

Required Texts

Mark Schapiro, Exposed (2007)
Michael Pollan, The Omnivore's Dilemma (2005)
Thomas Friedman, Hot, Flat and Crowded 2.0 (2009)

Introduction: The Earth in Crisis

Assignment: James Gustave Speth, "Looking into the Abyss," from The Bridge at the Edge of the World, pp. 17-45.

I Understanding the Environmental Challenge

1-The Ecosphere vs. the Technosphere

Assignment: Barry Commoner, "At War with the Planet" from Making Peace with the Planet, pp. 3-18 ®.

2-Individualism and Over Population

Assignment: Barry Commoner, "Population and Poverty," from Making Peace with the Planet, pp. 141-168; Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," ®.

3-Consumption, Well-Being, and its Consequences

Assignment: James Gustave Speth, "Real Growth: Promoting the Well-Being of People and Nature," and "Consumption: Living with Enough, Not Always More," from The Bridge at the Edge of the World, pp. 126-164 ®.

II U.S. Environmental Politics: A Brief History

1-The American Conservation Movement

Assignment: Clayton Koppes, "Efficiency, Equity, Esthetics: Shifting Themes in American Conservation," in Donald Worster, ed., The Ends of the Earth (Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 230-251 ®.

2-Current Political Institutions and Recent Policy History

Assignment: Kraft and Vig, "Environmental Policy from the 1970s to the Twenty-First Century," and Norman Vig, "Presidential Leadership and the Environment," in Vig and Kraft, Environmental Policy, 6th ed., pp. 1-33 and 100-123 ®.

III Comparing Toxics and Public Health Policy in Europe and U.S.

Assignment: Schapiro

IV Major Issues Threatening the Environment: Transportation, Food, and Energy

1-Auto Dependence

Assignment: "Automobiles and the Environment" from http://www.greencars.org/guide_environment.htm; Terry Tamminen, "Wealth Seems Rather to Possess Them" and "Worse Poison to Men's Souls" from Lives Per Gallon, pp. 107-154; Sperling and Gordon, "Breaking Detroit's Hold on Energy and Climate Policy" from Two Billion Cars, pp. 47-77.

2-The Ecology of Food
Assignment: Pollan.

3-Energy and Global Warming
Assignment: Friedman

Course Requirements

1-There will be two essay tests that will each require that you answer one question. There will be no short answer, true/false, or multiple choice questions. A make-up exam will only be given to those with a legitimate excuse that is provided before the exam or immediately after. Each exam will be worth 33 percent of the final grade. Class participation and quizzes will comprise the remaining 33 percent.

2-You are expected to do the assigned reading before each class and come prepared to discuss it. Each student will be responsible for at least one oral presentation on the assigned reading.

3-Regular and punctual attendance are a must.

4-There may be unannounced quizzes on the reading.

5-Any act of cheating or plagiarism may result in failure for the course.

6-You will also be expected to follow current events relevant to environmental issues. Accordingly, it is strongly recommended that a subscription to the New York Times be purchased in the University Center.

7-Students are encouraged to contact the professor with any problems or difficulties concerning the course.

8-Those who think that they may need the assistance of the Disability Access Center should do so at the beginning of the semester.

9-All electronic devices should be turned off during class unless approved in advance.

10-All email communication should be done through your Bear mail account to prevent messages from other accounts from being caught in a spam filter.