

**GEOG 230: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**  
**SPRING 2017 (ONLINE HYBRID)**  
**THURSDAYS 2:00-3:50 PM IN CIN 92**

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Skog  
Office: Cramer Hall 424J  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12-1 PM, or by appointment  
Email: [skog@pdx.edu](mailto:skog@pdx.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Aylan Lee  
Email: [aylan@pdx.edu](mailto:aylan@pdx.edu)  
Office Hours: TBA

### **Course Description**

This introductory course explores the dynamic relationship between people and the environment. While environment-society relations—a main subfield in geography—have been ever-changing throughout history, contemporary environmental issues offer useful lenses through which to understand environment-society dynamics. At the same time, the multiple perspectives coming out of the study of environment-society geography offer new ways of understanding contemporary environmental concerns. In this course we will explore several environmental concerns as well as several lenses through which to understand environment-society relations, including environmental concerns related to population, markets and commodification, community governance and institutions, ethics, risks and hazards, political economy, and social constructions of nature. Following the first two class sessions, class time will be spent primarily in group discussion and formal class debates. Lectures and media content will be delivered through D2L. This course is an online hybrid course and relevant to students from all departments/schools. There are no prerequisites.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course students will have mastered the following learning objectives:

1. Describe different interpretations or social constructions of nature and identify them in everyday portrayals of the environment;
2. Identify the role of social science in addressing environmental and natural resource problems;
3. Define and use concepts such as scale, community, ecosystem services, environmental justice, environmental ethics, sustainability, risk, and resiliency and their importance to understanding natural and human processes and patterns;
4. Compare scientific and local knowledge and different approaches to environmental decision-making and stakeholder involvement along with their implications for resource management;
5. Discuss global population and consumption dynamics and theories of their relationship with natural resources and environmental change; and,
6. Relate concepts and material from class to contemporary real world issues in our Portland community and your own life.

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**Student Responsibilities**

You are responsible for your own learning; I am here to share my expertise and experience, guide you in your learning process, and cheer you on as you go! Ultimately, however, you will get out of this class what you put into it. In order to take advantage of everything this course has to offer I expect you will:

- Attend all class meetings. Attendance to all class meetings is required.
- Complete all readings and assignments. Edit and proofread all written materials. **Except in the case of illness or emergencies (which must be documented), late work will be accepted with a 10% grade reduction for each 24 hour period passed the deadline AND with prior arrangements with the instructor. All requests for late submissions must be requested and approved by the instructor prior to the assignment deadline.**
- Communication is of the utmost importance. It is the student's responsibility to communicate with the instructor when experiencing illness, an emergency, or when struggling in the course.
- Actively and thoughtfully participate. Invest time in this course.
- Ask questions when you do not understand the material or assignment expectations.
- Plan ahead. Follow the syllabus and weekly To Do lists, and be alert to upcoming deadlines.
- NOTE: Students are responsible for keeping copies of all work they submit for grading in case there are technical issues regarding their computer, Internet connection, or course software. Students are also responsible for ensuring that all images and assignments upload properly. If you encounter technical difficulties, contact the OIT Helpdesk.

*You can expect me to:*

- Respond promptly to your queries (within 24 hours, except over weekends and holidays)
- Be available to meet with you during office hours, or by appointment
- Return graded material within a reasonable time

*Classroom environment:* Students and faculty are each responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. In short, treat your peers and me with respect at all times and under all circumstances. I encourage you to voice your opinions and perspectives in a constructive and respectful manner. Disrespectful or abusive language or behavior will not be tolerated.

