

UHON 390 – Honors Seminar
Environmental Movements
University of South Dakota – Fall 2010
Syllabus Revised 10/23/10

LECTURE MEETINGS: TuTh 12:30-1:50 in Beacom 303

PROFESSOR: Dr. Brennan Jordan

E-MAIL: brennan.jordan@usd.edu

OFFICE: Patterson 103 (temporary), phone# 677-6143

WEB: <http://www.usd.edu/~Brennan.Jordan/>

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: In-depth exploration of topics not typically found in other college courses. These highly focused courses may require student presentations and discussions of reports based on literature, practices, problems, and research.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The environmental movement is one of the most important social movements of the late 20th century and early 21st century. In this seminar we will examine the origins of the environmental movement, the nature of various movements and organizations that it comprises. We will seek to understand the motivations for environmental movements, their efficacy, and their future.

REQUIRED TEXT & READINGS:

Required: Kline, Benjamin, 2007, *First Along the River: A Brief History of the U.S. Environmental Movement*, 3rd ed., Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, ISBN 978-0-7425-5853-3.

Required: Students will need to acquire one additional book, varying by student. These can be acquired cheaply as paperbacks online.

Other readings: other readings, essays, papers, and book chapters, will be made available as pdf files or put on reserve at the library.

OFFICE HOURS: Formal office hours will be M 11-1, W 10-12, Th 10-12, but please feel free to swing by my office any time, or set up an appointment.

ATTENDANCE: Participation in course meetings is essential for any seminar, and this is no exception. The quality of participation will be assessed on a daily basis and constitute part of the course grade. Absences may be excused by simply contacting the professor before the absence.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Book report: Each student will write a short paper (four pages or less) summarizing and reacting to an assigned book, read in full.

Environmental organization reports: Students will write two short (1-2 pages) reports on environmental organizations.

Movies assignment: Student teams will prepare a discussion/presentation on a selected environmentally themed movie.

Semester project: students will write a major paper (ten pages or less) on a relevant subject of their choosing, and give a brief report on this subject in the last regular week of class.

GRADING: Grades will be based on four elements as laid out in the table below. Grading will be based on a conventional scale: A=90-100%; B=80-89.9%; C=70-79.9%; D=60-69.9%; F=<60%. A curve may be applied to some exams at the instructor's discretion, but don't count on it. The weighting of coursework will be as follows:

Participation/discussions	40%
Organization reports and Movie Assignment	30%
Book report	10%
Final paper and presentation	20%

CHEATING: The College of Arts & Sciences policy on cheating is as follows: “No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be: (a) given a zero for that assignment; (b) allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit; (c) assigned a reduced grade for the course; (d) dropped from the course; or (e) failed in the course.”

CELL PHONES: Please turn your cell phones off before entering the classroom. Students with phones out during class will be asked to leave (that means no texting either).

COMPUTERS: Do not use in class unless you are using them to take notes. If you want to use them in that way place yourself in the room away from others so as to not be distracting.

FREEDOM IN LEARNING: Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Associate Dean Kurt Hackemer to initiate a review of the evaluation.

DISABILITIES: Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

COURSE EVALUATION: You will have an opportunity to evaluate the course and the instructor using the IDEA Diagnostic Form at the end of the semester. A separate evaluation will be made in the laboratory.

Course Schedule

(note: this schedule is tentative, subject to change in the flow of the course)

Week	Topic	Kline Reading
8/30	Course intro; Starting point in America	Ch. 1 & 2
9/6	Early America and our philosophical inheritance	
9/13	<i>No course meetings, professor out of town</i>	
9/20	<u>Speaker</u> : religion and environmentalism; The Frontier	Ch. 3 & 4
9/27	Industrialization; To the 20 th century	Ch 5 & 6
10/4	Aldo Leopold; Video – Ansel Adams	
10/11	Rachel Carson; Environmental organizations I	
10/18	The 1970's & 80's; Environmental organizations IIA	Ch. 7 & 8
10/25	Edward Abbey; Environmental organizations IIB	
11/1	The 1990's and 2000's; James Lovelock	Ch. 9-11 + concl.
11/8	Movie assn. I; <i>No Class Th</i>	
11/15	Movie assn. II; Movie assn. III	
11/22	Movie assn. IV; <i>No Class Th</i>	
11/29	Local environmental movements	
12/6	Student presentations	
12/17	<u>FINAL EXAM 12:30 (Fri.): no exam, final paper due</u>	