Introduction to Culture and Natural Resource Management

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Office hours: 229 Mulford Hall, 3-5p Monday or by appointment

Location: 2050 VLSB. Time: M, W, F. 11am-12pm.

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Course content: This course explores historical and contemporary experiences of African Americans, American Indians, European Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos in relation to natural resources. We start with the contention that natural resource management is premised upon historically and culturally distinct relationships between humans and nature, and associated social and economic systems. These, in turn, are conditioned by struggles between individuals and groups over access to and control of land, water and other resources. We focus on political economy, property, ecology, identity, representation and narrative to investigate complex relationships between humans and nature, and how these have influenced urban and rural social life and landscapes. For instance, we examine how racial difference has shaped Indian rights to forest resources and management practices in northern California, Chinese American access to farmland in the California Delta, the environmental and social contexts of water management and drought in California, and divergent experiences of New Orleans residents before, during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Learning objectives:
This course is designed to facilitate students’ understanding of the following:
• Relationships between natural resource management and identity in the U.S.
• Policy and ethical dimensions of natural resource management
• Critical understanding of identity and power relations in the U.S.

Additionally, this course is designed to cultivate students’ interests and abilities in the following:
• Holistic, systems-based, and multi-disciplinary approaches to complex phenomena
• Critical thinking, reading and analysis
• Short essay writing and group project work
• Understanding one’s own experiences, roles and actions in society
• Informed, critical and self-reflective civic engagement
Course requirements: The course entails reading, assignments, tests and in-class participation. Exams cover lectures, readings and points raised in discussion section, and quizzes are designed to assess reading material comprehension. The papers and final project allow you to engage in depth with course material and themes. In discussions, you have the opportunity to explore the readings and lectures and discuss your own ideas. Come to lecture having completed assignments and reading, and ready to engage. Bring your intelligence, your curiosity, your creativity, and the hard work that got you here, and you are likely to learn a lot, and get an A.

Quizzes: You must complete 6 of the 12 quizzes on reading assignments that are available in the Quiz tool on bCourses. You may take 8 quizzes and apply your 6 best scores. Quizzes cover only material from the current week’s assigned readings, and are designed to assess whether you have completed the reading material. Each quiz is graded on a 10-point basis.

Grading: Your final grade is based on a 1000-point system.
- Midterm: 200 points
- Final exam: 200 points
- Quizzes: 70 points (6 reading quizzes + 1 book quiz)
- Final paper assignments: 210 points
- Weekly reflections assignments: 120 points
- Family and natural resources paper: 50 points
- Class participation: 150 points
- Extra credit: up to 30+ points

Readings:
- Course reader: The reader is available in one volume, and can be purchased at University Press Bookstore at 2430 Bancroft St. Alternatively, you can buy used readers through the ESPM 50 Reader Exchange, to which you have access through bCourses.
- Unit websites: Required and recommended websites for each unit are listed on “Unit websites” documents in the Unit Resources folder for each Unit on bCourses. You are responsible for relevant content on exams.
- Recommended readings: Recommended readings are listed on the syllabus in association with some lectures. You are not required to do read this material, and are not responsible for it on quizzes or exams.
- Book: You are required to select one of the following books, all of which are available at the ASUC bookstore and often can be found used at local bookstores or on-line. Please do not purchase any of these books until the assignment has been explained in class.

bCourses: Check bCourses for assignment sheets, resources, announcements, lecture outlines and PPT slides (posted before lectures), unit web sites, etc. You will be notified of all new postings by email, and you are responsible for knowledge of all bCourses posts.
Electronic devices in class policy: You may use your computer or tablet to take notes and search for and refer to lecture related material while in lecture and section. However, you are not allowed to use any electronic device for non-class related purposes while in lecture or section. If you are do so, you will be subject to a 25/1000 point deduction from your course grade for a first offense, a 50 point deduction for a second offense, and a 100 point deduction for a third offense. After that, you will fail the course.

Course email: See page 1 for instructor email addresses. Please do not use bCourses to email instructors. The subject line for all email messages to Dr. Spreyer and GSIs should be titled: “ESPM 50 – student last name, first name – your specific message subject.” If the message regards a specific assignment, please use the assignment abbreviation key term to identify the assignment after your first name. The instructors are not responsible for responding to improperly titled messages.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism: Plagiarism is a BIG problem at UC Berkeley. While some students purposefully plagiarize by submitting purchased term papers or failing to cite sources, etc., many others do so simply because they don’t understand how to properly reference ideas and information. It is your responsibility not to plagiarize. See http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html and “Understanding plagiarism” in the assignments folder on bCourses and for guidelines on avoiding plagiarism. If you are uncertain about whether you have plagiarized material, check with your GSI before you submit an assignment.

