

HESO 449
Eco-Health: Global Implications
Term 2 2010-2011
Thursdays 6:00pm- 9:00pm *Buchanan B316*
Coordinators: Dena Javadi & Nadine Qureshi
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Jerry Spiegel

What is Eco-Health?

Ecohealth is a transdisciplinary approach to the study of environmental challenges and their impact on human health and economic development. In this course, students will work collaboratively, integrating knowledge from various backgrounds, to examine the Ecohealth issues found in case studies concerning environmental pollution, infectious disease, food security, and more. Concepts such as Eco-nutrition (community-based interventions), disaster mitigation and social adaptability will be central to our debate and discussion. We will also explore and evaluate the implications and capacities of Ecohealth and how it can contribute to policy reform.

Goal

The goal of this course is to analyze and interpret Ecohealth and to examine its efficacy in terms of addressing environmental, global health and poverty issues as compared to more conventional, unilateral approaches. In addition to the different perspectives offered by the course readings and guest lecturers, participants will be exposed to new opinions by working collaboratively and drawing on one another's strengths and experiences in particular areas in order to carry out multi-dimensional analyses.

Structure

The course will be split into 3 modules:

1. Interactions of health and the environment:

In this module, we will be introduced to topics in Eco-Health through discussion and debate. Guest lecturers will share their experiences with Eco-Health.

Assignment: In partners, moderate a class discussion surrounding an Eco-Health article. Moderators are required to present a critical analysis of the article and present engaging discussion questions. Use of supporting literature/ media is encouraged (ted talks, youtube, magazine articles, relevant news clippings, etc). Following class discussion, questions will be posted on the blog.

Evaluation: Peer Evaluation. (10%- Critique 10%- Discussion)

2. Region-specific environmental/ health issues

In this module, we will explore ecosystems in specific regions of the world and the health and development issues that are present.

Assignment: Case study. Groups of 3 students will select a specific region and outline the environmental, developmental, and health implications and interactions. Examples: Extreme weather events and their effects on sanitation systems (Haitian earthquake case study), HIV and nutrition in Swaziland, etc. Groups will be responsible for assigning readings relevant to their presentation and facilitating online discussion following their presentation.

Evaluation: peer evaluated. (20%- Presentation 5%- readings & discussion)

3. Proposing solutions: Global Environmental Change

In this module, we will focus on large-scale environmental changes (climate change, ozone depletion, loss of biodiversity, urbanization, etc) and their effects on human populations.

Assignment: In partners, students will propose a solution to one of these issues. The idea will be explained in paper and presented to the class in the form of a UN meeting. The suggested solution should be informed by literature.

Evaluation: Peer Evaluation (Paper-25% UN presentation- 10%)

Blog Discussion Entries (10%)

In addition to the 3 main assignments, students will be responsible for participating in weekly online discussions.

Participation & Attendance (10%)

As this is a seminar, attendance and active participation are required. Students are encouraged to share current Eco-Health related news topics at the beginning of each class. The goal is to increase awareness of current issues and to catalyze a 15 minute discussion to start off the class. Participation will be peer-evaluated twice throughout the course (midpoint and end).

Contact

Please contact sds.ecohealth@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Dena Javadi & Nadine Qureshi