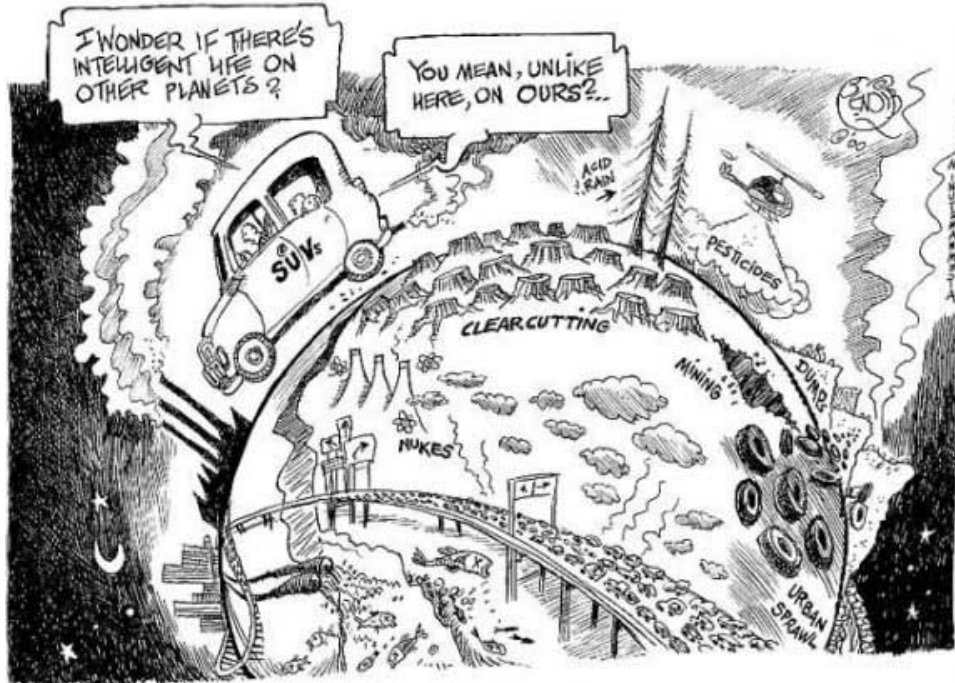


# ENVS 201: Introduction to Environmental Studies—Social Sciences (a.k.a. Why do smart people do dumb things to the planet?)

Fall 2007, Tuesday-Thursday 12:00-1:20 100 Willamette Hall

Prof. Peter Walker, Dept. of Geography, 107J Condon Hall, 346-4541 [pwalker@uoregon.edu](mailto:pwalker@uoregon.edu)

Course web page: go to <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>



Environmental Studies 201 introduces some of the major contributions of the social sciences to understanding how and why environmental problems happen—the social ‘root causes’ of these problems. Environmentally harmful human behavior is not simply a fact of life: it is a product of specific social conditions, which can be studied, understood, and *changed*. This course also examines social approaches to resolving environmental problems, including ideas such as ‘sustainability’, ‘market-based’ environmental policies, reforms of property systems, and social movements that promote concepts such as environmental justice, ecofeminism, and deep ecology. In this course students practice applying these conceptual approaches by using them to analyze the root causes, consequences, and possible solutions to specific environmental topics. This year we will focus on global warming, the Pacific Northwest salmon crisis, and related topics.

**Course requirements:** The course grade will be based on the following: one midterm (25%); four in-class quizzes (5% each=20% total); section participation (20%); and group project presentation to the class (35%). The midterm will consist of multiple-choice and short-essay questions. The midterm and quizzes will be based on all course materials: lectures, readings, and videos. Quizzes will not be announced in advance, so full attendance and preparation for lectures is essential. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A ‘MAKE-UP’ QUIZ OR EXAM. THERE IS NO ‘EXTRA CREDIT’. In case of extreme health or family emergency, a quiz may be excused with appropriate documentation of the emergency. Lecture outlines will be available on Blackboard after the class but do *not* substitute for in-class note-taking. There is no textbook. Required readings are available as PDF documents on the class web page at <http://Blackboard.uoregon.edu> You **must** come to class having read all assigned readings up to and including that day’s readings.

## Class & Reading Schedule

Lect 1 Sept 25	Introduction & overview: social science perspectives on the environment (Video: Planet Earth)	
Lect 2 Sept 27	Case Study I: the case of global warming—what went wrong?	(Cunningham 1998; Henson 2006; Whitty 2006) (Video: Global Warming: What You Need to Know)
Lect 3 Oct 2	Case Study II: Elwha Dam—what went right?	(Grossman 2004; Downing 2004; Olson 2004; Stokstad 2006)(Video: Unconquering the Last Frontier)
<b>Part I: Root causes of environmental problems—social science perspectives</b>		
Lect 4 Oct 4	Population: good and bad news beyond the ‘bomb’	(Robbins 2005; United Nations 2007)(Videos: Paul Ehrlich & the Population Bomb; World in the Balance)
Lect 5 Oct 9	Ideas of nature	(Kinsley 1995, 1995; Dean 2007; Leopold 1949)(Videos: Religion & Ethics Newsweekly; Bill Moyers ‘Is god Green?’)
Lect 6 Oct 11	Political economy	(Foster 1999; Easterbrook 2003)(Video: ABC Nightline - Heart of Darkness)
Lect 7 Oct 16	Economic growth and consumerism	(McKibben 2007; De Graaf 2001; Myers 2004; Reynolds 2004) (Videos: Affluenza; Advertising & End of the World)
Lect 8 Oct 18	Environmental law	Video homework assignment: A Civil Action
Lect 9 Oct 23	Trade and the environment	( <i>The Economist</i> 1999, 2004; Daly 1993)(Video: Blood Diamonds)
Lect 10 Oct 25	Globalization	(Rodrik 2002; Pope 2002; Eviatar 2005)(Video: Global Banquet)
Oct 30	MIDTERM EXAM	Bring #2 pencils and nothing else
<b>Part II: Social science solutions to environmental problems</b>		
Lect 11 Nov 1	‘Sustainability’: what does it mean?	(Prugh and Assadourian 2003; Sachs 1997)(Video: Easter Island)
Lect 12 Nov 6	Environmental economics and ‘green’ markets	(BBC 2006; Stern 2006; Engardio 2007)
Lect 13 Nov 8	Ecological economics and natural capitalism	(Arrow et al. 1995; Daly 1993; Lovins, Lovins, and Hawken 1999)
Lect 14 Nov 13	Radical views: environmental justice, ecofeminism, deep ecology	(Sachs 1996; Kristof 2007; Warren 1996; Harding 1997)
<b>Part III: Applying social science concepts to real-world environmental problems:</b>		
Lect 15 Nov 15	Biodiversity	(Whitty 2007; Davis 2006)
Lect 16 Nov 20	Conclusions	(Shellenberger and Nordhaus 2004)
Nov 22	THANKSGIVING DAY	NO CLASS
Nov 27	Class presentations	Part I
Nov 29	Class presentations	Part II

## Readings

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