

Graduate Seminar – Working Outline

Faculty of Social Sciences, Course #40890

ENVIRONMENT, SOCIETY, COMMUNITY, AND DEVELOPMENT

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Tuesdays 16:30 – 18:00 hrs., Rm. #3610

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Mount Scopus Campus

DESCRIPTION

Overview

This graduate seminar examines the relationship between the biophysical environment and natural resources, human societies and institutions, in the social and economic development and resilience of local communities. The course takes a broad, interdisciplinary, comparative and historical approach to the topic, reviewing the respective roles of states and local institutions in the governance of environment and natural resources around the world. Students explore social theory, case studies, and practical applications from a variety of perspectives. Each week, students will write short, critical commentaries on required readings; these essays will serve as the starting point for class discussion. Over the course of the semester, students will apply course concepts and analytical frameworks to explore and more deeply understand a case study of their choosing. At the end of the semester, students will prepare and present a research-style poster reporting their analysis and findings. This course is designed especially for students in the M.A. in Environmental and Natural Resource Management and Policy program, in the Advanced School for Environmental Studies; all are welcome.

Objectives

By the completion of this course, students should be able to...

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical successes and challenges of both state- and community-led initiatives to develop, govern, and manage natural resources and local environments;
- Articulate both commonalities and distinct characteristics of state-community-environment interrelations in different parts of the world;
- Master the art of the short, critical written essay;
- Successfully apply course concepts and analytical frameworks to better understand dynamics in environment and society relationships at multiple levels of analysis; and
- Clearly communicate those understandings via development and presentation of a research-style poster.

Procedures

The course will meet for 90 minutes, over 13 weeks. It is organized as a graduate seminar, with weekly readings and related short, formal essays. Commentaries are due via digital methods (TBA) to the instructor and all course participants no later than 24 hrs. prior to class, i.e. by **16.30 hrs. Monday**. (Guidelines for commentaries will be made available separately.) Students are expected to read all required texts and commentaries prior to each class. Each week, we will begin our discussion of the assigned text(s) with the commentaries. Even while we are reading, writing about, and discussing key readings, students will apply course concepts and analytical frameworks to explore and understand a case study of their choosing.

Requirements

- Attend as many class sessions as possible* ;
- Read all required texts and everyone's weekly commentaries;
- Submit weekly commentaries (@ 1-2 pp.) on the required readings;
- Carry out, prepare, and present a research-based case study, applying and integrating course concepts;
- Successful completion of a final examination.

Grading (to be confirmed)

Weekly commentaries (8), 35%

Research project, 30%, of which:

-- Research-style poster, 65%

-- Oral presentation, 35%

Final examination, 25%

Attendance and participation, 10%

TEXTS

REQUIRED (selections from):

Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Ostrom, Elinor. 2015 [1990]. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Taylor, Peter Leigh, and David A. Sonnenfeld, eds. 2018. *Water Crises and Governance: Reinventing Collaborative Institutions in an Era of Uncertainty*. London and New York: Routledge.

RECOMMENDED:

Flint, R. Warren. 2013. *Practice of Sustainable Community Development: A Participatory Framework for Change*. New York: Springer.

* If you anticipate missing more than three (3) class sessions, please see the instructor.

CASE STUDY

Topic. By **Week 4**, submit a brief (1 p.) proposal outlining a sustainable community development issue or topic you would like to research and develop in a research-style poster and presentation for this course. In your proposal, address the perspective from which you propose to examine that topic. You may study in greater depth a case study examined in one of the course texts, or select another case study of your choice.

Abstract, Outline, and Bibliography. By **Week 7**, submit a working abstract, outline and bibliography for your research project

Research-Style Poster & Presentation. At final class session, **Week 13**.

SCHEDULE

Unit One: Historical Perspectives

Week 1 (16.10) – Course Introduction

Course Introduction

The State, Nature, and Space

REQUIRED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Intro, ch.1 (pp. 1-52)

RECOMMENDED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, ch's 2-3 (pp. 53-102)

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.1 (pp. 1-9, 12-23)

Week 2 (23.10) – The Modernist Project

The Social Engineering of Rural Settlement and Production

Taming Nature: An Agriculture of Simplicity

REQUIRED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, Part 3 intro (pp. 183-191); ch.8 (pp. 262-306)

RECOMMENDED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, ch's 4, 7 (pp. 103-146; 223-261)

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.2 (pp. 25-53)

*** Commentary #1 due ***

Week 3 (30.10) – NO CLASSES – Municipal Councils Elections

Week 4 (6.11) – Critique

Complexities of Modernist Development

Practical Knowledge

REQUIRED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, ch. 10 (pp. 342-357)

RECOMMENDED:

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, ch. 9, pp. 309-241

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.3 (pp. 55-91)

*** Case Study Topic Due ***

*** Commentary #2 due ***

Unit Two: Development of Local Institutions

Week 5 (13.11) – Commons Dilemmas

Tragedy of the Commons
Common Property Resources
The Logic of Collective Action

REQUIRED:

Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, ch. 2, pp. 29-57

RECOMMENDED:

Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, Preface, ch.1, pp. xi-28

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.4 (pp. 93-97, 102-118)

*** Commentary #3 due ***

Week 6 (20.11) – Community Governance and Institutions

Characteristics of Self-governing Institutions

REQUIRED:

Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, ch. 3, pp. 58-102

RECOMMENDED:

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.6 (pp. 143-167)

*** Commentary #4 due ***

Week 7 (27.11) – Mid-Semester Check-in: Case Studies

Abstract, Outline, Preliminary Bibliography

*** Abstract, Outline and Bibliography due ***

Week 8 (4.12) – Alternative Institutional Approaches

Institutional Competition
Legal Approaches
Entrepreneurial Institutions
Public-Private Partnerships

REQUIRED:

Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, ch. 4, pp. 103-142

RECOMMENDED:

Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*, ch's 5-6, pp. 143-216

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.7 (pp. 169-196)

*** Commentary #5 due ***

Unit Three: Water Governance and Institutions

Week 9 (11.12) – Scale and Governance

Re/inventing Governance in an Era of Uncertainty
Cross-Border Water Governance in Australia

REQUIRED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, Intro, ch.1 (pp. 1-26)

RECOMMENDED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, ch's 2-3 (pp. 27-58)

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.13 (pp. 303-324)

*** Commentary #6 due ***

Week 10 (18.12) – Local Approaches

Grassroots Water Governance in Nicaragua

Water Infrastructure Maintenance in Uganda

REQUIRED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, ch's 5, 7 (pp. 77-93, 112-126)

RECOMMENDED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, ch's 4, 6 (pp. 59-76, 94-111)

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.14 (pp. 330-335, 338-377, 382-387, 402-403)

*** Commentary #7 due ***

Week 11 (25.12) – NO CLASSES – Christmas

Week 12 (8.1) – Institutions, Actors, Conflicts

Structure and Agency in Water Governance in South Africa

REQUIRED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, ch.8, Epilogue (pp. 127-142, 160-166)

RECOMMENDED:

Taylor and Sonnenfeld, *Water Crises and Governance*, ch.9 (pp. 143-159)

Flint, *Practice of Sustainable Community Development*, ch.17 (pp. 441-447)

*** Commentary #8 due ***

Unit Four: Applying/ Integrating Course Concepts

Week 13 (15.1) – Case Study Poster Presentations

In-class, research-style poster presentations

*** Attendance required ***