



**Course Name:** Issues in Natural Resources Conservation

**Course Number:** FES 365

**Credits:** 3

**Term:** Winter 2022

**Instructor name:** Dawn Anzinger

**Instructor email:** [anzinged@oregonstate.edu](mailto:anzinged@oregonstate.edu)

### **Course Description**

Background of major current issues in natural resources conservation with emphasis on forests, soils, and water and potential sustainable carrying capacity. Focus on evaluating facts and opinions related to issues. Basics of terrestrial and aquatic ecology, recent and current issues of soil, water, and forest use and management.

### **Communication**

Please post all course-related questions in the Q&A Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Contact me privately for matters of a personal nature. I will reply to messages and emails within 24-48 hours. I will strive to return your assignments and grades for course activities to you within seven days of the due date.

### **Course Credits**

This course combines approximately 90 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 3 credits.

### **Technical Assistance**

If you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact 24-7 Canvas Support through the Help link within Canvas. If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, or need assistance logging into a course, contact the IS Service Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-8787 or visit the [IS Service Desk](#) online.

### **Learning Resources**

There is one required textbook for this course; it is available at the OSU Bookstore and online booksellers:

- **A Rulebook for Arguments**, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2009. Anthony Weston. Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. ISBN 978-0-87220-954-1 (The 4<sup>th</sup> edition is also acceptable.)

FES 365 is an online course. You will need frequent access to a computer with a reliable internet connection. In the course site, you will find streaming media (requiring speakers or headphones), online readings, and discussion forums. You will also need word processing software, preferably with grammar and spell-check functions, in order to complete written assignments.

**Note to prospective students:** Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll ([OSU Bookstore Website](#) or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

### **Canvas**

This course is delivered via Canvas, where you will interact with your classmates and your instructor. You will access the learning materials within the course site, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the [Ecampus Course Demo](#). For technical assistance, please visit [Ecampus Technical Help](#).

### **Measurable Student Learning Outcomes**

During this course, students will:

1. Analyze the origins, historical contexts, and implications of contemporary global issues. (Mastery assessed in Midterm and Final Exams)
  - a. *Analyze the origins, historical contexts, and implications of global issues surrounding the sustainability and conservation of natural resources.*
  - b. *Describe global trends in environmental conditions as well as the drivers of ecosystem change and degradation.*
2. Explain the complex nature and interdependence of contemporary global issues using a multi-disciplinary approach. (Mastery assessed in Discussions, Midterm and Final Exams, and Argumentative Essay)
  - a. *Identify ecosystem services and describe the relationship between societal use of natural resources and the sustainability of ecosystem services.*
  - b. *Describe how ethics influence human interactions with the environment and the sustainability of natural resources.*
  - c. *Recognize both the challenges and the opportunities associated with the use of markets and government policies to conserve natural resources.*
  - d. *Explain and describe basic terrestrial and aquatic ecology and ecological processes, with an emphasis on soil, freshwater, and forest conservation.*
3. Articulate in writing a critical perspective on contemporary global issues using evidence as support. (Mastery assessed in Article Review, Short Argument, and Argumentative Essay)
  - a. *Evaluate the arguments, facts, and opinions that enter natural resource conservation debates.*
  - b. *Craft clear and reasoned arguments and write an evidence-based, argumentative essay on a topic in natural resource conservation.*

### **Bacc Core**

#### [Baccalaureate Core](#)

Successful completion of this course partially fulfills OSU's Baccalaureate Core course requirements in the Synthesis category under Contemporary Global Issues. We take an interdisciplinary approach to our consideration of the origin and nature of natural resource issues, utilizing economic, ethical, political, and ecological perspectives. We will apply critical

thinking skills to the analysis of issues in natural resource conservation. Learning outcomes for Synthesis in Contemporary Global Issues are listed above (Learning Outcomes 1, 2, and 3).

### Evaluation of Student Performance

Discussions (4)	40 points (10 points each)
Article Review	15 points
Forest Map Exercise	15 points
Argument	
• Short argument	15 points
• Peer Review	15 points
• Argumentative Essay	50 points
Midterm Exam	30 points
Final Exam	50 points

Total 230 points possible

### Letter Grade

Grade	Percent Range
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D+	68-69
D	62-67
D-	60-61
F	<59

### Course Content

Week	Topics	Readings & Learning Activities	Assignments
1	Intro to NR conservation Intro to argument	Text: Intro & Ch. I Online: <a href="#">Ecosystems &amp; Human Well-Being</a> Focus topic: Ecological footprint accounting	Class discussion
2	Ethics & Conservation Thinking critically	Text: Ch. II & IV Online: 1) <a href="#">Environmental Ethics</a> , 2) <a href="#">The Rise of the American Conservation Movement</a> , 3) <a href="#">The Land Ethic</a>	Class Discussion

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information visit: <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu>.