Assignment and test abbreviated title key: Course documents will often refer to assignments by the abbreviations used in the assignment title key. Please use the abbreviations in this key to title all assignments at the top of the first page, in file titles, and in email headings.

Weekly Reflections: WR (WR1, WR2, WR3, etc.)

Family and Natural Resources Paper: FNR paper

Extra Credit: XC1, XC2, XC3, etc.

Final Project – Option (1, 2, 3, etc.): FP – O1, O2, O3, etc.

Final Project – Option 1
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Descriptive Paragraph: FP – O1 – DP
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Outline: FP – O1 - Outline
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Rough Draft: FP – O1 – RD
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Peer Review: FP – O1 - PR
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Peer Review Response: FP – O1 – PRR
  • Final Project – Option 1 – Final Draft: FP – O1 – FD
*See Final Project assignment sheet for additional option title abbreviations

Exams:
  • Midterm: MT
  • Final Exam: FE

Quizzes:
  • Q1, Q2, Q3, etc.
  • Book Quiz: BQ – Book Author’s last name
Assignment and test schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Test</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
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<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>WR10 (Book WR &amp; in-section quiz)</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>See FP assignment sheet</td>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
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<td>Exam</td>
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Final exam: Tuesday (5/10), 7-10pm. Location tba.

Assignment submission: Unless otherwise noted in the syllabus, all assignments are due in hard copy in your discussion section and on bCourses on the day of your section meeting by 10am or before section if your section meets earlier.

Assignment file titling protocol: Each assignment file should be titled and headed as follows: ESPM 50 – F’16 – Abbreviated assignment title (see title key for abbreviations) - Your Last Name, Your First Name - Section #.

Quizzes: You must complete your choice of any 6 of the 12 reading quizzes, as well as the in-section week 11 book quiz.
WEEK 1

Section: Discussion sections do not meet this week.

UNIT I: AFRICAN AMERICANS AND HURRICANE KATRINA IN NEW ORLEANS

This unit introduces subjects that frame our study of culture and natural resource management in the course. First, we discuss concepts associated with the American Cultures requirement. Then we set the stage for understanding historical relationships between resource use and the experiences of different racial groups by examining events in New Orleans before, during and after Hurricane Katrina. We emphasize that culture and nature are not separate, but shape one another. And we explore property rights and visions of the social contract.

Unit websites: See the Units folder on bCourses for required and recommended unit websites.

Section: Discussion sections do not meet this week.

Aug 24. Course introduction: American Cultures and natural resources

Aug 26. Hurricane Katrina and environmental history

  https://www.thenation.com/article/shadow-disaster/


WEEK 2

Section: Discussion sections meet for the first time this week.

Aug 29. In the low ground: society, geography and identity in New Orleans


  100 years of mismanagement leading to collapse.

Recommended video: New Orleans. The Natural History
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U13hML6U06g

Recommended video: The Big Uneasy. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjbly_T__rI
Aug 31. Race, racism and representation


Sep 2. Faubourg Tremé: Local stories and historic events

Film in class: Faubourg Tremé


WEEK 3

Section: Weekly reflections (WR3) due in section and on bCourses. Students in Monday sections should submit only electronically, on bCourses by 10am, Tuesday (9/6).

Sep 5. Labor Day. No Class

Recommended: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/business/september96/labor_day_9-2.html

Recommended: http://www.iww.org/projects/mayday/origins.shtml

Sep 7. Structural racism and Katrina: mainstream and critical perspectives


http://www.democracynow.org/2006/3/6/come_hell_or_high_water_michael
* Use real media player (http://realmedia.com) or another application to view this.
** To view the video, click on “real video stream” below the program title on the web page. Go to the beginning of the segment at 35:40 minutes in the program.
Sep 9. Racial projects, housing projects, and engineering projects: Rebuilding New Orleans / restoring southern Louisiana’s wetlands


Video: New Orleans: Recovery or Removal? GRITtv with Laura Flanders. 25 mins. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1w2nb7wP85Y

Video: “Are New Orleans’ post-Katrina flood defenses strong enough?” PBS NewsHour. 8 mins. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaqPx3Rden0


Recommended video: Ten Years After Katrina, Has New Orleans Been Rebuilt, Or Just Gentrified? 5 mins. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QW3tV4C8IGMMRGGO

WEEK 4

Section: WR4 due in section and on bCourses.

Sep 12. Property as social process


Sep 14. Revolutionary values: property, liberty and the American social contract


UNIT II: NATIVE AMERICANS, EUROPEAN AMERICANS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

We examine historical Native American and European American natural resource management practices, focusing on divergent concepts of nature and property, the implications of contact with Europeans and involvement in emerging global trade for Indian populations and environments. Then we explore ideas and representations of Native Americans and the frontier in the popular imagination. Next, we review federal resource management and Indian policy. Finally, we consider a case study of Yurok resource management in northern California. Throughout, we seek to understand how land has moved from Indian to European American control, and the significance of this process for people and ecosystems.

