

# HUMAN ORGANIZATIONS AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

EVR 4411\*\*

Tues./Thurs. 7:50 pm-9:05 pm

Classroom: CP 103

**Instructor:**

Dr. Rebecca Zarger

Assistant Professor

Environmental Studies and Sociology / Anthropology

**Office:** ECS 332

**Telephone:** 348-1209

**Office Hours:** Wed. 10 am-12 pm; Thurs. 4-6 pm. & by appointment

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**Course Goals:**

Throughout human history, people have interacted with, managed, conserved, and exploited ecosystems. Our impact on ecosystems may be more significant now than ever before. This course explores the concept of human ecosystems and investigates the ways human institutions, organizations, and beliefs are a fundamental component of ecosystems. We cover ancient management practices and indigenous or traditional environmental knowledge systems of current populations. We look at the development of the ecosystem concept and current management and conservation practices.

These concepts provide the basis for a survey of ecosystem management in US and internationally. We discuss the challenges of working in ecosystem management and community-based conservation. We discuss the difficulties of balancing human and non-human needs by reviewing a variety of case studies and approaches. You will gain an understanding of the importance of socioeconomic, cultural and institutional factors in ecosystem management practices through course texts and readings, small group discussions, tests, and a research paper.

**Required Texts for Course:**

Chase, Alston. 1987. *Playing God in Yellowstone*. Harcourt, Brace, Javanovich Publishers.

Igoe, Jim. 2004. *Conservation and Globalization: A Study of National Parks and Indigenous Communities from East Africa to South Dakota*. Thomson Wadsworth.

Meffe, Gary K., L. Nielsen, R. Knight, and D. Schenborn. 2002. *Ecosystem Management*. Island Press.

## Course Schedule:

Date	Topic
1/6	Introduction to course and syllabus
1/8	Introduction to ecosystem management
1/13	Historical perspectives & ecosystem management
1/15	Toolbox for ecosystem management
1/20	Human ecosystems and ecosystem concept
1/22	Ancient ecosystem management I
1/27	Ancient ecosystem management II <i>discussion class/paper due</i>
1/29	Traditional ecological knowledge
2/3	Human communities and conservation
2/5	Collaborative approaches, community based conservation, and co-management of protected areas
2/10	Video on communities and conservation
2/12	Case study: Yellowstone
2/17	Case study: Yellowstone <i>discussion class</i>
2/19	<i>Yellowstone discussion paper due</i>
2/24	Public participation in ecosystem management in the US
2/26	Uncertainty and complexity
3/2	Adaptive management
3/4	<i>Midterm exam</i>
3/9	Managing biodiversity
3/11	Indigenous and local populations and protected areas
3/16	Conservation and globalization <i>discussion class/paper due</i>
3/18	Ecotourism, conservation, and local peoples
3/23	<i>Spring break</i>
3/25	<i>Spring break</i>
3/30	Models of conservation and ethics
4/1	Measuring progress and evaluating problems
4/6	Research paper presentations <i>Research paper due</i>
4/8	Research paper presentations
4/13	Research paper presentations
4/15	Last class
	Exam TBA

## Evaluation:

Your evaluation for the course includes a midterm and a final exam. In addition, there are three discussion classes in which you discuss reading material in small groups and write an original 500-word critique to be turned in during class. There is a 7-10 page research paper and presentation at the end of the semester. The paper will be original research on the topic of your choice, which will be approved by the instructor. I will be glad to discuss topics, make suggestions, and provide feedback on the paper before you turn in the final copy. A brief pop quiz consisting of one short essay question will be given once a week

in the beginning of class, on either Tuesdays or Thursdays. The question will be taken from previous classes or your assigned readings and you will be able to use your class notes.

