

9-2002

EVST 167H.01: Nature and Society

Phil Condon

University of Montana - Missoula, phil.condon@mso.umt.edu

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Environmental Studies 167H / Nature & Society

Fall 2002 / 10:10-11am MWF

GBB 122 (beginning *Mon 9/9*)

Instructor: Phil Condon Office: Rankin Hall 104 Hours: MWF 11:30—12:30am & by appt.
Ph: 243.2904 email: phil.condon@mso.umt.edu

Teaching Assistants: Laurie Schlueb Office: JRH M-1C Hours: _____
Pedro Marques Office: JRH M-1C Hours: _____

Course Description: Nature & Society intends to acquaint students with a broad survey and basic outline of important and influential thought, writings, and documents about human society's relationship with the natural world. The course primarily covers Western (European/American) history from prehistory until today. From this fact, it should be clear that in a semester course we can only approximate thoroughness, even in the Western tradition, and we will, by definition, be excluding thought and developments in much of the world. Still, given these necessary limits, the course will identify and discuss the very real and tough problems humans have been struggling with for millenia--trying to understand, eat, learn from, manipulate, fear, control, develop, coexist with, pray to, run from, intellectualize, and live inside . . . nature. As instructor, I will be looking for and emphasizing connections, influences, and relationships between ideas, writers, and thinkers, and between those same and the current world outside our small rooms here. In the process, I mean to encourage you to question and make your own connections—to your lives, your thought, your previous and outside readings—as well as to and among the many course readings, lectures, and discussions.

Requirements: Students are expected to attend all classes and complete assigned readings by date assigned. (See Course & Readings Schedule.) The class will be divided into 3 equal sections, and each Friday, *except 9/6, 10/25, & 12/13*, these sections will meet separately with either the instructor or one of the teaching assistants. Friday section classes will meet in either **SG 303, LA 106, or LA 205**. Your class location and teacher for Friday classes for the remainder of the semester will be announced by Wednesday 9/11. Readings and/or rereadings not listed on this Course Schedule may be assigned for Friday sections by the appropriate teacher. *Quizzes, in-class writing and reading, discussion, digressions, etc, may occur on Fridays, at the discretion of the section teacher, and will usually cover material, ideas, and questions raised during the week.*

Two tests will be given, each of which will examine your knowledge and understanding of material in readings, lectures, and discussion for either the first ½ of the semester (Midterm) or the 2nd ½ of the semester (Final). One short essay (2 pages, double spaced = about 500 words) will be due right before Thanksgiving break. This essay gives you a chance to reveal your creative and critical thinking on either a global (climate change/warming) or a local (Milltown Dam) environmental problem and to relate the issue to some of the historical thinking and ideas covered in the course (see reverse for fuller discussion of exams and essay).

Grading:

- ¼ = Fri Section Work, determined by Fri teacher--attendance & participation recorded.
- ¼ = Midterm Exam, Friday, 10/25, material 9/4—10/23, graded jointly
- ¼ = 2 page Global/Local Essay Due Mon 11/25, graded by section teacher
- ¼ = Final Exam, Monday, 12/16, material 10/28—12/13, graded jointly

For I = Incomplete Grade, see 2002-03 UG Catalog, p. 21. For Pass in P/NP option, P = Grade C or better.

Required Texts: Cahn, O'Brien, Eds, *Thinking About The Environment*, M.E. Sharpe, 1996. **(E)**
Gruen & Jamieson, Eds, *Reflecting On Nature*, Oxford U Press, 1994. **(N)**
Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience & Other Essays*, Dover Thrift Editions, 1993. **(T)**

Condon, FacPac, University Bookstore, 2002. **(FP)**

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About the Global/Local Essay:

Two pages: double-spaced, front & back of one sheet, about 500-600 words, due Monday 11/25.

Pick one topic--either *global warming* or *Milltown dam*--and write about its relevance to nature and society. Relate the topic to an idea, trend, writer, or question discussed or read about in this class, and reveal your own thoughts and feelings about it. The toughest thing about this assignment is its length: in 2 pages, you'll have to be very succinct and cannot possibly cover either topic in any depth. To do this well, you will probably need to revise several times, honing down to your best material and most economical writing. You should briefly define the issue, or at least the aspect of it that you will focus on in your writing, and you should write for a general audience who may not be immediately familiar with the issue or the work from this course that you might refer to. What we will be looking for most as we read this essay is originality, critical thinking, a personal touch, and good writing. This is an opportunity to be individual, critical, and creative, in your approach, selections, and thinking, and a chance to practice revising your written work for both economy and quality. Talk to your section teacher any time about your project.