Sep 16. Northeastern woodlands Indian resource management


WEEK 5

Section: FNR paper due in section and on bCourses.

Sep 19. Colonist resource management in New England


Sep 21. Changing landscapes in the New World


Sep 23. The North American fur trade


WEEK 6

Section: WR6 due in section and on bCourses.

Sep 26. The ecological Indian?


Sep 28. The frontier: myth and rurality


Sep 30. Scientific Forestry and conservation

Film in class: The Greatest Good.


**WEEK 7**

Section: WR 7 due in section and on bCourses.

Oct 3. Inventing the Indian

*Come to class prepared to discuss images from this lecture’s powerpoint presentation. ** Please refer to the powerpoint file titled “Schimmel images” in the “Inventing the Indian” lecture folder on bCourses while reading the Schimmel article.


Oct 5. Indian policy 1: federal powers


Oct 7. Indian policy 2: wardship and sovereignty


Audio and article: Robertson, Mary Jean. “Reflections from Occupied Ohlone Territory.”

**WEEK 8**

Section: no assignment due

Oct 10. Managing the Yurok forest


Oct 12. Fire management in northern California: Integrating Karuk traditional ecological knowledge and western fire science

Film in class: Catching Fire: Prescribed Burning in Northern CA.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMriDpfZnXQ

http://tribalclimate.uoregon.edu/files/2010/11/Karuk_profile_5_14-12_web1.pdf

Oct 14. **Midterm 1** – Bring a large blue (or, better yet, green) book for the exam.
**WEEK 9**

Section: Come to section having read the final project assignment sheet, which is available in the “Final Project” folder on bCourses. Be prepared to discuss possible final project ideas.

**UNIT III: ASIAN AMERICANS AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN CALIFORNIA**

We study Asian American immigration and life in California, focusing on the experiences of Chinese and Japanese Americans between the Gold Rush and the Second World War. We consider their roles in the development of mining, transportation and agriculture, and their relationships with European Americans and the state.

Film: Becoming American: The Chinese Experience.

The required segments of a streaming version of this film are listed in the document titled “ESPM 50 – Becoming American – Viewer info – F’16” in the Unit III resources folder on bCourses. View this film online by Friday (10/28) or see a screening of the film on Thursday night (10/20). Time and location tba.

Oct 17 & 19. California resource capitalism


Oct 21. Chinese immigration and labor


**WEEK 10**

Section: See final project submission schedule.

Oct 24. Chinese immigrants and the California gold rush


Oct 26. Building the first transcontinental railroad


Oct 28. Chinese exclusion and resistance


WEEK 11

Section: All students should attend a section on your book choice. The book weekly reflections assignment is due in the section that you attend this week.

Oct 31. Chinese laborers and farmers in the California Delta

Chan, Suchen. “New world delta” and “Potato kings.” This Bittersweet Soil (1986). 160-62; map on page 166; 171-91; 192-203.


Recommended: Locke, Ca. photos: http://www.scrapbookpages.com/photoessays/Locke/

Nov 2. Japanese immigration and agriculture


Nov 4. Guest speaker Kaz Mori will discuss his camp experience.


WEEK 12

Section: See final project submission schedule.

UNIT IV: CALIFORNIA WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

We will dive into historical and contemporary water resource management issues in California, emphasizing the interplay of shifting socioeconomic and cultural contexts as they shape the development and implementation of water resource science, policy and management. We will conclude with two lecture periods in which students will present their final project research on issues associated with water and drought in the Golden State.

Nov 7. California waterscapes


Nov 9. Plumbing the Golden State 1: water rights … and wrongs


Nov 11. Veterans Day. No Class.


WEEK 13

Section: See final project submission schedule.

Nov 14. Plumbing the Golden State 2: California’s hydraulic society

Nov 16. Plumbing the Golden State 3: water wars and reconciliation


KQED Quest. California’s Deadlocked Delta. nd.
http://science.kqed.org/quest/delta-map/


Nov 18. Looking to the future: Managing water as a “public commodity”

http://repository.uchastings.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1986&context=faculty_scholarship

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_211EHR.pdf

WEEK 14

Section: No section this week.

Nov 21. Reclaiming the City's River: The Politics of Urban Sustainability and Restoration of the Los Angeles River

Guest speaker: Esther Kim

Readings tba

Nov 23. Thanksgiving break. No class

Nov 25. Thanksgiving break. No class

WEEK 15

Section: See final project submission schedule.

Nov 28. Student presentations 1. Readings tba

Nov 30. Student presentations 2. Readings tba

Dec 2. Course wrap up. Readings tba

Final exam: Dec 12, 11:30-2:30. Location tba.