

ECS 302 / GEG 545 Perspectives on Environmental Decisions

Updated syllabus available in Blackboard. Please check Blackboard regularly for updated schedules, assignments and announcements.

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Course overview and objectives:

ECS 302 (GEG 545) introduces the student to conceptual frameworks and methodological tools commonly used in environmental decisions, from a critical perspective. Current environmental problems typically have both natural and human causes and consequences. There is a growing consensus among the science and policy communities that our understanding and solutions to these problems must therefore integrate insights from the natural as well as social sciences. The first part of this course focuses on key concepts, frameworks and perspectives in the social sciences that have direct bearing on environmental problems. Equipped with these critical perspectives, we will initiate the second part of the course, learning about and evaluating from the human perspective some fundamental issues in environmental management.

The following topics will be covered during the semester:

- Property regimes
- Environment and development
- Protected area management
- Green revolution and biotechnologies
- Global environmental change, climate and human health
- Vulnerability and risk perception
- Equity and ethics and participatory decision-making

Evaluation

You will be evaluated as follows:

General participation (attendance, discussions etc.)	20%
Class presentations (content, clarity, comprehension, critique)	15%
Assignments	15%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	30%

Graduate students: You will have the option to complete a final paper topic with the instructor's approval in place of the final exam.

There are no extra credit options, and no late work will be accepted.

Academic honesty: Students are expected to know and follow all UM policies regarding academic honesty. If you are not familiar with these policies we recommend you review the appropriate sections of your UM student handbook.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities should identify themselves to us during the first week of classes. Arrangements for your needs will be made in cooperation with UM's Office of Disability Services (ODS) as necessary to provide you with an effective learning experience in this course. All such arrangements related to your disability will be kept confidential. You may contact ODS at 284-2800, or visit them in the Academic Development Center, Suite N201, University Center between 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.