**Toolkit for a Sustainable Classroom**

In keeping with PSU's commitment to sustainability, below are several ways in which we as a class can encourage the wise use and conservation of resources:

- The majority of resources for this course are available online
- Assignments will be accepted and graded online
- I encourage you to use the ebook version of our textbook, which is available through the library's website

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- You are welcome to use a digital device to take notes; however, if your screen use is distracting to other students and/or not germane to our class, I or the TA will ask you to put the device away
- Use the nearest Hydration Station and your own reusable bottle for water
- All in the Hall: Take any trash, recyclable, or compostable materials out of the classroom and dispose of them properly

**Grading**

*Weekly Quizzes (10%):* Each week (except for the week of the Mid-term exam) you will complete an online quiz covering all the materials (readings, media, lectures, discussions, and debates) from that week. Quizzes will be available at midnight each Thursday and are due at midnight each Sunday.

*Assignments 20% (5% each):* There will be 7 available assignments throughout the term. You will complete 4 out of 7 of these assignments. The details for each assignment are available on D2L. Submit your completed assignment via the D2L dropbox by Sunday at midnight on the week they are assigned.

*Debate Prep 25% (10% each; 5% Participation):* We will hold two in-class debates during the term. The details of the debates as well as your assigned position in the debate will be provided in class. For each debate you will prepare a brief position paper (2-3 pages). In order to earn your 5% participation grade for this portion of the class, you must contribute a substantive statement during the in-class debate. Failure to attend a debate will result in a 50% reduction of your debate prep grade.

*Midterm (20%) and Final Exam (25%):* The mid-term and final exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. Details of the exams will be covered in class. There will be absolutely no make-ups of the mid-term or final exams without a legitimate doctor's note (and notification prior to the exam) or arrangements made with the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

Your final course grade will be determined based on the following rubric:

<u>Percentage grade</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>	<u>Percentage grade</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	59 or less	F

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**Required Text**

- Robbins, P., Hintz, J., and Moore, S. 2014. *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction*. Second Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley.
  - Note: This is available through the library
- Additional articles and readings on D2L

**Other General Course Policies**

**Requests for Academic Accommodation:** Students who have a learning disability that may affect their performance should contact the Disability Resource Center, 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, Phone: 503-725-4150, Email: [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu) Fax: 503-725-4103, TTY or Relay: 503-725-6504. If you have a documented disability and are registered with the Disability Resource Center meet with the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made.

**Policy on Academic Honesty:** Any type of academically and ethically dishonest work (plagiarism, copying someone else's work, etc.) may result in an automatic "F" for the assignment and, when appropriate, a report filed with the Office of Student Affairs. The PSU Bulletin includes the following statement on Academic Honesty: "The Student Conduct Code, which applies to all students, prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty. These acts include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, buying and selling of course assignments and research papers, performing academic assignments including tests and examinations for other persons, unauthorized disclosure and receipt academic information, and other practices commonly understood to be academically dishonest."

**Policy on Classroom Guests:** On occasion students may wish to bring guests to class. In many cases such arrangements can be made; however, students must contact Dr. Skog in advance of the class for permission. Unfortunately, minor children are not allowed in our classroom. [Little Vikings flexible daycare program](#) and the [Resource Center for Students with Children](#) are excellent resources for locating childcare.

**Policy on Discrimination and Harassment:** Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, know that help and support are available. PSU has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and on-campus housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672.

Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors **are required to report** information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual

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harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or student code of conduct, I have to share the information with my supervisor or the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of Affirmative Action. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module [Creating a Safe Campus](#) in your D2L.

**Course Topics\***

Week	Date	Topic
1	April 6	Course Introduction Social Constructions of Nature
2	April 13	Population and Scarcity
3	April 20	Institutions and the Commons Environmental Ethics
4	April 27	Debate I
5	May 4	Mid-term Exam
6	May 11	Political Economy of Nature
7	May 18	Risks and Hazards
8	May 25	Environmental Justice Climate Politics
9	June 1	Debate II
10	June 8	Indigenous knowledge Sustainability
<b>Final Exam: Monday, June 12, 10:15-12:05</b>		

\*See D2L for Weekly To Do lists, assignment deadlines, and debate preparation materials.