

JGE21HIS

Multicultural Perspectives on Environmental Management

Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto

Course Instructor: Jeffrey N. T. Squire

Class Time: Thursdays 10-12pm

Class Location: SS 2125

Office hours: Thursdays 9.00-10.00 (strictly by appointment)

Office Location: Room SS 5060, 100 St George St

E-mail: jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca

T.A.: Janina Kowalski (janina.kowalski@utoronto.ca)

Course description

Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this course explores different multicultural approaches to environmental management. Diverse approaches to environmental issues in a variety of multicultural settings are introduced, compared and analyzed, using case studies. Perspectives on environmental management will be discussed as they emerge from Western contexts as well as non-Western contexts such as Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The course links theory to practice by subjecting multicultural environmental planning and management concepts to a critical scrutiny through a set of linked case studies. Classes will involve a combination of lectures, guest speakers and documentaries.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

The primary objectives of this course are to:

- 1) Examine various multicultural perspectives on understanding and solving complex environmental problems
- 2) Explore both Western and non-Western approaches to environmental management
- 3) Assess some of the socio-cultural, economic and political factors that shape or influence environmental governance in both developed and developing countries
- 4) Apply theoretical concepts learned in the course to real world situations.

Required course texts

There is no required textbook for this course. Readings from journal articles, books, internet sources and newspapers will be assigned on a weekly basis. It is the responsibility of students to access all required readings via the utoronto library database.

Assessment of Learning & Due Dates

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Critical Reflection	15	January 25
Research Proposal	15	February 15
Literature Review	20	Mar 08
Final Term Essay	25	March 29
Final Exam	25	TBA

Critical Reflection Paper

For this assignment you are required to submit a critical reflection paper on a topic related to the central theme of the course – Multicultural Perspectives on Environmental Management. In your paper, be sure to highlight: a) the nature of the issue you are discussing; b) reason(s) for your interest or concern in the topic c) steps being currently taken to address the issue and d) what you think must be done about the issue. Your response must be 5 pages, 1.5 spaced and 12-point fonts. You are to draw key information from the lectures, documentaries and reading materials. A minimum of 4 academic sources are required. The assignment constitutes 15% of your final grade and is due on Thursday January 25, 2018. In addition to submitting hard copies of your assignments to your teaching assistant, you are to submit electronic copies via my utoronto email address (jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca).

Essay Proposal

You are required to submit an essay proposal in advance of your final term essay. For the proposal you are required to select a topic related to the central theme of the course – Multicultural Perspectives on Environmental Management. Your proposal must reflect a) what you plan to write about in your major term essay b), why you want to write about it and c), how you plan to collect data for your final term essay. Essentially, be sure to include the following in your proposal:

- A Tentative Title
- Introduction/Background Information
- Essay Objective(s)
- Methodology (How you plan to collect data for your essay)
- An indication of how the paper will be organized
- An annotated bibliography of at least 5 sources

This assignment is worth 15% of your overall grade and is due in class on Thursday February 15, 2018. The research proposal must be 6 pages, 1.5 spaced and 12-point fonts. In addition to submitting hard copies of your assignments to your teaching assistant, you are to submit electronic copies via my utoronto email address (jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca) on the due date. Remember that your essay topic cannot be

the same as your critical reflection assignments. You are strongly encouraged to adapt your essay to an issue-specific case study or other relevant example. In preparation for this assignment a library exercise has been scheduled Thursday February 15, 2018. Details of this exercise will be announced in class closer to the date.

Literature Review

For this assignment you are required to submit a literature review pertaining to the topic of your Major Term Essay. The literature review must establish the importance of your topic and discuss what has already been written about the topic and what remains to be done. You are to highlight strengths as well as weaknesses in the arguments raised by each author. Remember, your aim is to survey the relevant literature to determine what is known and not known about your chosen topic and the contribution of each author to the topic. The literature review must be 6 pages, 1.5 spaced and 12-sized fonts. There is no limit on the number of journals you can use however, be sure that your literature review adequately addresses your topic. In addition to submitting hard copies of your assignments to your teaching assistant, you are to submit electronic copies via my utoronto email address (jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca) on the due date. This assignment is worth 20% of your overall grade and is due in class on Thursday March 08, 2018.

Final Term Paper

For this assignment you are required to build on, and incorporate relevant information presented in your research proposal and literature review in the final term paper. The essay must be 20 pages including bibliographic information, 1.5 spaced and 12 sized fonts. Essentially, your major term essay must have the following main features:

- A title page including a title that reflects the argument or question being explored
- A table of contents
- An abstract not exceeding 150 words
- Introduction/Background
- Methodology
- Revised literature review
- Discussion and Analysis (link back to lit review)
- Recommendation (if necessary)
- Summary/Conclusion
- A list of references or works cited, a minimum of 10 scholarly journals and/or books

In addition to submitting hard copies of your assignments to your teaching assistant, you are to submit electronic copies via my utoronto email address (jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca) on the due date. Also, remember to adapt your paper to a country-specific case study or other relevant example. The final term essay must be proofread prior to submission to ensure that they are free of grammatical and spelling errors and must include a list of all references cited in the text, using the APA citation

style. This assignment is worth 25% of your overall grade and is due in class on Thursday March 29, 2018.

