International Development: Critical Perspectives on Theory and Practice

Sustainability and the Environment Track

COURSE DESIGNATOR MSID 4001
NUMBER OF CREDITS 4 credits
Language of Instruction English
Contact 40 Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This track forms a part of the larger MSID 4001 course. Students will be introduced to concepts, definitions and recent development practices in natural resources management. The investigation focuses on environmental issues and power relationships among resource-related actors that influence environmental sustainability and resources management. The case studies illustrate critical issues and fundamental ideas of environmental sustainability and management practiced in Thailand and neighboring SEA nations and their links with local, national, and regional development. Case study investigations will cover ecological structure and function of related ecosystems, historical and contemporary resource use patterns, governance, and stakeholder analysis.

INSTRUCTOR
Aaron Koning, PhD Candidate, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To introduce the ecological concepts that underpin historical resource provisioning and the contemporary threats to continued provisioning.
• To evaluate current resource management theories, practices, as well as conflict and cooperation between resources users, policy makers and other actors.
• To encourage critical examination of development trends with regards to sustainability and the environment.

METHODOLOGY
The course will pair lecture presentation of course material with student-led topical discussions drawn from course readings. Excursions outside of the classroom will provide additional opportunities to apply concepts to local realities of northern Thailand. Course requirements include class participation, a term paper, and a final examination, each of which will be discussed further in class. Class participation will include leading discussions on assigned readings and doing small group projects and presentations for the eighth week of class.
COURSE PREREQUISITES
None

GRADING

CRITERIA FOR GRADING AND GRADING STANDARDS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.</td>
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Summary of how grades are weighted:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focus papers (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft of term paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final term paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Overall Grade</td>
<td>55%</td>
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45% of the grade will be determined by assessments done in the common topics section of this course.

Description

1. **Class participation:** Students are expected to come to every class having completed all required readings and able to discuss, question, critique, analyze and express ideas about natural resource management and sustainability.
2. **Focus papers:** Students will write three focus papers that synthesize the material for 3 of the 4 case studies covered during class. Students may choose which case studies they write on. Focus papers will be due on Friday of the week in which the case study was presented. Focus papers should conform to UM paper submission guidelines (12pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, and 1” margins).
3. **Term paper:** Students will choose a topic of interest within the intellectual bounds of sustainability and the environment to explore in greater depth than what is possible
during the classroom setting. A draft of the paper will be due on the last day of class prior to beginning the internship phase (March 11th). Students will receive feedback on their drafts as well as meet with the instructor to discuss progress to date. The final draft will be due on May 6th. More details about the scope of the term paper will be discussed in class.

CLASS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKS 1-3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
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<td>Common Topics</td>
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<th>WEEK 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 8-12: <em>Introduction to Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Course Introduction</td>
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<td>- Defining Sustainability</td>
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<td>- Planetary Boundaries</td>
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**Historical and Contemporary Resource Management Theories**
Ethical underpinnings of conservation
- Western and alternative models of resource management and conservation
- Top-down versus community-based resource management
- Institutional arrangements
- Scientific versus Local Ecological Knowledge

Readings:


**Friday Field Study:** Temple Visit, Wat Suan Dok, Chiang Mai
Feb 15-19: **Case Study #1: Forest users in northern Thailand**

Readings:

**Friday Field Study:** Forest Restoration Project & Hmong village
WEEK 6

Feb 22-26: **Resource Management Case Study #2: Global Food Systems**

- History of global economic development
- The Green Revolution and industrialized farming
- Agrarian transformation in Thailand
- Earth system nutrient cycling and crop production
- Meeting future food demand
- Biodiversity conservation and agricultural production

Readings:


**Friday Field Study:** Urban Light / NLC (male sex worker empowerment)
Feb 29–Mar 4: **Resource Management Case Study #3: Freshwater Resources and Hydropower Development in SEA**

- Demands on global freshwaters: Use, governance, policy
- Past and future freshwater resource development in SEA
- Ecological impacts of hydrological alteration
- Sustaining freshwater ecosystem services and biodiversity

Readings:


**Friday Field Excursion:** Lanna Wisdom School
Mar 7-11: Resource Management Case Study #4: Global Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems
- Global climate change
- Coastal eutrophication
- Global fisheries overharvest
- Economic exploitation and human trafficking in SEA fisheries

Readings:
<table>
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<th>WEEK 10-15</th>
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<td>Internship/research phase.</td>
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<th>WEEK 16</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper presentation.</td>
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<td>Final paper due.</td>
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