

SPRING 2010 - KEY COURSE INFO PAGE

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (ESCI3334/GEOG3334)

PROFESSOR

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OFFICE HOURS

SETB 2.410
TUE: 7-10 am; WED: 7-9 am
[available on Second Life or by Appt.]
Second Life ID: Profe Camino

CLASS DETAILS

MO1.130 (at times EDBC 1.31)
TUE 15:00-17:40
Second Life group: ESCI3334

BOOK (REQUIRED)

Required: *Natural Resource Conservation 10th Ed. Chiras and Ringold*; ISBN: 978-0-13-225138-9

IMPORTANT DATES

Wed, February 3rd Last day to drop without a recorded grade.
Wed, March 31st Last Day to withdraw with a 'W'.
April 27th and May 4th Project presentations.
Friday, April 30th at 5PM Mini Term paper due (in MO1.114 - turn paper in to Ms. Norma Garces).
Wednesday, May 5th time TBA Final Exam - in MO1.130 (OPEN BOOK – date/time subject to change).

LECTURE TOPICS. (Book chapter or other readings are in parentheses).

1. 1/19- Orientation & Survey	9. 3/16 – SPRING BREAK
2. 1/26- Second Life Intro (in EDBC 1.31)	10. 3/23 – Pollution: Air and Water (Ch. 11 & 18)
3. 2/2- Science and Natural Resources (Ch. 1)	11. 3/30 – EXAM #2
4. 2/9- Populations (Ch.4 &5)	12. 4/6 – Climate Change I (Ch. 19&20)
5. 2/16 - Extinctions (Ch. 15)	13. 4/13 – Climate Change II (Ch. 19 & 20)
6. 2/23 – EXAM #1	14. 4/20 – SPECIAL PROJECT
7. 3/2 - Nonrenewable Energy (Ch. 22)	15. 4/27 – Project Presentations with partner
8. 3/9 – Renewable Energy (Ch. 23)	16. 5/4 – Project Presentations with partner

*The nature and order of these lecture topics are subject to change, based on current events and the pace of the class. There will be additional readings for many lectures so keep up with all readings posted on BB.

FINAL GRADE POINTS

Type of Evaluation	Number	Pts/Each	Raw Points	% of Total
Research Exercises ¹	8	25	200	20%
Regular Exams	2	100	200	20%
Presentation	1	200	200	20%
Mini Term Paper	1	200	200	20%
Participation	1	50	50	5%
Final Exam	1	150	150	15%
TOTAL			1,000	100%

¹Research Exercises include Second Life assignments, homework, research readings, discussion of research on your topic and other special assignments. Pop quizzes may be research exercises. See details below.

TO DO NOW BEFORE FIRST CLASS DAY:

- Assure that you have access to the following:
 - Your UTB or other email** – be sure that the email you use is the one listed in Scorpion online
 - Blackboard and Scorpion Online**
- Sign up for a Google Docs account.** You do not need to have a gmail account for this – you may use your regular email. Use the email that you access most often. Go to docs.google.com and register for an account.
- If you have a personal computer at home or a laptop, **download the free application Second Life** and attempt to set up an avatar. You can select your first name, but SL selects a last. If you do not have a personal PC, then use SL at the computer lab in EDBC 1.31. Once you have set up an avatar, please email me your SL name, real name, and UTB ID. The group name for our class is **ESCI3334** and my avatar name is **Profe Camino**. Please attempt to friend me and join the group.

SYLLABUS: 3334: CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION. Just what is the state of the planet? Most reasonable persons understand that life on Earth is at a tipping point – species are becoming extinct at an alarming rate and our ability to reverse the damage upon the planet is a question of much debate. What are the resources that ultimately sustain life, how do they do so, and what is humanity’s role in all of this? What are the ‘big problems’ that will need to be addressed by the end of the century, and how are we going about this? In this course, we will address these questions and many others – at times in a focused, objective and linear fashion and at times in a more holistic stream-of-consciousness discussion format. In the end, the student will have an appreciation for the state of the Earth’s resources, and some of the natural processes, anthropogenic pressures, and politics driving the depletion (and hopeful replenishment) of our planet.

EXPECTATIONS. This is an upper level class and the student will be expected to perform at a higher level of critical thinking and responsibility. The class is of limited enrollment and will thus be conducted at times as a ‘seminar’ with ample discussion and interaction between the students and with the professor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES. The learning outcomes for this course can be broken down into three parts:

- (i) Traditional objective content-based learning outcomes;
- (ii) Methods of critical inquiry and problem-based learning; and
- (iii) Tools for more effectively achieving i and ii above.

The below table illustrates some of the key questions around concepts and tools we will be covering and that the student will be responsible for answering by the semester’s end.