Final Exams

A final exam will be held during the final examination period in the month of April 2018. The exam will focus on concepts and issues covered in class and in the readings. The main objective of the final exam is to test your comprehension of material presented in lectures and the weekly readings and also to assess your ability to communicate understanding of the material in an organized, coherent manner. Additional information regarding the exams will be announced in class closer to the time.

Lecture Topics and Due Dates

Date	Lecture/Topic	Due Dates
Jan. 04	Introduction	
Jan 11	Western Approaches to Environmental Management: Theories and Concepts	
Jan 18	Case Study: Traditional/Religious Perspectives on the Environment in Africa	
Jan 25	Traditional/Indigenous Ecological Knowledge	Critical Reflection Due
Feb 01	Waste Management: A Multicultural Crisis	
Feb 08	Business and Politics: The Case of Oil and the Environment	
Feb 15	Guest Speaker: Janina Kowalski	Research Proposal Due
Feb 22	Reading Week	
Mar 01	Case Study - Environmental Issues and Management Perspectives: India	
Mar 08	Case Study - Environmental Issues and Management Perspectives: China	Literature Review Due
Mar 15	Case Study: Environment and Sustainability in Brazil	
Mar 22	Case Study: Water Resource Management in the Middle East	
Mar 29	Course Wrap-up/Final Exam Review	Research Essay Due

Schedule of Topics and Assigned Readings

Week 1 –January 04: Introduction to the Course

- No assigned readings

Week 2- January 11: Western Perspectives on Environmental Management

- DeFur, P. L., & Kaszuba, M. (2000). Implementing the precautionary principle. *The Science of the Total Environment*, 288(155-165).
- Beattie, M., (1996). An Ecosystem Approach to Fish and Wildlife Conservation *Ecological Applications*, Vol. 6, No. 3 pp. 696-699. August

Week 3 –January 18: Case Study: Traditional Religion and the Environment in Africa

- Ntiamo-Baidu, Yaa (2008). Indigenous Beliefs and Biodiversity Conservation: The Effectiveness of Sacred Groves, Taboos and Totems in Ghana for Habitat and Species Conservation. Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature & Culture. Sep2008, Vol. 2 Issue 3, p309-326. 18p

Week 4 –January 25: Indigenous Perspectives on the Environment

- Bowie, R. (2013). Indigenous Self-Governance and the Deployment of Knowledge in Collaborative Environmental Management in Canada. *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 47(1). 91-121.
- Turner et al., (2000). Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wisdom of Aboriginal Peoples in British Columbia. Ecological Applications Vol 10, No 5 pp. 1275-1287

Week 5 – February 01: Waste Management: A Multicultural Crisis

- Arlosorof, S. (1991) Developing countries struggle with waste management policies. *Waste Management and Research* 9 (6) 491-494
- Seadon, J. K. (2006). Integrated waste management - looking beyond the solid waste horizon. *Waste Management*, 26(12), 1327-1336.

Week 6 – February 08: Business Perspectives on the Environment

- Oluwatomiwa A. Osin Tianyu Yu & Sijie Lin (2017). Oil refinery wastewater treatment in the Niger Delta, Nigeria: current practices, challenges, and recommendations. Environmental Science and Pollution Research. October 2017, Volume 24, Issue 28, pp 22730–22740
- I.M. Cozzarelli et al. (2017). Environmental signatures and effects of an oil and gas wastewater spill in the Williston Basin, North Dakota. *Science of the Total Environment* 579 (2017) 1781–1793

Week 7 – Guest Speaker

- Readings to be announced

Week 8 –February 22: Reading Week (No assigned Readings)

Week 9 – March 01: Environmental Issues and Management Perspectives in India

- Radhika Iyengar and Monisha Bajaj (2011). After the Smoke Clears: Toward Education for Sustainable Development in Bhopal, India. *Comparative Education Review*, Vol. 55, No. 3 (Aug. 1, 2011), pp. 424-456 The University of Chicago Press on behalf of the Comparative and International Education Society

Week 10 – March 08: Environmental Issues and Management Perspectives in China

- Terence Tsai and Jane Lu (2000). Environmental Management in Mainland China and Taiwan: Practice and Policy *China Review*, in a Review (2000), pp. 553-577: Chinese University Press
- Ping Li, Zhongliang Huang, Hai Ren, Hongxiao Liu and Quan Wang (2011). The Evolution of Environmental Management Philosophy Under Rapid Economic Development in China. *Ambio*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (February 2011), pp. 88-92

Week 11 – March 15: Environment and Sustainability in Brazil

- Menegat, R. (2002). Participatory Democracy and Sustainable Development: Integrated Urban Environmental Management in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In *Environment and Urbanization* Volume 14, Number 2, October 2002
- Patricia Feeney (). Environmental Reform in Brazil: Advances and Reversals. *Development in Practice*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Feb., 1992), pp. 3-11. Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd. on behalf of Oxfam GB

Week 12 – March 22: Water Resource Management in the Middle East

- Dina M. Abdelzaher & Amir Abdelzaher (2017). Beyond Environmental Regulations: Exploring the Potential of “Eco-Islam” in Boosting Environmental Ethics Within SMEs in Arab Markets. *Journal of Business Ethics* October 2017, Volume 145, Issue 2, pp 357–37

Week 13 – March 29: Course Wrap-up.

