

**Geography 340
Environmental Geography**

Instructor: Shane Eaves

Room: PH1-227

Date & Time: T/Th 3:30-4:45

Office: PH1-217

Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30

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“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.”
– John Muir

Required Texts, Readings & Other Required Course Materials

Required Books:

- Robbins, P., J. Hintz, and S. Moore. 2014. *Environment & Society: A Critical Introduction*. Wiley: UK. 2nd Edition.
The textbook can be found in the University Bookstore or online. Some retailers (ex. Amazon) offer “rental” services for textbooks to reduce costs.
- Additional class readings will be posted to BeachBoard. Some readings will be pdfs, some will be links to articles. Additionally, some readings may be distributed in class or via email.

BeachBoard & Email:

For this class, you will need to have consistent access to a computer with internet connection. If there is ever a problem with a posted reading, please let me know right away. BeachBoard will be a crucial part of this class. BeachBoard will contain all the information on assignments and the most up-to-date schedule, as well as readings. Your class assignments will also be submitted via BeachBoard, so please take some time to familiarize yourself with it and be sure to check it frequently. Also, make sure you have access to your CSULB email, as class communications, changes, and updates will be sent via email notifications and/or BeachBoard.

If you need to get in contact with me outside of classroom/office hours, email is best. I make every effort to respond within 24 hours during the week, though weekends may take longer.

Course Overview:

This course examines a fundamental geographic subject, the interaction between humans and their environment, also referred to as nature-society or environmental geography. The primary objective of this course is to examine our relationship to and with the environment from a variety of perspectives. We will explore these interrelationships from a suite of different geographic viewpoints that consider political, ethical, economic, historical, physical, and cultural factors. The course will conclude with a group analysis of a contemporary local environmental issue.

Course Topics:

- Environmental ethics & justice
- Environmental risks & hazard
- Evolution of environmental thought
- Population, consumption, scarcity
- Climate change & sustainability

- Ecosystem conservation & restoration
- Fossil fuels & renewable energy
- Research methods & research design
- Environmental action & policy challenges

Grading: 500 points total

Critical Review Papers (2 Total):	100 pts (20%)
Midterm:	100 pts (20%)
Final Exam:	100 pts (20%)
Final Project Total:	125 pts (25%)
Paper:	75 pts
Presentation: (Visual/Content etc.)	25 pts
Presentation: (Individual Contribution)	25 pts
Participation, Discussion, Exercises:	75 pts (15%)

A = 500 – 450 pts, B = 449 – 400 pts, C = 399 – 350 pts, D = 349 – 300 pts, F = 299 – 0 pts

Policies:

In the Classroom:

Given the nature of this class' content, we will cover a wide range of complex, historical, structural, scientific, and current topics. I expect students to discuss and analyze these topics with nuance and critical complexity. Constructive critiques and questioning are good. However, I do not tolerate hate, in any form, in my classroom. My goal is to create an environment that is as open to intellectual growth and critical thinking as possible; rude, hateful, or reductive treatment of others is not part of that and will negatively impact your grade.

Attendance & Participation:

Participation is part of your grade for this class, meaning that regular class attendance is necessary in order for you to succeed. Keep in mind, attendance is not the same thing as participation. Participation means answering questions and taking an active role in any and all in-class activities. It also means being a productive group member.

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. Each subsequent absence results in a loss of 10 points from your total grade.

Laptop and Cell Phone Policy:

Laptops are fine for taking notes or accessing the course readings.

However, please do not spend class time visiting sites that do not pertain to the class material as it is distracting and disruptive to your fellow students. If you come to class, you might as well pay attention and engage with the material. For cellphones, there are very limited times where using your phone might be valuable in pulling up a reading. However, generally, please silence your phone and do not use class time to text or play games etc. If I see you on your phone and not paying attention, I will ask you to put it away.

Late Work:

All work and exams must be completed on the day and time specified in the assignment details. Makeup exams are granted only in the case of a documented illness or other excused absence.

Please notify me well in advance of any known or potential schedule conflicts. All other makeup requests are subject to denial. Late assignments for unexcused absences will not be graded.

Plagiarism:

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating on exams, copying work from fellow students, or turning in work prepared for another class. Any evidence of plagiarism or cheating will be taken seriously and may result in failing the assignment, class, and being reported to the college administration.

The CSULB catalogue's definition of plagiarism, cheating, and repercussions:

<http://catalog.csulb.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=30#cheating-and-plagiarism>

Withdrawal Policy:

If you decide not to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw. Withdrawal from a course after the initial period of enrollment requires the signature of the instructor and the department chair, and is permissible only for serious and compelling reasons. During the final 3 weeks of instruction withdrawals are not permitted except in cases such as accident or serious illness. Please refer to the university calendar for all applicable dates for withdrawal:

<https://www.csulb.edu/student-records/dropping-and-withdrawing>

Accommodations:

If you have a verified disability that requires special accommodations, please see me within the first week of class or as soon as possible so that we can form a plan to best meet your needs.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This schedule may be changed anytime by the Instructor and is designed to give a general overview of topics and discussions throughout the semester. Look for announcements or changes listed on BeachBoard or announced in class

NOTE: Look for each week's readings on BeachBoard. These readings must be completed before class on the day they are due. All assignments must be submitted on BeachBoard before the start of class on the day that it is due.

Week	Date	Topic(s)
1	T 8/27	Intro & Syllabus Policies
	Th 8/29	Developing an Environmental Conscience
2	T 9/3	Environmentalism cont.
	Th 9/5	What is Nature? What Counts as Natural?

3	T 9/10	Environmental & Climate Justice
	Th 9/12	Environmental Racism: L.A. Case Study
4	T 9/17	Complete the Ecological Footprint Activity & Reflection (9/17 by 2:30 pm) Population, Scarcity, & Consumption
	Th 9/19	Institutions & 'The Commons'
5	T 9/24	Markets and Commodities
	Th 9/26	Critical Review 1 DUE (9/26 by 2:30 pm) Political Economy
6	T 10/1	Neoliberalism & Environmentalism
	Th 10/3	Catch up / Study Day
7	T 10/8	Midterm Exam
	Th 10/10	Intro to Part 2 & Collab Project Review
8	T 10/15	Everyday Behaviors: Bottled Water and Lawns
	Th 10/17	Data Collection Exercise
9	T 10/22	Data Collection Exercise
	Th 10/24	Hazards, Risks & Perceptions
10	T 10/29	Data Collection Exercise
	Th 10/31	Dark Side of Technology: Conflict Minerals and E-waste
11	T 11/5	Critical Review 2 Due (11/5 by 2:30 pm) Urbanization & Inequality
	Th 11/7	Urban Greenspace & Redevelopment
12	T 11/12	Environmental Policy & Climate Challenges
	Th 11/14	Final Project Outline DUE (11/14 by 2:30 pm) Pollution & Global Connectivity

13	T 11/19	Agriculture & the Environment
	Th 11/21	*Optional* Make Up Critical Review DUE (11/21 by 2:30 pm) Ways Forward & Geo-engineering
14	T 11/26	Group Project Work Day
	Th 11/28	NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)
15	T 12/3	Project Presentations
	Th 12/5	Project Presentations
16	T 12/10	NO CLASS (Reading Day)
17	T 12/17	Final Exam 2:45 pm – 4:45 pm