Content	Critical Inquiry	Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is science and how is science ‘done’?• What are the key natural resources of the planet?• What is humanity’s role in depleting/ preserving these resources?• What are the key energy sources and what are the technologies that most likely will conserve energy most efficiently?• What does the data say as to the conservation of resources – what are the facts?• Which resources are most at risk and which are most critical to life on Earth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do I go about understanding a new subject (how do I learn)?• What are the key questions that should be asked when conducting scientific research?• How do I write a scientific research paper?• How do I understand the key debates of topics in a particular field?• How do I find and apply data analysis to critical scientific issues?• How can all of the topics in the course be holistically brought together?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a more effective way of mapping out and outlining knowledge on a new subject?• How can I visit the professor during office hours or participate in a class discussion/lecture without being there in person?• What is the most effective way to obtain research articles in full text?• How can I use a ‘free’ Microsoft Office equivalent, share my documents with peers, and access it from anywhere?

GRADE COMPONENTS - DETAILS

Research Exercises (8 @ 25 points each – 200 points – 20%). Research exercises will occur throughout the semester and will consist of readings and write-ups as well as discussion. These will focus on topics outlined in the syllabus and will generally be submitted via Google Docs. You will have to choose a topic to find an article on in the first few weeks. You will then have to find a recent publication on this, and submit an annotated bibliography at the beginning of class as well as the article in .pdf format by Friday the week before your class. Your ‘research class’ will count for 50 pts (double). It is at the discretion of the professor to issue a ‘pop quiz’ if a sizable portion of the class has not completed the reading prior to class.

Regular Exams (2 @ 100 points each – 200 points – 20%). Regular exams will consist of multiple choice, essay, and diagramming questions.

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Presentation (200 points – 20%). Each student will give a presentation on their chosen topic. More information will be provided in future lectures as well as a handout. Begin thinking about your topic now. The presentation is to be given with a partner. You must have a partner.

Mini Term Paper (200 points – 20%). Students will write a ‘mini’ term paper on an approved topic of the student’s choosing. The topic will need to deal with a ‘big problem’ that we now face (or will face) in the future with reference to natural resources. This paper will be five to seven pages plus references. More information will be handed out in an early lecture. COMPLETED ON YOUR OWN.

Participation (50 points – 5%). Participation is based on turning in paper project assignments on time (see course outline below), reading assigned material in advance, attending Second Life online lectures, as well as engaging in discussion during class and utilizing office hours. Participation will be inherent in assignments turned in complete and on time.

OTHER GRADE POLICIES

Incomplete Grade Policy. In extraordinary circumstances (e.g. serious illness), the professor will agree to award an incomplete grade in cases where the majority of coursework has been completed and the student is passing the course. Students who wish to discuss an incomplete grade must contact the professor prior to the final exam. He or she must provide a legitimate reason with documentation why they cannot complete the coursework. The student must agree to and sign an incomplete grade form. They will commit to completing the coursework by a date before the end of the next long semester. It is the student’s responsibility to follow up with the professor in the first week of the next long semester in order to arrange for work to be completed on time.

Final Grades, ‘Extra Credit’ and ‘Curves’. In-class extra credit assignments will be given from time-to-time. If you are not in class, you are not eligible for the extra credit. Although adjustment of grades is not anticipated, there may possibly be a small curve applied to the final average. Extra credit **will not be awarded** for additional assignments. Do not come to me after grades have been issued asking for a change.

FINAL GRADES WILL NOT BE ALTERED.FINAL GRADES ARE POSTED ON SCORPION ONLINE 24 hrs AFTER THE PROFESSOR’S FINAL EXAM AND NOT ON BLACKBOARD.

TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY

In addition to email, Microsoft Office, blackboard, and scorpion online, the student will master several technologies and techniques as a part of this class. These skills will be necessary to complete this course and will also be useful to you in other courses and in your future career, regardless of your major.

Mind Maps. Mind maps are a technique that is used to more effectively utilize the brain’s neural network processing of ideas. We will learn this technique and you will turn in mind maps for credit.

Second Life. Second Life (SL) is an online world that allows for virtual interaction. As this class is the first at UTB/TSC to implement SL, we will have limited use of this system. We will dedicate a full class to learning the basics of SL, and then we will conduct several exercises and classes in SL. You will be able to use the computers in the room, your own computer or anywhere else with an Internet connection and SL installed. You will be able to visit the Professor during office hours via SL.

Google Docs. Google Docs (docs.google.com) is effectively a free, online, shareable Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, and Excel program. Part of the power of Google Docs is that it allows one to share and co-edit documents, spreadsheets and presentations. Sign up for a Google docs ID before the first class day.

Library Databases and Endnote Reference Manager. We will learn techniques for managing and using references, so that you will never have to format another reference in MLA style by hand again.