The 2 topics will be briefly introduced on the second day of class, Friday 9/6, and brief readings about them are assigned for that day. Do more research on the topic you pick as needed to inform yourself and to get an angle or approach that stimulates you to write. (If by some chance, you can't write about either, you may pick another issue with either global or local implications, but you must consult your section teacher about your switch and new topic no later than the Midterm, Fri 10/25). You have 3 months to write this 2-page essay, so **late papers won't be accepted**. However, early papers (after Midterm) are encouraged. The essay should be carefully proofread and edited (get editing help if you need it); if it's unreadable due to writing problems, we'll return it unmarked, and you'll have 1 week to make it readable or lose credit for the essay.

About the Midterm, Fri 10/25, and Final, Mon 12/16:

No makeup tests for either date without signed, official documentation and consent of instructor. Each exam will be 50 minutes long, and each will cover material from the respective half of the course. The exams will be a mix of 1) matching/multiple choice/i.d. to show retention of the most important and central writings, writers, periods, ideas, documents, events, trends, etc. in the history of attitudes toward nature, and 2) short essay questions to show your understanding of and engagement with these important ideas, etc.

A Few Websites to Watch:

www.headwatersnews.org
www.gristmagazine.com
www.planetark.org

Daily excerpted environmental news from Rocky Mountain West
AGloom and doom with a sense of humor@ by Earth Day Network
AYour daily guide to helping the planet@ Reuters Int'l Enviro News Service

A Few Good Books:

Nature: Western Attitudes Since Ancient Times. Peter Coates. Overview by British historian.
Nature=s Web. Peter Marshall. Overview by author who clearly shows his green/spiritual attitudes.
Nature, Technology, and Society. Victor Ferkiss. "Cultural roots of current environmental crisis."
In the Presence of Fear. Wendell Berry. Three essays to change the world by one of America=s wisest farmers.

UM Fall Semester 2002 Dates (from UM Autumn Calendar):

9/23: Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear
10/14: Last day to add/drop (no \$\$\$ back) & last day to change grade option
12/6: Last day to withdraw

12/13: Last day for drop/grade option petition.

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Course Schedule & Readings 9/6-10/25

**E = Thinking About the Environment N = Reflecting on Nature FP = FacPac /
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Fri 9/6: **Why It Matters : Connections and Contexts Beyond This Room**

Rdg—**E:** O'Brien 3-8; **N:** Ehrlich 335-42; **FP:** Wilson 2-5, Lovejoy 7-9, Dam 10-12

Mon 9/9: **Before the Word : Uncovering Nature & Society in Prehistory**

Rdg—**FP:** Gilgamesh Epic 14-22, Spretnak 24-26, Shepard 28-31

Wed 9/11: **Classical Nature : The Greek & Roman Imprint**

Rdg—**N:** Aristotle 19-20; **E:** Aristotle 20-24, O'Brien 11-17; **FP:** Marshall 33-40

Mon 9/16: **Let There Be Light? : Christianity & Nature**

Rdg—**N:** White 5-13, Genesis 14-18; **E:** Gen18-19, Augustine 25-28; **FP:** Marshall 41-44

Wed 9/18: **Beyond Europe's Shadow : Other Lights, Other Voices**

Rdg—**N:** Shiva 35-36; **E:** Waters 40-53;

Mon 9/23: **So, Is Human-ism Natural? : Renaissance to Enlightenment**

Rdg—**N:** Locke 20-21; **E:** Locke 76-86; **FP:** Hobbes 63-67, Smith 155-58

Wed 9/25: **Let There Be Light . . . Again? : Enlightenment to Romanticism**

Rdg—**N:** Mill 29-30; **E:** Rousseau 64-75, Marx 87-95; **FP:** D.Wordsworth 69-71

Mon 9/30: **Science Rising : Method, Monster, or Saviour?**

Rdg—**FP:** Marshall 73-78, Descartes 79-81, Kepler 82-83, Sheridan 84-85, Shelley 86-98

Wed 10/2: **Nature in the New World : Jefferson Sends Lewis & Clark to Missoula**

