ERSC303

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

Course Summary

Course : ERSC303 **Title :** Conservation of Natural Resources
Length of Course : 8
Prerequisites : GEOG103 **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course examines the ways in which modern economies use and conserve natural resources, and how the use of those resources impacts the environment. Resources are defined not just by their physical properties. They are, in part culturally defined. This necessitates investigating how cultures conceptualize resources, how economies value resources and what political and social institutions have been created to manage resource use. The extraction and use of resources has consequences for societies and their physical environment. This course explores these consequences through a survey of the major categories of resources and the issues associated with their extraction, use and conservation. It also examines the prospects for establishing more sustainable resource management. (Prerequisite: GEOG103)

Course Scope:

This 8-week course is appropriate for undergraduate students who wish to gain an in-depth understanding of the processes by which societies define, make use, manage and conserve natural resources, and of the environmental consequences of that use. As a 300-level science course, this course presumes basic knowledge about Earth systems. As such it is most appropriate for students with an interest in Earth and environmental sciences. It is also appropriate for students interested in the economic and social dimensions of resource use who wish to deepen their understanding of environmental consequences of resource extraction, use, conservation and sustainable development and management.

Objectives

Afrer successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain how societies define and value natural resources (human populations, soil, water, forests, wildlife, climate, energy sources), and conservation priorities.
2. Define and discuss categories of natural resources, such as renewable and nonrenewable energy sources.
3. Analyze the impact of human societies (i.e., population growth, economies) on resource use.
4. Explain sustainable resource use (i.e., air, water, land/soil) and major challenges involved in achieving resource conservation and sustainable societies.
5. Analyze the prospects of future energy resources and the roles in sustainable societies and conservation

of natural resources.

Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Resources and Conservation

Learning Objectives

CO – 1, CO - 2

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 1, 2, 3

Assignment

Forum #1

Week 2: Population Dynamics and Resource Use

Learning Objectives

CO - 2, CO - 3, CO-5

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 4, 5

Assignment

Forum # 2

Week 3: Soil Resources

Learning Objectives

CO – 3, CO - 4

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 6, 7

Assignment

Forum # 3

Assignment #1

Week 4: Aquatic Environments and Resources

Learning Objectives

CO – 3, CO – 4

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 9, 10

Assignment

Midterm Exam, Forum #4

Week 5: Water Pollution and Fisheries

Learning Objectives

CO – 3, CO – 4

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 11, 12

Assignment

Forum #5

Assignment #2

Week 6: Forests and Wildlife

Learning Objectives

CO – 3, CO – 4

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 14, 15, 16

Assignment

Forum #6

Week 7: Air Resources

Learning Objectives

CO – 3, CO – 4, CO - 5

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 18, 19,20

Assignment

Forum #7

Final Presentation with Narration

Week 8: Energy Resources

Learning Objectives

CO – 1, CO - 3, CO – 4, CO - 5

Readings

Textbook: Chapters 21, 22, 23

Assignment

Final Exam, Forum #8

Evaluation

Forum Assignments:

We can learn as much from each other and academic investigation as we will from the material. The purpose of the Forums is to develop our understanding of the weekly readings and forum topics. This participation is required. (WARNING: First Forum topic (Introduction) must be at least 250 words long. Your response must be submitted before the end of the first week, it is our way of confirming your attendance in the course. See instructions in classroom.)

For each forum, all students should respond to the forum topics indicated in the Forums area to express their understanding of the issue and ability to research academic information to add to the discussion. You are expected to provide a substantial comment of several well-written paragraphs in each forum. You are also required to post a substantial comment or reflection in reply to at least **two** other students' contributions. All sources must be cited correctly and posts must use appropriate writing styles and grammar for academic work. Criteria for evaluation will include proper application of concepts from the required readings. Statements such as "I agree" or "good post" will not count as a reply. The grading rubric is provided in the classroom.

Exams:

There are 2 exams in this course. The format of the exams will be mainly short answer and essay questions. You may use the book during exams, although they will be constructed so that you must do the reading before you take the test. You may not use any other resource during exams, and using a resource other than the textbook is a violation of the university academic honesty policy. All answers must be in your own words.

Final Project (3 Assignments):

There is a 3-part series of Assignments culminating a quality 15-minute presentation, such as you might deliver in a professional or academic setting, on a problem related to the conservation of natural resources. Your topic should be specific enough for you to introduce it, describe it, examine issues, and assess potential solutions within the time allotted. You must reference at least 7 academic sources (peer-review papers). Being able to distill and present complex ideas is a vital skill for scientists to have, and one purpose of this presentation is to give you experience in doing this.

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

Grading:

Name	Grade %

Materials

Book Title: Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future, 10th ed - the

VitalSource e-book is provided inside the classroom

Author: Chiras

Publication Info: VS-Pearson

ISBN: 9780132251389

Required Technology

- See the Technology Requirements section of the undergraduate catalog for the minimum hardware and software requirements.
- Microsoft Office 365 is available to APUS students for free. To sign up, visit http://products.office.com/en-us/student. If you have questions about accessing the software, please contact Classroom support at classroomsupport@apus.edu.

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not

copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

Identity Verification & Live Proctoring

- Faculty may require students to provide proof of identity when submitting assignments or completing assessments in this course. Verification may be in the form of a photograph and/or video of the student's face together with a valid photo ID, depending on the assignment format.
- Faculty may require live proctoring when completing assessments in this course. Proctoring may include identity verification and continuous monitoring of the student by webcam and microphone during testing.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.