

Instructor

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Office hours

Tues, Wed., Thurs. 1:00-2:00 p.m.
or by appointment

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Course description

In this interdisciplinary online course, we examine and analyze environmental conflicts in historic and contemporary times. We interpret roles that relations of power and ecosystem transformation play in shaping human-nature relations and conflicts between people. Understanding these dynamics is essential to finding solutions to current and emerging environmental conflicts.

Learner outcomes

Describe and discuss environmental conflicts that interest students
Evaluate contemporary social and political conflicts over development
Analyze influences of media on political conflicts over policy-making from the 1960s to the present
Demonstrate comprehension of environmental conflicts in historic and contemporary times and interrelated influences of ecosystems, economies, and relations of power
Demonstrate comprehension of conflict resolution processes
Recognize perspectives and vocabulary that environmental historians, political scientists, sociologists, and scholars of political ecology use to interpret environmental conflict

Resources

For online students

Carefully review information on technology presented at CWU's Online Learning site: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements>. There you will find all necessary information about technology requirements and links to download browsers, plug-ins, and programs.

Use either **Firefox** or **Google Chrome** to best interact with Canvas.

You will need **Adobe Reader** and you can obtain it **free** at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Some materials are presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), and submitting assignments prepared using Word is required. Sign in to this website to download **Office 365, free for currently enrolled CWU students**: <https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education>.

The Wildcat Shop sometimes has good bargains on software. Cat Tech offers hardware, repair of Apple products, and buys some used hardware for cash: <https://wildcatshop.net/c-4-cat-tech.aspx>.

Materials presented at CWU's Online Student Resource Center are designed primarily for students enrolled in fully online degree programs, but students taking online classes may also find them helpful. See <http://www.cwu.edu/student-achievement/online-student-resource-center>.

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System we use for our course. We will use Pages, Announcements, Quizzes, People, Discussions, and other Canvas tools.

Canvas Pages provide information about topics and concepts, instructions, and links to all assignments and materials related to each module. **Before getting started with module work, always carefully read the Page(s) associated with the Module.** Canvas Pages are required readings.

Our course is organized as a series of Modules in Canvas. Modules are simply groups of assignments you complete in the order they are presented. In some cases, it is necessary to complete all Module work before moving on to the next Module.

Reading Canvas **announcements** as they are published is important to your success. I will use them frequently as a way to provide information about current events and issues, share answers with the class to questions students raise with me, and communicate extended deadlines and other information about assignments.

If you are new to Canvas, you can reference Canvas guides as needed. See <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701>

You can get help while working in Canvas by clicking the “Help” icon at the bottom of the column at the left side of the screen. You can chat online in real time with a technician who can provide immediate assistance or send a message requesting assistance. You can also call the Canvas Support Hotline toll-free: (877) 399-8897.

Here is a link to CWU’s Canvas Help and Support for Students webpage: <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students>.

We may use Canvas Conferences. Here is a link to a Canvas guide on using Conferences: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-8075> . This content is linked at CWU’s Online Learning webpage on technology tools. See <http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/how-do-i-use-technology-tools>.

Reading materials

We will read a lot. You will enjoy the readings.

Required texts are by Theodore Steinberg and Clive Hamilton. We will read both books in their entirety.

- Steinberg, Theodore. 2002. *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.

The first edition of Steinberg’s book is available as an eBook through CWU’s library at no cost.

- Hamilton, Clive. 2017. *Defiant Earth: The Fate of Humans in the Anthropocene*. Cambridge, UK; Malden, MA: Polity.

CWU's bookstore should make Hamilton’s book available to you, though you may be able to acquire it at a better price elsewhere.

Other required readings will be posted in Module Pages as PDF files or come from eBooks in the CWU library’s collection.

Internet environmental news services

Subscribe to these right away:

Sightline Daily is a service of the [Sightline Institute](http://www.sightline.org), an independent, non-profit research and communications institute established in 1993 to equip the Northwest’s citizens and decision-makers with the policy research and practical tools they need to advance long-term solutions to our region’s most significant challenges. Sightline Daily is delivered to your e-mail account daily. The 10 linked stories are picked from more than 120 media outlets from the Northwest and beyond. Go to <https://www.sightline.org/signup/> to sign up.

Environment 360 is an online publication of Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies that offers reporting, analysis, opinion, and debate. Go to <https://e360.yale.edu/newsletter> and sign up for their newsletter to get a weekly update of the latest content delivered to you by email.

Videos

You will need to access videos online. Some may be available at no cost. Some will be available only through subscription services, such as Netflix, or other services that require you to pay to access content.

Your instructor

I've been teaching at CWU since 2000. I study environmental politics, political ecology, Indigenous politics and movements in Latin America, the U.S., and Canada. I got my PhD in political science from the University of Oregon. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona (politics, literature, history) and got my BA in political science at CWU long, long ago.