Rdg—**FP:** DeVoto (L & C) 100-06, Boorstin 108-110, Sheehan 112-14

Mon 10/7: **Transcending New England : Those 2 Guys With 3 Names / HDT & RWE**

Rdg—**E:** Emerson 147-49; **FP:** Emerson 120-30, **T:** 49-75 ("Walking" Essay--Thoreau)

Wed 10/9: **If Man Descends, Does Nature Rise? : The 19th Century's Sense of Time**

Rdg—**N:** Darwin 22-23; **FP:** Darwin 132-39, Malthus 139A, Lyell 139B

Mon 10/14: *Instructor out of town. TA's presentations &/or Video. Required Rdgs TBA.*

Wed 10/16: **JOSH BURNIM, EVST Grad Student on his 500-mile hike in Idaho/B.C.**

Mon 10/21: **Muir & Marsh in America : Preserving Ecology & Parking Wilderness**

Rdg—**N:** Muir 23-25; **FP** Marsh 140-46, Muir 148-54, Turner 160-61, Reisner 163-68

Wed 10/23: **Review, Questions, & Discussion for Midterm Exam**

Fri 10/25: **Midterm Exam** (1/4 Course Grade)

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Course Schedule and Readings 10/28-12/18

**E = Thinking About the Environment N = Reflecting on Nature FP = FacPac /
Condon**

Mon 10/28: **½ the 20th isn't the 10th : Preservation, Conservation, & an Army of Engineers**
Rdg—**FP:** Leopold 173-75, Marshall 176, Austin 177, Pinchot 178, Reisner (re Powell) 169-71

Wed 10/30: **Guest Lecture: HENRY HARRINGTON, EVST/Engl Prof on *Aldo Leopold***
Rdg—**FP:** Leopold 180-193

Mon 11/4: **Ecology : Science, Subversion, or Both?**
Rdg—**FP:** Clements 194, Gleason 195, Tansley 196, Odum 198, Patch 199, Worster 200-07

Wed 11/6: **Guest Lecture: NEVA HASSENEIN, EVST Prof on *Rachel Carson***
Rdg—**E:** Carson 150-55, Cahn 131-37, **N:** Sachs 201-06

Mon 11/11: **Love It or Leave It : Nature & Society in the '60s**
Rdg—**E:** Ehrlich 156-60, Commoner 161-66, Hardin 173-78: **FP:** Abbey 211-214

Wed 11/13: **Guest Lecture: BRYONY SCHWAN, Environmental Organizer, topic TBA**
Rdg—**N:** Ehrlich 309-319, Lappe 328-332

Mon 11/11: **After Earth Day : Growing Up & Deep & Dangerous in the '70s**
Rdg—**E:** Naess 167-72, King 179-184,; **N:** Singer 53-54, Devall 115-21, U.N. 179-81

Wed 11/20: **Guest Lecture: DAN KEMMIS, writer, former Missoula Mayor, topic TBA**
Rdg—**E:** Stone 221-26; **FP:** Abbey 215-20, Lovelock 208-10

Mon 11/25: **Guest Reading: Nature Poet, Essayist , & Alaskan Adventurer JOHN HAINES**
Local/Global Paper Due (Max. 2 pgs; 1/4 Grade)

Thanksgiving Break: **No Class Wed 11/27 or Fri 11/29**

Mon 12/2: **A Crack in the Dam : Bad Jokes, New Visions, and the End of Everything**
Rdg—**N:** Bookchin 122-31; **FP:** Foreman 222-24, McKibben 225-28

Wed 12/4: **Guest Lecture: DAN FLORES, History Prof on Bioregionalism &/or Restoration**
Rdg— **N:** Callicott 252-64, Rolston 265-77

Mon 12/9: **Everything Ended Goes Right On : Nature & Society in the Fin de Siecle**
Rdg—**E:** Bullard 196-202, Wilson 193-95, Orr, 227-34, Milbrath 235-41; **N:** Rio 207-10

Wed 12/11: **Be Here Now or Are You Down for the Future?**
Rdg—**E:** Cahn 131-137, Daly 250-55; **N:** Kothari 228-37

Fri 12/13: **Review, Questions, & Discussion for Final Exam**

Mon 12/16: **8-10 am** **Final Exam** (1/4 Grade)