**Grading:**

Discussion and critiques	20%
Midterm	20%
Research Paper	15%
Research Presentation	5%
Attendance / Pop Quizzes	15%
Final exam	25%

**Reading Assignments:**

- Jan. 8 Chapter 1 in *Ecosystem Management (EM)*
- Jan. 13 "Ecosystem Management: an Overview" by Jerry F. Franklin  
"Implementing Ecosystem Management: Where do we go from here?" by Norman L. Christensen
- Jan. 15 Chapter 2 in *EM*
- Jan. 20 "The new ecology", Ch 7 from *An Entangled Bank* by Joel Hagen.  
"Ecosystems, environmentalism, resource conservation, and anthropological research" by John Bennett. (Ch 15 in *The Ecosystem Approach in Anthropology*, edited by Emilio Moran.)
- Jan 22 "Attitudes toward the environment" by Charles Redman, Ch 2 in *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*.  
"Animal exploitation: the prehistoric loss of habitat and biodiversity" by Charles Redman, Ch 4 in *Human Impact on Ancient Environments*.
- Jan 27 Discussion paper due:  
"The Viking's Silent Saga" by Thomas McGovern and Sophia Perdikaris.  
"The last Americans: environmental collapse and the end of civilisation" by Jared Diamond

- Jan 29 "Indigenous knowledge and resource management systems in the Canadian subarctic" by Fikret Berkes  
 "Traditional resource management systems" by Madhav Gadgil and Fikret Berkes.
- Feb. 3 "Indigenous forest management in the Bolivian Amazon: Lessons from the Yuracare People" by C. Dustin Becker and Rosario Leon.  
 Chapter 10 in *Ecosystem Management*
- Feb. 5 "The Winding Road" by Crystal Fortwangler, in *Contested Nature*  
 "Conservation from above: an anthropological perspective on transboundary protected areas and ecoregional planning" by J. Peter Brosius and Diane Russell, in *Transboundary Protected Areas: the viability of regional conservation strategies* by Goodale et al.
- Feb. 10 "The background to community-based conservation" by David Western and R. Michael Wright, Chapter 1 in *Natural Connections*, edited by Western et al.  
 "The role of institutions in community-based conservation" by Marshall Murphree, Chapter 18 in *Natural Connections*, edited by Western et al.
- Feb. 12 Chapters 1-7 in *Playing God in Yellowstone* by Alston Chase
- Feb. 17 Chapters 8-15 in *Playing God in Yellowstone* by Alston Chase
- Feb. 19 Chapters 16-21 in *Playing God in Yellowstone* by Alston Chase  
**Discussion paper due**
- Feb. 24 "Ecosystem Management and Public Participation: Lessons From the Field." By Smith, P. D., M. H. McDonough, and M. T. Mang. *Journal of Forestry: J For. Oct 1999. V. 97 (10) P. 32-38. 97(10):32-38.*  
 "Experiences in ecosystem management: participation in local government land use decisions" by George Wallace, pp 286-294 in *EM*
- Feb. 26 Chapter 3 in *EM: Incorporating Uncertainty and Complexity into Mangement* (including article by Yaffee)  
 "Science's role in natural resource decisions" by Daniel Kemmis
- Mar. 2 Chapter 4 in *EM: Adaptive management*
- Mar. 4 Midterm exam

- Mar. 9 Chapter 9 in *EM*: Managing biodiversity across landscapes: a manager's dilemma (including article by McDonald)
- "Getting to conservation" by Kent Redford, in *Traditional Peoples and Biodiversity Conservation in Large Tropical Landscapes*, edited by Redford and Mansour.
- Mar. 11 Chapters 1-3 of *Conservation and Globalization* by Jim Igoe
- Mar. 16 Chapters 4-5 of *Conservation and Globalization* by Jim Igoe  
**Discussion paper due**
- Mar. 18 "Community-based ecotourism in the Maya Forest: problems and potentials"
- Mar. 23-25 Spring Break
- Mar. 30 "Local challenges to global agendas: conservation, economic liberalization and the pastoralist's rights movement in Tanzania" by Roderick P. Neumann
- "Rhetoric, practice and incentive in the face of the changing times" by Roy Ellen, (Ch 9 in *Environmentalism* by Kay Milton).
- Apr. 1 Chapter 11 in *EM*
- Apr. 6-13 April 6 Research paper due
- Research paper presentations
- Apr. 15 Chapter 12 in *EM*

\*\*Course concept originally developed by David Barton Bray, Professor, FIU Dept. of Environmental Studies, however all modifications and errors are my own.