- End of Term (Exam) Review

Email policy

If you'd like to contact me outside of my scheduled office hours, please direct all course-related questions to me at jeffrey.squire@utoronto.ca and I will respond to your emails as promptly as possible. However, please be advised that I usually receive many emails each day that require a response therefore, it may take me a day or two to reply to your message. Note also that email is the official channel of communication between the

University and its students. You are required to check your *utoronto* email account regularly; I recommend that you check for course-related emails at least twice a week. If you use another email service (e.g., gmail), it is your responsibility to ensure that mail sent to your utoronto account is forwarded to your other account.

Submission of assignments

Check the requirements in the schedule above regarding submission of electronic and/or hard copies for each assignment. Hard copies are to be submitted to the course teaching assistant during class hours. By submitting an assignment for this course, you are agreeing to the following:

- You have properly referenced and footnoted all ideas, words or other intellectual property from other sources used in the completion of this assignment.
- You have included a proper bibliography, which includes acknowledgement of all sources used to complete this assignment.
- The assignment was completed by your own efforts. You did not collaborate with any other person for ideas or answers (with the exception of group projects)
- This is the first time you have submitted this assignment or essay (either partially or entirely) for academic evaluation.

Turnitin: If necessary, plagiarism detection software (e.g., Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course for proper citation, referencing and instances of plagiarism. This is being done both as an educational activity for you and to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. You will be able to submit your assignments to Turnitin multiple times so that you can see how the software has analyzed your writing, and so that you can make adjustments if portions of your text are flagged as being problematic.

Late policy: You are expected to take account of the possibility of computer or printer failure in planning your time. Emailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted. The penalty for late assignments is **5 %** of the total possible mark per day, including weekends and holidays. I will not accept assignments more than 5 days after the due date unless we have a prior arrangement.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement Due to Illness or Other Reasons:

There will be no unpenalized extensions on assignments except for illness, severe personal extenuating circumstances, or weather emergencies. When you find yourself unable to meet a course requirement because of medical, compassionate or other reasons, please advise me in writing by email; make sure to include your full name in your message. Where possible, you must contact me in advance of the assignment due date, but otherwise as soon as possible after the due date. As a rule, you must provide appropriate documentation, for example, a note from your doctor indicating the dates

during which you were ill, and describing the severity of your illness. *Manage your time carefully. Pressure of work alone is not an acceptable reason for seeking an extension without penalty.* Extensions will be granted in the case of illness or other emergencies, with appropriate documentation. For medical exemptions, only an official U of T form will be accepted (available online here: <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>). Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties during the term that prevent you from completing your course work. For non-medical emergencies, they may be able to provide a letter documenting your situation.

My Teaching Philosophy and Practices

My teaching philosophy is predicated on the view that education is a tool for facilitating meaningful change in society. Therefore, my role as an instructor is to inspire, motivate and encourage my students to build, develop and enhance their critical thinking skills. I assist my students to translate knowledge acquired in the classroom into positive action. I do so by striving to make learning a dynamic and inspirational experience for both myself and my students. In other words, your learning is my utmost priority. I also recognize that students have diverse learning styles and as such, I take an interactive approach to the delivery of course materials. My course delivery incorporates videos, visual aids, group work, guest speakers, brainstorming, case studies, jigsaw, think, pair, share and where appropriate, field trips. Therefore, my approach to teaching is primarily interdisciplinary. The interdisciplinary approach assists me in illustrating how concepts and theories learned in class can be connected to broader socio-economic as well as political issues. In order to assist you in developing and enhancing your critical thinking skills, I encourage your participation, comments, and questions during class activities. To ensure that I am keeping up with the learning needs of my students, I encourage students to provide me with feedback on a regular basis through emails, in-class evaluations and informal conversations. This system allows me to make adjustments and respond favourably to the learning needs of my students.

My Expectations of You as a Student:

I expect my students to arrive on time, attend all classes, and be respectful of themselves, their colleagues and the instructor. As a student, you are expected to complete the assigned readings, and to participate actively and consistently in class. No TEXTING is allowed in class! Internet usage is restricted to course related activities. Chatting on Facebook and other social media sites is deemed disruptive and impermissible in this class. I expect you to turn off your laptop and mute your mobile before class. If you need access to course materials stored on your laptop during a class, then you can turn it on – otherwise please leave it off.