Please contact me anytime you have questions or need assistance figuring out what to do or how to do it! I check my email and the course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I am available during office hours or by appointment. Call me at 509-963-1842.

Course components

Reflection papers

Reflection papers enable you to demonstrate comprehension of readings and describe concepts and arguments presented by writers.

Mid-term exam

The mid-term essay exam allows you to demonstrate your comprehension of perspectives and apply vocabulary used in natural and social sciences to interpret environmental conflict.

Discussions

Research-based discussions offer you the chance to work with others to identify, describe, and interpret conflicts rooted in development and media portrayal of environmental problems. The final discussion is an evaluation of the potential for successful conflict resolution. Evaluation is based in part on peer review. Note: **ALL DISCUSSIONS HAVE MULTIPLE DEADLINES** –due dates for first and second posts and the date the discussion closes. **Due dates shown on the Canvas Syllabus are dates by which first posts are due.** Course schedule updates and discussion instructions provide all three deadlines.

Final project

As a final project, you will work with a small group to create and share a PowerPoint presentation. You will analyze a conflict and suggest approaches to resolution that acknowledge roles relations of power, and ecosystem transformation play in creating conflict and shaping change. Evaluation is based in part on peer review.

Assessment

Grade distribution

Component	% value
Reflection papers	40%
Mid-term exam	5%
Discussions	40%
Final project	15%

Grading scale

Grade	% range
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-68
D	67-63
D-	62-60

Course policies

Communication and feedback

- Contact me whenever you have questions, need assistance, or want feedback. **I am happy to help** however I can to enable you succeed and I will respond promptly to messages (within 24 hours and sooner, if possible).
- Log in to Canvas every day and carefully read announcements.
- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU email daily.
- Check for my feedback on your assignments.
- Watch for course schedule updates: The pace of our work together may need to be adjusted as we proceed. Due dates for assignments may change. Rest assured that I will never move a due date forward (that is, make an assignment due sooner than originally indicated).
- I welcome all the feedback you may wish to provide on the course and your experiences! If you have suggestions about how to make assignments more valuable or due dates more reasonable, etc., let me know. This will help not just you and me, but others in the class and those who take it in the future.

Missed or make-up work

- If an emergency prevents you from completing required coursework on time, communicate with me right away.
- Make arrangements **in advance** before submitting late work.
- Missed course requirements are entered into grades as “0” points.

University policies

Academic integrity and student conduct

You must complete all coursework and assignments using your own original ideas and own words. You must properly cite the ideas and words of others. Sanctions for plagiarism range from failure of a particular assignment to suspension from the university.

Be honest and respectful in your interactions with other students and your instructor.

Expectations of student conduct and specific student responsibilities are established by the University *and by Washington state law*. See the CWU Catalog for more information. See the Washington state Student Conduct Code (which includes proscribed conduct and disciplinary sanctions) at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125>.

On student success, rights, and responsibilities

Link here to the Office of the Dean of Student Success: <http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/>

Link here to CWU's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.cwu.edu/student-rights/>

Special needs

Students wishing to arrange academic adjustments in this class must register with Disability Services (DS). Once you register with DS, they arrange requested adjustments with instructors. Visit <http://www.cwu.edu/disability-support/requesting-student-accommodations>, email DS@cwu.edu or call (509) 963-2214 to get information about the DS intake process.

Preliminary course schedule

- This is the preliminary schedule, for weeks 1-2. [See course schedule updates](#) for information on upcoming weeks. Updates are posted regularly and you will receive notifications when they are available.
- Unless otherwise specified, coursework is **due at midnight** on dates indicated.
- All discussions have 2 due dates—one for initial posts and one for final posts. **Course schedule updates and discussion instructions provide all deadlines for posts.**

WEEK	TOPICS	COURSEWORK (SEE PAGES IN CANVAS FOR MORE INFO.)	DUE DATES
1 3/26- 3/31	Module 1 Introductions	<p>➤ Module 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post Canvas profile bio• Read other students' Canvas profile bios• Complete interest inventory• Read Startup & Module 1 Page• Readings – See Module 1 Page on Canvas• Discussion 1 (“D1”)• Reflection paper 1 (“RP1”)	<p>✓ 3/29: Deadline for posting profile bio</p> <p>✓ 3/29: Deadline for completing interest inventory</p> <p>✓ 3/29: Deadline for reading Startup & Module 1 Pages</p> <p>✓ 3/31: D1, 1st posts due</p>
2 4/1-4/7		Module 1 continued	<p>✓ 4/4: D1 closes at midnight</p> <p>✓ 4/7: RP1 due</p>