CLASS POLICIES

Attitude/Ethos. The classroom is a place of mutual respect towards others and self. Please bring an open and positive attitude to the classroom. If you are not respecting others you will be asked to leave the lecture hall and will not receive credit for any work due during that class period. You may be referred to the Dean of Students.

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Attendance. Regular attendance is recommended to receive full credit on participation. Note that ONLY APPROXIMATELY 40% OF WHAT IS ON THE EXAMS CAN BE FOUND IN THE BOOK. You must attend lectures and keep up on readings to actually pass the class. Students that attend class (whether they are awake or not) consistently score one to two letter grades above those who cram with notes, and those that attend and try rarely fail. **If you want a C or higher, you should attend class.** If you do miss class, be sure to get notes from someone who attended. From time to time, extra credit assignments will be given in class without notice and only students attending class earn credit for these.

Assigned Seating. By the third class, I expect you to pick a row and a computer and stick to it throughout the semester. This allows me to pass back assignments more efficiently. If you have special needs for seating, please notify me via email before or immediately after the first class meeting.

Cell phones & texting. Yes, we are all impressed with your new iPhone 3G android whatever. However...

- If your cell phone rings in class, I have the option of answering it on speaker and have an extended conversation about the finer points of scientific inquiry with whoever might be calling; and note that
- I am also rather adept at texting.

Lectures, Notes and Blackboard. Lecture notes are generally posted on Blackboard, generally in batches one hour prior to lecture. **WARNING:** Key pieces to exams are intentionally left out of the notes. If you are not familiar with Blackboard, orient yourself within the first week of class. Verify that your correct email is loaded into Blackboard – if it is not, you will not receive important class announcements. **DO NOT EMAIL** me via Blackboard – send a direct message from your email account to jeff.wilson@utb.edu.

THE ‘FINE PRINT’ - IMPORTANT INFORMATION – READ IN ENTIRETY and CAREFULLY.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION and RATIONALE. Topics are selected from geology, climatology, and oceanography in order to illustrate the philosophy and methods of science. Other topics include earth materials, processes of plate tectonics and atmosphere. This is a 3-hr course in the 48-hour Core Curriculum of UTB/TSC. As such, students will develop proficiency in appropriate intellectual competencies, exemplary educational objectives and general perspectives. There are no prerequisites for this course.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP). UTB/TSC monitors academic progress every fall and spring semester to identify those students who are experiencing difficulty with their courses. Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is based upon two components:

GPA of 2.0 or higher and successful course completion of at least 70% of course work attempted. Students remain in good standing with the university and Financial Aid when both criteria are met. Students who do not maintain these required minimum standards will be placed on probation or suspension as appropriate. The complete Satisfactory Academic Progress policy and the Undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial Aid policy can be found in the current Undergraduate Catalog. **For more information, please visit** <http://www.utb.edu/vpaa/sap/Pages/Home.aspx> **SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY.** Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students. Do not allow your peers to pressure you to cheat. Your grade, academic standing and personal reputation are at stake. For a brief informative video on cheating and its consequences click on “Academic Integrity at UTB/TSC” at this link: (<http://www.utb.edu/sa/studentlife>).

STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES. Students are expected to be diligent in their studies and attend class regularly and on time. Students are responsible for all class work and assignments. On recommendation of the instructor concerned and with the approval of the Dean, students may, at any time, be dropped from courses. This may result in a “W” or “F” on the student’s permanent record.

EMERGENCY POLICY STATEMENT. In compliance with the Emergency UTB/TSC Academic Continuity Program, academic courses, partially or entirely, will be made available on the MyUTBTSC Blackboard course management system. This allows faculty members and students to continue their teaching and learning via MyUTBTSC Blackboard <http://myutbtsc.blackboard.com>, in case the university shuts down as a result of a hurricane or any other natural disaster. The university will use MyUTBTSC Blackboard to post announcements notifying faculty members and students of their responsibilities as a hurricane approaches our region. If the university is forced to shut down, faculty will notify their course(s). To receive credit for a course, it is the student’s responsibility to complete all the requirements for that course. Failure to access course materials once reasonably possible can result in a reduction of your overall grade in the class. To facilitate the completion of class, most or all of the communication between students and the institution, the instructor, and fellow classmates will take place using the features in your MyUTBTSC Blackboard and UTB email system. Therefore, all students must use Scorpion Online to provide a current email address. Students may update their email address by following the link titled “Validate your e-Mail Account” in MyUTBTSC Blackboard Portal. In the event of a disaster, that disrupts normal operations, all students and faculty must make every effort to access an internet-enabled computer as often as possible to continue the learning process. **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA).** Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. For more information, visit Disability Services in the Lightner Center, call 956-882-7374 or e-mail steve.wilder@utb.edu.