

Winter 2008
USP 577/677 Urban Environmental Management
Wednesdays, 6:40-9:20 p.m.
URB 311

Prof. Connie Ozawa
URB 370R
ozawac@pdx.edu; 503-725-5126

Course Description

What comprises the urban environment and what do we seek to achieve by managing it? How do urban environmental resources relate to quality of life and social justice in a community? This course sets out to examine environmental management in urban areas, acknowledging the special ecological and social (political and economic) challenges that intensive and often long-term, ingrained development patterns present. Importantly, urban areas reflect a tight weave of social, economic and political disparities among residents. How does environmental management intersect with these differences and how do managers respond?

The course begins with creating an expansive understanding of urban “environment.” We then move on to examine existing “urban environmental management” programs in Portland metropolitan region cities, with a particular emphasis on who is involved in defining and designing responses to environmental problems in the city. The objective of this course is to better understand the technical and political components of urban environments so that we can better imagine what might be and better equip ourselves to promote innovative approaches to a socially and ecologically healthy urban environment..

Readings

The following are available at PSU Bookstore.

Walter F. Baber and Robert V. Bartlett. 2005. *Deliberative Environmental Politics: Democracy and Ecological Rationality*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Jason Corburn. 2005. *Street Science: Community Knowledge and Environmental Health Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Robert Gottlieb. 2001. *Environmentalism Unbound: Exploring New Pathways for Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Assignments

Assignment #1: Three abstracts

Find three sources addressing a topic you have chosen for your term project. Write a 1-page abstract about each source and a 2-page summary of what is known and what is not known about the value of the resource and the causal links for the resource’s destruction, preservation or restoration. Minimally, the three abstracts should equip you

to answer the question, “Why should we address this problem?” (See point below about Internet-only-based sources.) (10 pt.)

Due: January 23, 2008.

Assignment #2:

“Urban Environmental Management Program Profiles” We will work as a class to understand the current state of environmental quality in the Portland metropolitan region. This “program profile” will include a description of a local jurisdiction’s attempt to address the “problem” you have chosen for study. The profile should include program goals and objectives, its history, and its major areas of activities. Data collection will include official documents, at least one interview with a city employee, and a literature review to establish the environmental value of the resource(s) chosen for study. Your profile should include an analysis of the populations (defined spatially and/or socio-economically) that are likely to be most affected by the program. Citations should include at least 25% non-Internet-only -based sources. Due February 27, 2008. (35 points)

Assignment #3

We have been reading about and discussing an important concept in environmental management, “adaptive management” and “adaptive governance.” How might you suggest infusing the principles of adaptive management into the environmental program that you have studied? What would an ideal program look like and what are the elements most likely to be adopted? What are the challenges and opportunities of an adaptive management approach in an urban context? This assignment should be written as an 8-10 page concept paper intended for a lay audience. (References to the literature should be cited as appropriate.) Due March 12/19, 2008. (35 points)

Assignment #4

Each student will have an opportunity to present their “case study” in a 20-minute presentation. (10 points)

Participation

Regular attendance and contributions to discussions are expected. (10 points)

Late submissions will be penalized ½ point per day.

Special Needs

If you have a disability that requires academic accommodation, please see the instructor immediately

Schedule

Week

- 1 January 9 INTRODUCTION

- 2 January 16 The Urban Environment (Class starts at 8:00 p.m.)
Readings: Gottlieb, pp. 1-97.

- 3 January 23 People and the Environment
Readings: Gottlieb, pp. 101-272

- 4 January 30 Expertise v. Local Knowledge
Readings: Corburn, pp. 1-109
Assignment #1 DUE.

- 5 February 6 Management Systems
 Guest speaker: Claire Puchy, BES, City of Portland
Readings: Corburn, pp. 111-200.
<http://www.gdrc.org/uem/documents.html>
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/>
<http://www.portlandonline.com/bds/>

- 6 February 13 Adaptive Management
Readings:
Berkes, Fikret. "Rethinking Community-Based Conservation." *Conservation Biology*, Vol 18, No. 3, pp. 621-630. June 2004. PSU Electronic Journals.
Kai N. Lee. "Compass: Adaptive Management." Chapter 3 in *Compass and Gyroscope: Integrating Science and Politics for the Environment*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1993, pp. 51-85.
Moir, W.H. and W.M. Block. "Adaptive Management on Public Lands in the United States: Commitment or Rhetoric?" in *Environmental Management*, June 2004, Vol 28, No. 2, pp. 141-148. PSU Electronic Journals.

- 7 February 20 Adaptive Governance
Readings:
Baber and Bartlett, pp 119-236.
Olson, Per, Carl Folke and Fikret Berkes. "Adaptive Comanagement for Building Resilience in Social-Ecological Systems," *Environmental Management*, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 75-90. 2004. PSU Electronic Journals.

- 8 February 27 Effective Management: The Challenges of Working with Elected Officials and What Constitutes Success?
 Guest speaker: Dean Marriott, Director of BES, City of Portland

Readings:

Corburn. pp. 201-217

Gottlieb, pp.273-287

9 March 5 No class.

10 March 12 Presentations

Finals Week March 19. Presentations (6:40-9:20 p.m.)