ENS 301  Contemporary Environmental Issues and Policies

Course Instructors: M. Bowman & R.L. Swanson

Instructor contact information
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Office Hours: TBA or by appointment.

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to expose upper division students to current environmental issues, problems and policies, presented by professionals who are working in the field, in the real world outside the sheltered walls of academia. Students are majoring in various disciplines, including environmental studies, marine sciences, economics, sociology, business, chemistry, political science, earth & space sciences, health science, astronomy and anthropology.

Course Learning Objectives:

• Summarize scientific, socioeconomic, legal and legislative aspects of current environmental issues and policies.
• Comprehend current environmental issues and policies of local, regional and global significance.
• Compare land use practices and reform, farmland and open space preservation; soil and water conservation; wetlands protection and rehabilitation; waste management and reduction, recycling and composting; air pollution, global warming and sea level rise; and marine wilderness areas.

These objectives will be met through participation in lectures, reading assigned course material and completing written assignments. Progress will be assessed through performance on three examinations.

Grading:

Meeting Schedule:
• presentations by the SoMAS Instructors;
• presentations by guest instructors;
• a 15 minute oral presentation by each student on an approved topic of their choice;
• written assignments in the form of two Op-Ed articles on topics chosen by the instructors; the best of which may be sent to the New York Times, Newsday or Stony Brook campus newspapers for consideration;
• the preparation of a business letter to some governmental organization, NGO or newspaper on a contemporary environmental topic, chosen by the students.
• Approved letters will be sent to the recipients, and return information shared with the class.
• closed book final exam which will test the students' in-depth understanding of selected contemporary environmental issues or policies.

Text Book:
University policies:
- Academic Progress & Standing Policy
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/academic_standing.php
- Academic Integrity
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/responsibilities_integrity.php
- Minimal Instructional and Student Responsibilities
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/min_instructional_student_resp.php
- Student Educational Records and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/student_educational_records.php
- Student Participation in University-Sponsored Activities
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/participation_university-sponsored_activities.php
- Equivalent Opportunity/Religious Absences
  http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/policies_expectations/equivopportunity_religiousabsences.php
- Disability support services (DSS)
  http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/tips_howto.shtml

ATM 320 Spatial Data Analysis Using Matlab