

**CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
COURSE SYLLABUS & OUTLINE. GEOGRAPHY 4331.  
(Geography 5375 (for graduate credit). Fall 2017 (CRN 80055)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The conservation, utilization and abuse of natural resources will be stressed. Topics will include characteristics, spatial distribution, economic and environmental aspects of resources associated with the earth's subsurface, land, ecosystems, soil, water, oceans, and atmosphere.

**Meets:** Lecture: Tu-Th 8:00-9:20 in Lee Drain Building (LDB) room 321. Instructor: Dr. Mark Leipnik. Office Hours: M. 9:30-10:30 in LDB 323. Phone: Ex. 3698, email

**GEO\_MRL@SHSU.EDU.**

**Homepage:** [www:\\http\\shsu.edu/~geo\\_mrl](http://www.shsu.edu/~geo_mrl). Lectures will be emailed in PDF format to all registered students several weeks prior to each exam. Lectures are being revised to add new topics and may be updated periodically during the semester.

**TEXT:** "Natural Resource Conservation: Management for a Sustainable Future". Chiras and Reganold. 11th edition. Pearson. (note: 9<sup>th</sup> or 10th edition is acceptable and *cheaper!*).

**POLICIES:**

**GENERAL:** Attendance at class is mandatory and will be taken at the beginning of each class; a roster will be used to facilitate this.

**GRADING:** Grade in class will be on based two midterm exams and a final with a total of 1,000 points available. The midterm exams will be on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 and MONDAY, OCT. 31 and will consist of true/false, multiple choice and short answer questions. Each midterm exam is worth 300 points or 30% of the total grade. The midterms will also have a bonus question which will involve using the Internet to research a recent issue and writing an essay question added to the exam on that topic. The topics will be assigned a week in advance of each exam and the bonus question will be worth up to 30 points on each midterm exam. The final exam is tentatively scheduled for TUESDAY, December 5 from 8:00-10:00 am. The final will consist of multiple choice, short answer and may have a map/matching section and will have an essay. I will provide details on the exam and particularly the essay question in a review session. The final will be comprehensive. The final will count for 400 points or 40% of the total grade. Grades are out of a possible 1,000 points. 900-1,000 points earns an "A", 750-900 points earns a "B", 600-750 points earns a "C", 500-600 points earns a "D", less than 500 points earns *an "F"*. Students receiving the point's equivalent to a grade of "c" or less on an exam will have the option of doing an extra credit research paper on a topic selected by the instructor, but related to natural resources. This paper will be worth up to 5 points per page for as much as the difference between their grade and the lowest grade equivalent to a "B"; however this applies to only one Midterm. Graduate students enrolled in Geography 5375 must write a research paper on an approved topic of 30 pages length, of which up to 10 pages can be maps or figures.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on examinations or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Penalties may include but are not limited to receiving no points on the assignment with which the academic dishonesty was associated, reduction of one or more levels in the ultimate course grade (say from a B to a C or D) , or in serious cases receiving a failing grade in the course

**CHEATING/PLAGARISM POLICY:** Incidents of cheating will receive a sanction that is appropriate, typically the exam in which cheating was committed in reference to will provide zero point credit toward the final grade. Substitution of appropriate make-up assignment may be allowed at the discretion of instructor.

**MAKE-UPS:** If a midterm exam is missed for a valid reason it can be replaced by an extra credit research paper of at least 20 pages. The final cannot be made-up. Missed classes can be made up by doing an extra credit report of five pages. All extra credit/make-up work will be approved by permission of the instructor and on a topic assigned by the instructor related to natural resources.

**CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating or drinking in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with policy.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:** Unannounced visitors to the classroom must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** Students that are absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day are allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within reasonable time after the absence. The period of time during which assignments and exams will be excused includes travel time associated with the observance of the religious holy day. A student who wishes to be excused for a religious holy day must present the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she will be absent from class for religious reasons with a written statement concerning the holy day(s) and the travel involved. The instructor should provide the student with a written description of the deadline for the completion of missed exams or assignments. . In such cases, the student will be required to take the test or submit the assignment early, unless there are good reasons for not being able to do so and the instructor has agreed to those reasons.

NOTE: There may be additional rules and requirements that are posted on the SHSU, College or Departmental web pages...

## **COURSE OUTLINE & READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

In order to be well prepared for class students should read the chapters in the text book (Chiras, et al) in advance.

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### **LECTURE 1: OVERVIEW.**

Week 1. Lec. 1. Th. Aug. 25. First Class Meeting. (Handout syllabus, go over class Policies, Definition of Natural Resources & Instructor Background.

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### **PART I. LECTURES 3-12: History, Economics, Ethics, Law, Population, Food, Etc.**

Week 2. Lec. 2 Tu. Aug 29. History of Natural Resources.  
Lec. 3. Th. Aug 31. Natural Resources Economics.  
READ: Chapter 1. READ: Chapter 2.

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Week 3. Lec. 4. Tu. Sept. 5. Environmental Ethics, Religion & Ideologies.  
READ: Chapter 3  
Lec. 5. Ecology. Th. Sept 7.  
READ: Chapter 4.

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Week 4. Lec. 6. M. Sept. 12. Human Population.  
READ: Chapter 5.  
Lec. 7. W. Sept. 14. Agriculture & Food Issues (GMOs Organic Foods, etc).  
READ: Chapter 6.

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Week 5. Lec. 8. M. Sept. 19. Erosion & Soil Conservation  
READ: Chapter 7.  
Lec. 9. W. Sept. 21. Pesticides & Review for Midterm  
READ Chapter 8.  
(Review Chapters 1-7).

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Week 6. **Part II. LECTURES 11-20: WATER, OCEANS, FORESTS & WILDLIFE:**  
Class Meeting 10. (Tu. Sept. 26) Exam I, covers Chapters 1-7).  
Lec. 11. Th Sept 28. Return and go over MIDTERM, Water Conservation  
READ: Chapter 8

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Week 7. Lec. 12. Tu. Oct. 3. Water Quality & Pollution.  
READ: Chapter 9.  
Lec. 13. Th. Oct. 5. Fresh Water/Recreational Fisheries.  
READ: Chapter 10.

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Week 8. Lec. 14. Tu. Oct. 10. Marine Resources Off-shore Oil & Gas, Oil spills.  
READ: Chapter 11 & 12.  
Lec. 15. Th. Oct. 12 Rangelands.  
READ: Chapter 13.

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Week 9. Lec. 18. Tu. Oct. 17. Forestry.  
READ: Chapter 14.  
Lec. 19. Th. Oct. 19. Endangered Species.  
READ: Chapter 15.

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Week 10. Lec. 20. Tu. Oct 24. Wildlife Management. REVIEW: Chapters 9-16 for Midterm II.  
READ Chapter 16.  
Class meeting. 21. Th. Oct. 26. EXAM II. Covers Chapters 8-16.

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**PART III. Lec. 22 on... WASTE, POLLUTION, MINERAL & ENERGY RESOURCES**

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Week 11. Lec. 22. Tu. Oct. 31. Return and go over midterm, Solid Waste Management,  
Lec. 23. Th. Nov. 2. Hazardous Waste Management.  
READ Chapter 17.

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Week 12. Lec. 24. Tu. Nov. 7. Local & Regional Air Pollution.  
READ Chapter 18.  
Lec 25. Th. Nov. 9. Global Atmospheric Problems.  
READ: Chapter 19.

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Week 13. Lec. 26. Tu. Nov. 14. Mining Issues.  
READ: Chapter 20.  
Lec 27. Th. Nov. 16. Nuclear Energy.  
READ Chapter 21

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Week 14. Thanksgiving Week. Nov 20-Nov 24. No Class meetings this week...  
*This Year do Your Part to Help Halt the Uncontrolled Exploitation of the Earth's Poultry and Cranberry Resources and the Addition of Greenhouse Gasses to the Atmosphere Due to Driving to Grandma's House and Roasting a Turkey for 9 Hours...Stay Home in the Dark and Eat Only a Tofurkey feast (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6JuISN0WMw>)...Start Feeling Good About Yourself...but wait tofu comes from soy beans and the Amazon rainforest is being despoiled to raise more soy beans...*

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WEEK 15. Lec 28. Tu. Nov. 28. Fossil Fuels.Oil and Gas  
Lec. 29. Th. Nov. 30. Alternative Energy (Final Review).  
READ: Chapter 22 & 23.

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WEEK 16.

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 5. (8:00-10:00 am)...**  
(exam is comprehensive but stresses material after 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm to a greater extent).