grade earned from exam 1, exam 2 and exam 3 is dropped. The numerical calculations used for determining final grades are posted on *Sakai* (see *Calculation of Course Grades* posting).

Exam 1 is based on lectures and readings from the beginning of the course through Friday, September 18th. **Exam 2** is based on lectures and readings from Friday, September 25th through Tuesday, October 13th. **Exam 3** is based on lectures and readings from Tuesday, October 20th through Friday, November 6th. The **final exam** is cumulative and will cover all material from the beginning through the end of the course. **The final exam is compulsory for all students.** Scores and grades are posted on *SAS Gradebook* as soon as possible after each exam.

Makeups are granted only for cases of religious observance, family bereavement, illness, official university business, military service or jury duty. Please do **NOT** request a makeup unless your absence is covered by one of these situations. Documentation is required in all cases, preferably provided through an academic dean. Makeups are sometimes given in essay format. **There are no extra-credit assignments available for this course.**

Calculation of Grades

The final grade for the course is the average of the final exam grade plus the two highest grades earned from Exam 1, Exam 2 and Exam 3. The lowest grade earned from Exam 1, Exam 2 and Exam 3 is dropped. It is the grade for an exam that matters for purposes of calculation, not the raw score; it makes no difference how close a raw score came to a higher grade. All exams are weighted equally.

To find the average the following numerical equivalents are totaled and divided by three:

A	4.00
B+	3.50
B	3.00
C+	2.50
C	2.00
D	1.00
F	0.00
Unexcused absence	0.00

Using the resulting averages, the following numerical equivalents are used to determine the final grade for the course:

3.76-4.00	=	A
3.30-3.75	=	B+
2.65-3.29	=	B
2.16-2.64	=	C+
1.50-2.15	=	C
1.00-1.49	=	D

< 1.00 = F

By this formula, those with a grade record of B+, A, A would earn an A as a final course grade. Those with a grade record of B+, B+ and A would earn a B+ as a final course grade. The same calculation is used if the final exam is not taken and is an unexcused absence, but an additional reduction of one (1) letter grade will be applied.

Class Behavior and Attendance

All cell phones must be switched off and put away while in class. In consideration of others please do not engage in unnecessary conversation while class is in session. Rutgers University's Policy on Academic Integrity defines all forms of unacceptable behavior, including cheating, and procedures for dealing with violations. You should be familiar with this policy. Attendance is recorded via check-in sheets that will be circulated on random dates.