# EVSS 595: Governance of Social-Ecological Systems

# Research Design

For your research design you will select a social-ecological system and discuss the type of data you would collect and how you would collect it to apply one (or both) of the Ostrom frameworks. Your topic should involve a common-pool resource or other environmental problem and be limited to a specific geographic area. In addition, your data collection will focus on the governance aspects of your topic.

Various drafts of sections of the research design will be due throughout the semester.

**Part 1**: *Topic selection*: In about one or two paragraphs, describe your potential research topic. You should begin with a research question related to governance of a social-ecological system.

* **DUE**: Sept 15

**Part 2**: Expand on your topic selection and provide further information and background about your research topic. Include (as applicable) information about the nature of the common-pool resource such as its current condition or concerns about over-use; include geographic information such as the country or countries in which your case is located; include information about the environmental problem or issue you are interested in addressing; and include information about the important participants and action-situations (venues where decisions are made) such as who is involved in accessing or using the resource, who is involved in making decisions about the resources, and where are these decisions made. *Should be about 5 to 6 pages double-spaced*. **DUE**: Oct 20

OR

If you are using the MES thesis proposal outline as a guide, then consider this the introduction. From the MES student handbook:

* Introduction:
  + Includes a statement of the research problem
  + Review of academic and relevant agency/policy literature
  + Specific research question(s)
  + Hypotheses (if a deductive project)

You are encouraged to use this assignment to make further progress on your thesis project, as long as fits within the topics and concepts discussed in class.