Week	Topics	Readings & Learning Activities	Assignments
3	Natural Resource Economics Fallacies in argument	Text: Appendix 1 Online: 1) <a href="#">The Tragedy of the Commons</a> , and counter arguments <a href="#">The Fallacy of the Tragedy of the Commons</a> and <a href="#">The Tragedy of Tragedy of the Commons</a> 2) <a href="#">Economics for a Full World</a>	Class Discussion (Essay topic due)
4	Environmental Policy Deductive argument	Text: Ch. V & VI Online: 1) <a href="#">Natural Resource Management: challenges and policy options</a> , 2) <a href="#">Justice and Equity: emerging research and policy approaches to address ecosystem service tradeoffs</a>	Article Review
5	Soil science Soil Degradation Extended arguments	Text: Ch. VII Online: <a href="#">Global Soil Resources</a> Video: <a href="#">Symphony of the Soil</a> Focus topic: Desertification	Midterm Exam
6	Agriculture and Soil Argumentative essays	Text: Ch. VIII Video: <a href="#">Cation Exchange</a> Animations: <a href="#">Nitrogen &amp; Agriculture</a> , 2) <a href="#">The Terrestrial Nitrogen Cycle</a> Focus topic: Phosphorus depletion	Short argument
7	Freshwater Ecology Eutrophication	Online: <a href="#">Eutrophication, Causes, Consequences, and Controls in Aquatic Ecosystems</a> Video: <a href="#">Ecosystem Stock and Flow</a> Focus topic: Dead Zones	Peer Review
8	Global Water Resources	Online: <a href="#">All about Water: Earth's blood</a> Video: <a href="#">Interactive Roles of Surface Water and Ground Water</a> Focus Topic: Aquifer depletion	Class Discussion
9	Forest Ecology Deforestation & Biodiversity	Online: <a href="#">The Root of the Problem</a> Ch. 1 & 6 Focus Topic: Land conversion to palm plantations	Forest map exercise
10	Forests and Carbon	Online: <a href="#">A Synthesis on the Science of Forests and Carbon for the U.S.</a> Focus topic: Carbon storage in boreal forests	Argumentative Essay
Finals Week			Final Exam

## Course Policies

- **Learning Community**

Every student should feel safe and welcome to contribute in this course and should know that they belong in the College of Forestry.

As the instructor, I will try to establish a welcoming, inclusive tone whenever possible, but ultimately the responsibility for cultivating a safe and welcoming community belongs to the students—that means you!

Fortunately, being part of a safe and welcoming community is not hard. A good place to start is to recognize (and continually remind yourself) of the following facts:

- Your classmates come from a variety of cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds. Something that is obvious to you may not be obvious to them.
- Your classmates are human beings with intelligence and emotions.
- Your classmates are here to learn. They have the right to pursue their education without being distracted by others' disruptive behavior, or made uncomfortable by inappropriate jokes or unwanted sexual interest.
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

If each of us remembers these facts and acts with corresponding decency, respect, and professionalism, the course will certainly be better for everyone. Some students might be inclined to shrug this off and perhaps crack a joke about safe spaces or political correctness. If that's you, please also know that if you make a fellow student uncomfortable by mocking them, making inappropriate jokes, or making unwanted advances, that constitutes harassment and will be taken seriously. However, I hope that we can all approach this positively. Treat your classmates as respected colleagues, support each other when needed, have fun without spoiling it for anyone else, and everybody wins.

- **Discussion Participation**

Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. You will need to participate in discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first post due no later than Wednesday evening, and your second and third posts due by the end of each week.

- **Late Work Policy**

Discussions and short argument assignments will not be accepted after the due date. Article Reviews and/or Argumentative Essays turned in after the due date will be penalized 10% (one letter grade). To receive partial credit, they must be submitted no later than Wednesday of Finals Week.

Exams can be postponed for reasonable need, so long as I am informed at least one day before the due date.

- **Course Incompletes**

Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don't wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

- **Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom**

Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

- **Academic Calendar**

All students are subject to the registration and refund deadlines as stated in the Academic Calendar: <https://registrar.oregonstate.edu/osu-academic-calendar>

- **Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities**

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by Disability Access Services (DAS). If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098 or at <http://ds.oregonstate.edu>. DAS notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations.

- **Student Conduct Expectations link:** <https://beav.es/codeofconduct>

- **Ecampus Reach Out for Success:**

University students encounter setbacks from time to time. If you encounter difficulties and need assistance, it's important to reach out. Consider discussing the situation with an instructor or academic advisor.

Learn about [resources that assist with wellness and academic success](#). Ecampus students are always encouraged to discuss issues that impact your academic success with the [Ecampus Success Team](#). Email [ecampus.success@oregonstate.edu](mailto:ecampus.success@oregonstate.edu) to identify strategies and resources that can support you in your educational goals.

If you feel comfortable sharing how a hardship may impact your performance in this course, please reach out to me as your instructor. (Instructors: consider tailoring this statement to your personal voice.)

- For mental health:  
Learn about [counseling and psychological resources for Ecampus students](#). If

you are in immediate crisis, please contact the Crisis Text Line by texting OREGON to 741-741 or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

- For financial hardship:  
Any student whose academic performance is impacted due to financial stress or the inability to afford groceries, housing, and other necessities for any reason is urged to contact the Director of Care for support (541-737-8748).

- **Technical Assistance**

If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, reach out for help from [Ecampus Technical Assistance](#). You may also contact the instructor for assistance.

- **Writing Assistance**

[Turnitin's Draft Coach tool](#) is available in Google Docs for OSU students. Use it to check your writing for similarity against online sources before you submit your assignments.

The Oregon State [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) is also available for students enrolled in Ecampus courses.

Your instructor may ask you to submit one or more of your writings to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service. Your assignment content will be checked for potential plagiarism against Internet sources, academic journal articles, and the papers of other OSU students, for common or borrowed content. Turnitin generates a report that highlights any potentially unoriginal text in your paper. The report may be submitted directly to your instructor or your instructor may elect to have you submit initial drafts through Turnitin, and you will receive the report allowing you the opportunity to make adjustments and ensure that all source material has been properly cited. Papers you submit through Turnitin for this or any class will be added to the OSU Turnitin database and may be checked against other OSU paper submissions. You will retain all rights to your written work. For further information, visit [Academic Integrity for Students: Turnitin – What is it?](#)