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RSCN 571.01: International Conservation and Development

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RSCN 571: International Conservation & Development

Spring 2011
3 credits, grade

Instructor:
Stephen Siebert
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Course description:
A critical review of international conservation and development approaches and experiences with a focus on tropical and subtropical developing states. This is a graduate-level course intended for students preparing for field assignments. We will explore conservation and development challenges in the context of rapidly changing ecological, socioeconomic and political conditions likely to be encountered while working in the field. Weekly topics will be covered through lectures on Tuesdays followed by discussions on Thursdays.

Course requirements:
Attendance, informed participation, one in-class presentation, preparation of an annotated bibliography, and a term paper on a topic pertaining to your international assignment or a specific subject of interest.

Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:
• identify, describe and evaluate the relative importance of underlying driving forces of forest degradation and conversion in the tropics and subtropics;
• identify and describe important climatic, edaphic and floristic characteristics of and constraints to the development and sustained use of tropical soils and forests;
• describe the role and importance of national and international policies and macroeconomic conditions on land use in tropical and subtropical countries;
• describe the history, effectiveness and challenges associated with biodiversity conservation and protected area management efforts in tropical and subtropical countries; and
• commence ICD M.S. degree field work having completed a review of relevant literature and prospectus of proposed research.

Grading (+/- grading will be used):
Seminar presentation 30 %
Annotated bibliography (due May 5) 30
Term paper (due May 5) 30
Attendance & participation 10.
Total 100 %

Readings:
Readings are available on ERES: http://eres.lib.umt.edu (Password: RSCN571)
### Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan 25 &amp; 27</td>
<td>Discussion Frameworks &amp; Questioning Assumptions</td>
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**Required readings:**

| 2 Feb 1 & 3 | Underlying Drivers of Forest Degradation & Conversion |

**Required Readings:**

| 3 Feb 8 & 10 | Climate and Soils |

**Required Readings:**
4 Feb 15 & 17 Forest Status, Diversity, Complexity & Change

Required Readings:

5 Feb 22 & 24 Government Policies, Trade & Consumption

Required Readings:

6 March 1 & 3 Conservation and Management: What Role Humans?

Required Readings:

7 March 8 & 10 Sustainable Use: NTFPs & Traditional Agriculture

Required Readings:


8 March 15 & 17 Sustainable Use: Natural Forest Management for Timber

Required Readings:

9 March 22 & 24 Conservation, Development and Social Justice - Discussion

Tuesday (3/22) Discussion:
Required Readings:

Thursday (3/24) Discussion:
10 March 29 Conservation Alternatives - Discussion

Required Readings:

March 31 Case Study: Lore-Lindu National Park, Indonesia

Required Readings:

Spring Break

11 Case Studies: Student Presentations

April 12 “
April 14 “

12 April 19 “
April 21 “

13 April 26 “
April 28 “

14 May 3 “
May 5 “

Concluding Discussion - What of the future? Is change possible?

Required Readings: