NRSM 571: International Conservation & Development

Spring 2016
Time: T & Th 8:10 – 9:30 AM
3 credits, grade
Location: Native American Studies 202

Instructor:
Stephen Siebert
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Course description:
A critical examination of conservation and development approaches and experiences with a focus on the tropics. We will explore contemporary conservation and development in the context of rapidly changing ecological, socioeconomic and political conditions with particular focus on: 1) the role and importance of historic natural and anthropogenic disturbances in creating and maintaining forest composition, structure and processes, 2) social and ecological implications associated with changes in or cessation of historic land uses, and 3) how understanding historic disturbances and their management may inform contemporary conservation and development efforts. This is a graduate-level course intended for students preparing for field assignments. Weekly topics will be explored through lectures on Tuesdays followed by discussions on Thursdays.

Course requirements:
Attendance, informed participation, an in-class presentation with assigned readings and discussion, an annotated bibliography and a term paper (approximately 20 pp.) on a topic of particular interest.

Grading (+/- grading will be used):
Seminar presentation & discussion 40 %
(topic and abstract due February 25)
Annotated bibliography (due May 3) 10
Term paper (due May 3) 30
Attendance & participation 20
Total 100 %

Note: The due dates for the annotated bibliography and term paper can be extended in which case I will assign an “N” that is removed upon completion of work (up to 1 year).

Readings:
Assigned readings should be completed before the week’s lecture and discussion. In addition to the topics and readings noted in the syllabus, each of you will select and assign readings in conjunction with your seminar presentation.

Required Text:
Syllabus

**Week 1: Jan 26 & 28**   **Introduction: The Co-evolved Ethno-Biosphere**

Required readings:

**Week 2: Feb 2 & 4**   **Tropical Biophysical Characteristics: Climate, Soils & Forests**

Required Readings:

**Week 3: Feb 9 & 11**   **Bioversity & Ecological Disturbance**

Required readings:
Coddington, B. et al. 2014. Conservation or co-evolution? Intermediate levels of aboriginal burning and hunting have positive effects on kangaroo populations in Western Australia. *Human Ecology* 42:659-669.
Siebert, S. and J. Belsky. 2014. Historic livelihoods and land uses as ecological disturbances and their role in enhancing biodiversity: An example from Bhutan. *Biological Conservation* 177:82-89.

**Week 4: Feb 16 & 18**   **Historic Land Use Legacies & Implications for the Future**

Required readings:
Week 5: Feb 23 & 25  Land Use Changes & Driving Forces

Required readings:

Week 6: March 1 & 3  Political Ecology in Conservation & Development

Dr. Jill Belsky, Society & Conservation

Required readings:

Week 7: March 8 & 10  Conservation & Protected Area Challenges & Debates

Required readings:

Week 8: March 15 & 17  TEKP & Communities in Conservation & Development

Required readings:


**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Week 9: March 22 & 24**

**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Week 10: March 29 & 31**

**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Spring Break**

**Week 11: April 12 & 14**

**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Week 12: April 19 & 21**

**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Week 13: April 26 & 28**

**Student-led Seminars, Assigned Readings & Discussions**

**Week 14: May 3 & 5**

**Concluding Discussion**

**Required readings:**


Useful Web Sources:

- Bioversity International
- Center for International Forestry Research
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
- ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization)
- World Agroforestry Center
- Forests News: Fire & Haze - El Nino fires in Indonesia

Additional Readings (people, place, issue or plant-specific texts):


Mann, C. 2011. 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created. Alfred Knopf, NY. (Engrossing account of social, economic, political and ecological effects resulting from global mixing of people, plants and animals).

