

GEOGRAPHY 464/664 RACE, GENDER & THE ENVIRONMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to challenge your concepts about the environment by examining a wide range of views about the environment and the ways in which groups act upon these perceptions. The particular goal of this course is to examine how social identities (such as religion, race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexual orientation, and others) influence the ways in which we understand, experience, and act with regards to the environment. In turn, we will study how environmental perceptions as well as actions which utilize, control, manage, and pollute the environment shape social identities.

Within this framework, this course has three major themes. Initially, we explore how social identities structure definitions and perceptions about nature. In this section of the course we examine the influence of identity groups as they relate to environmental understandings and values. For the second theme we turn our attention to natural resources (and vice versa). In this section of the course we evaluate how social identities influence natural resource allocation and use. The third theme of this course concerns the distribution of environmental quality (for example, exposure to pollution) for different social identity groups and the resulting actions that have been taken to achieve environmental justice.

SCHEDULE

This course meets from 5:30pm to 8:15pm on Tuesday evenings in Mackay Science Room 321. I encourage you to visit about any aspect of the course during my office hours on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2pm, or if you prefer, make an appointment to talk with me. My office is located in Mackay Science Room 302. I can also be reached by phone at 784-6344 or through my email address at kberry@unr.edu

OTHER INFORMATION

If you have a disability and will be requiring assistance, please contact me and the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building Ste. 101) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations and keep me apprised of your situation.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Grading for this course will utilize the University's grading policy which allows for letter grades with the possibility of a plus or a minus (for example, it is possible to get a C+ or an A-). Your grade for this course will be based on the following items:

350 points	Class attendance & participation
1000 points	Reading assignments
250 points	Midterm exam
400 points	Final Exam
2000 points	TOTAL POSSIBLE ¹

¹ Students taking this course for graduate credit will also write a 10-15 page paper about an aspect of this course. The topic for the paper must be approved in advance. The graduate paper will be due on Tuesday 22 November.

Points will be deducted for late work.

A plus/minus grading scale will be used:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	less than 60%

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is expected for each scheduled class period. Bear in mind that missing class will not only affect your attendance grade but will also affect your participation grade. If you are absolutely unable to attend class, you may want to contact your fellow classmates to get notes. Please keep me apprised of your situation. I expect each student to take an active role in class discussions and group assignments. Participation will count and your active involvement in the class is expected. Feedback and discussion are important to understand and assimilate the materials presented in this course, so do not hesitate to ask questions or contribute comments on the readings, discussions or assignments at the appropriate time.

READINGS

The assigned readings for this course are available electronically through this course on the WebCampus. Check your access to WebCampus for this course during the first week of school and get back to me immediately if you do not have access to the readings. All readings should be completed before class on Tuesday of the week assigned. Readings often form the foundation for class lectures, discussions and assignments so come prepared.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

For each week's assigned readings, I will post an essay question that you will use as the basis to write a short essay (1 to 3 pages, typed double space). Some weeks there will be two questions from which you may choose one to write about. You are expected to write essays for 10 weeks worth of reading; in other words, you may take off any two weeks you wish from the reading assignments.² The reading assignments will be due no later than the beginning of class during the week they were assigned.

EXAMS

The midterm exam for this course will involve an in-class presentation based on the readings, reading assignments, class lectures, and discussions. The midterm will be held on **Tuesday 25 October**. More details will be provided the week before the midterm. The final exam will be a take-home essay exam based on short answer and essay questions. The final will be distributed during the final (regular) class, Tuesday 13 December and will be due during the final period for this course, **Tuesday 20 December 7:30 to 9:30pm**.

² If you choose to do an essay for each of the twelve weeks of assigned readings (rather than just the ten weeks assigned), the additional essays will be counted as extra credit.

Course Schedule

Class meeting on	Topic	Readings
30 August	Introduction	-----
6 September	Defining our terms	Berreby 2005 (ch 1,2 & 4)
13 September	People of the sea (Polynesia)	D'arcy 2006 (ch 2) Maly 2005
20 September	Whaling & fishing identities (Arctic)	Sakakibara 2010 Gombay 2005
27 September	Landscapes of religion (UK)	Walsham 2011 (ch 1)
4 October	Attached to the earth (US & Bolivia)	Masumoto 2011 Senett 2011
11 October	Cultivating gender & tradition (Latin America)	Fadiman 2005 WinklerPrins,Barrera-Bassols 2004
18 October	Irrigation: governance & incarceration (US & Bolivia)	Perreault 2008 Wilson 2011
25 October	MIDTERM EXAM	-----
1 November	Competition over grasslands (China)	Varsava 2011
8 November	Penguins as symbols	Sturgeon 2010
15 November	Ecology & identities in urban spaces (US)	Forest 1995 Waldholz 2011
22 November	Alternative energy development: wind, solar & indigeneity (US)	Tisdale 2011 Nash-Chrabascz 2011
29 November	Environmental racism? (Mexico & US)	Melendez 2011 Young 2011
6 December	Science, journalism & the future of the environment (US)	Gies 2011 Living on Earth 2011
13 December	Wrap up, distribute final exam	-----
20 December 7:30pm-9:30pm	Final class period, FINAL EXAM DUE	-----