

ENV 100: Environmental Design Conference

Syllabus

Instructor: Gail Kaaialii

Office Hours:

Kaaialii: MWF: 9:00 – 10:00, T: 10:00 – 12:00, R: 10:00 – 12:00, 2:00 – 4:30

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Texts: *Watersheds 2: Ten Cases in Environmental Ethics*, Newton & Dillingham, Wadsworth Publishing Company. (paperback)

Earth Insights: A Multicultural Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback. Callicott, University of California Press. (paperback)

Supplemental Texts:

Environment 00/01 (seventeenth edition). J. L. Allen editor, Dushkin/McGraw-Hill Publisher. (paperback)

Global Issues 99/00 (fourteenth edition). R. M. Jackson editor, Dushkin/McGraw-Hill Publisher. (paperback)

Vital Signs: The Environmental Trends that are Shaping Our Future. Brown, Renner & Flavin. W.W. Norton & Company. (paperback)

Environmental Design Conference: An interdisciplinary course in which students are introduced to the ethical issues, tools and techniques involved in environmental problem-solving. Students are presented with a series of real (often Hawaiian) environmental problems which they will investigate, attempt to understand in entirety and devise a solution or solution-strategy for. This hands-on approach will allow students to discover the many disciplines and techniques involved in ameliorating real environmental challenges.














This is the first course that environmental studies students will take. All students desiring to obtain the certificate must take this course. The course is designed to introduce students to all of the components of environmental issues and problem solving through exposure to real environmental issues. The students will collaborate to devise solutions to the real environmental problems while at the same time learning to take responsibility for their own portion of the group project. The environmental issues addressed in the course will be presented as "modules" in which the students will have to: gather information, pool information to gain full understanding of the problem, network with one another and discuss the problem, devise possible solutions, negotiate and finally reach a hypothetical solution. Solutions must be systems based: they must address the entire issue. Each subsequent module will be more complex than the

previous one requiring students to draw upon the perspectives of a wider range of disciplines and manage more variables. The course is meant to prepare students for the sorts of multidisciplinary tasks they will be learning about in the minor and performing in their future careers.

Modules will be conducted by a team of faculty who have different expertise. Each faculty member will contribute to the students' understanding of module as well as acting as guides in the students' problem-solving efforts.

Objectives for the Course:

Environmental Design Conference students will learn how to do the following:

-  Understand the ethical aspects of each particular environmental issue
-  Gather information from a variety of types of written sources
-  Make contacts in local governments, NGO's and other entities
-  Use Geographical Information Systems
-  Interpret data
-  Collaborate with others towards a common goal
-  Mitigate between differing opinions
-  Synthesize information from a variety of sources into a single plan
-  Structure a presentation
-  Recognize when a compromise must be reached in order to make any gain
-  Evaluate strategies
-  Attempt to come up with original solutions when no current strategy will work
-  Realize the need for a systems approach to problem solving

Environmental Design Conference Modules:

These are the Modules, in order, for the course. We have indicated below the duration of each module:

Module 1: WATER and AIR ISSUES (8/29 – 9/29)

International water issues: The Exxon Valdez
Overfishing

International Air Issue: Global Warming

Hawaiian water issue: Sea Turtle Bycatch
Waiahole Ditch

Module 2: TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM ISSUES (10/2 – 10/27)

International terrestrial ecosystem issues: The tropical rainforests
Old growth redwood forests

Hawaiian terrestrial nature issues: Feral pigs
Lantana

Module 3: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES (10/30 – 12/1)

International development issues: Love Canal
The Bhopal Disaster
Private property and takings

Hawaiian development issues: Golf courses
Mass transit
Fireworks

Grading:

You grade in this course will be based on your exam and presentation scores. There will be 4 take-home exams: one after the completion of each module and one pertaining to the entire course due on the day scheduled for the final exam (Tuesday, December 12). Each exam will be handed out to you on the last Thursday of a module and will be due on the following Monday. The Monday you turn in your exam will therefore be the day that we begin a new module. Exams will cover topics, ideas and concepts addressed in each particular module.

Presentations will be prepared by the student and will be presented at the end of each module. Presentations will be based on a particular environmental issue here in Hawaii and will (1) demonstrate student's understanding of the issue, (2) demonstrate the student's awareness of each of the components or "players" involved in the issue, (3) demonstrate the student's understanding of all of the ethical aspects of the issue and (4) demonstrate the student's ability to attempt to devise a solution to the problem, which may incorporate a number of compromises in the eyes of each of the players. There will be three presentations. The specific topic of each will be decided within each module.

Grading will be quantified as follows:

Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Exam III	20%
Final Exam	20%
Presentations	20%

Environmental Ethics:

Because an important part of this course entails imparting on you students an awareness of the importance of ethics in environmental-problem solving, and because we want you to be aware of the huge variety of kinds of environmental ethics in the real world, we will devote the extra hour on Wednesday to discussions of the various environmental ethics of peoples from all over the world. We will use your second book for this course: *Earth Insights: A Multicultural Survey of Ecological Ethics . . .* as a source of information about the specific ecological ethics of people from all over the world.

Course Materials:

You will be reading about international environmental issues as a part of each of the modules. These issues will be introduced to you by the book: *Watersheds 2: Ten Cases in Environmental Ethics*. In addition, you will be learning about our own environmental ethic as well as surveying the diversity of environmental ethics from your readings in *Earth Insights*.

Typically, we will start each module by having you read about international issues pertaining to a broad category of environmental issues. For example you will first read over-fishing as we start the first module: WATER and AIR ISSUES. The initial readings about international issues are meant to introduce you to real issues and the complexity of them. We will discuss these issues and use various wily techniques to help you understand them fully.

After you have become familiar with a number of the aspects of a type of issue we will then have a look at some of the same kind of issues here in Hawaii. At this point you students will begin your own investigations into the nature of the Hawaiian issue and you will, after having gathered much info, attempt to summarize the problem completely, paying particular attention to the ethical complexities of the issue, and devise a solution.

Near the end of each module then you will prepare a presentation and study for and complete the take-home exam.

Throughout each module, on Wednesdays, we will be reading about, discussing, environmental ethics based on our readings from *Earth Insights*.

Generalized Course Schedule

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Readings & Activities</u>
Module 1: WATER and AIR ISSUES	
8/29 – 9/1	Course Introduction <i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 1
9/4 – 9/8	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 6
9/11 – 9/15	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 9 <i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 2
9/18 – 9/22	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 7
9/22 – 9/29	Take-Home Exam Hawaiian Water Issues Presentation
Module 2: TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM ISSUES	
10/2 – 10/6	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 4 <i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 6
10/9 – 10/13	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 5
10/16 – 10/20	<i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 3
10/23 – 10/27	Take-Home Exam Hawaiian Terrestrial Ecosystem Issues Presentations
Module 3: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ISSUES	
10/30 – 11/3	<i>Watersheds</i> : Chapter 1 (I will photocopy this for you) <i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 4
11/6 – 11/10	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 3
11/13 – 11/17	<i>Watersheds 2</i> : Chapter 10 <i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 8
11/20 – 11/24	<i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 9
11/27 – 12/1	Take-Home Exam Hawaiian Human Development Issues Presentations
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WRAP UP	
12/4 – 12/8	<i>Earth Insights</i> : Chapter 10

The fourth and final take-home exam will be handed out on 12/8 and is due on 12/12 (by midnight).