

Course Outline

EST 796, Section 01
Adv Topics/ Environmental Studies

ECOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION THEORY

David A. Sonnenfeld
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SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Fall 2010, W 4:00-4:55 pm

DESCRIPTION

Overview

This is a *one credit-hour* research seminar (workshop) for advanced graduate students in Environmental and Natural Resource Policy, Political Science, Sociology, Public Policy, Law, Business and related fields with an active interest in social theory and institutional practices of environmental transformation. Participants will be introduced to a body of environmental social science theory and empirical research carried out over the last three decades that has become known as Ecological Modernization Theory; and will advance related research projects. The seminar will be conducted as a reading, writing, and discussion group. The better part of the course will be focused on reading and discussing the recently published text, *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*. Additional readings of interest to course participants may also be assigned. In the final segment of the course, participants will present and discuss works in progress – these may be just beginning, mid-stream reports, or final projects. Graduate students at every stage of research related to institutional environmental reform are welcome.

Enrollment

Instructor's permission required for enrollment. Prospective students should send the instructor an e-mail with their name, graduate program and institutional affiliation, statement of academic and research interests, and brief explanation of interest in this seminar. The seminar will be limited in size to 15 students.

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all seminar sessions;
- Read and discuss all required course texts;
- Organize and lead one or more seminar sessions; and
- Prepare, present, and submit a working paper related to the theme of the course.

Grading

Attendance and overall participation, 33%

Discussion leadership (one or more sessions), 33%

Working paper, 33%, of which:

-- Written paper, 75%

-- Oral presentation, 25%

Communication

Office: 211B Marshall

Hrs.: TuTh 2:00-3:30 pm, & by appointment

Tel. 315.470.4931/ 6636, fax 315.470.6915

E-mail: <dsonn@esf.edu>, and <DASonnenfeld@gmail.com>

URL: <http://www.esf.edu/es/sonnenfeld>

TEXTS

Required

- Mol, Arthur P.J., David A. Sonnenfeld, and Gert Spaargaren, eds. 2009. *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*. London and New York: Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-45371-4

Available at Follett's Orange Bookstore, Marshall Square Mall, 720 University Ave., ph. 478.6821

- Additional readings based on student interests.

WORKING PAPER

Scope. May include: a thesis/ dissertation proposal (for advanced graduate students), a proposal for graduate research funding, a draft paper for submission for presentation at a professional conference, a draft manuscript for submission for publication to a peer-reviewed journal, a draft Plan of Study (for beginning Master's students), etc.

Proposal. By **Week 3**, submit a brief (1-2 pp.) description of what you would like to write your Working Paper for this seminar on. Should relate to the course topic, and be 1-2 pp., typed, double-spaced. (Sept. 15)

Outline. By **Week 6**, submit an outline for your Working Paper. For most Working Papers (excepting Plans of Study), include a working abstract/ executive summary and preliminary bibliography, as well. (Oct. 6)

Oral Presentation. Present your seminar paper in class, 10-15 min., including questions and discussion. **Weeks 13-14.** (25% of Working Paper grade; Dec. 1, 8)

Written Paper. Typed, double-spaced, w/ cover page & references. Due at the beginning of the regularly scheduled **Final Exam** period for this course. (75% of Working Paper grade; week of Dec. 13)

SCHEDULE

I. Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice

Week 1 – Course Introduction

Course introduction

What is Ecological Modernization Theory?

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 1, 2

Week 2 – Foundations of Ecological Modernization Theory I

Origins: Jänicke, Huber, Mol and Spaargaren

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 2-5

Week 3 – Foundations of Ecological Modernization Theory II

Second generation: Hajer, Christoff, Buttel

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 5-8

*** Working Paper Topics Due ***

Week 4 – Transformations in Environmental Governance I

Political modernization: an overview

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 9-11

Week 5 – Transformations in Environmental Governance II

Political modernization: application and critique

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 11-13

INTERLUDE

Week 6 – Working Paper Workshop

Presentation and Discussion of Outlines

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

II. Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice (cont'd)

Week 7 – Greening Lifecycles and Lifestyles I

Technological environmental innovation

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 14-16, 18

Week 8 – Greening Lifecycles and Lifestyles II

The turn to (sustainable) consumption

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 14, 17

Week 9 – Environmental Reform in Emerging Economies I

Overview, debates, and applications

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 19-22

Week 10 – Environmental Reform in Emerging Economies II

Transitional economies: China, Vietnam, South Africa

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch's 22-25

Week 11 – Future Directions

Assessment, critical debates, and future directions

REQUIRED:

Mol, et al., *The Ecological Modernisation Reader*, ch 26

Week 12 – Open Session, TBA

THANKSGIVING BREAK

III. Ecological Modernization Theory: Works in Progress

Week 13 – Oral Presentations

Week 14 – Oral Presentations; Course Conclusion

Final Exam Period – Working Paper Due