Fall 2005
USP 577/677 Urban Environmental Management
Wednesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:40 p.m.
URB 311

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

Course Description

What are the goals of urban environmental management? In what ways are they different from environmental management in general? How does environmental management link 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 what is, how decisions are made, to better imagine what might be and to acquaint ourselves with innovative approaches to realizing improvement.

Readings

The following are available at PSU Bookstore and are on two-hour reserve at Millar Library.


Assignments

Assignment #1: Three abstracts

Find three sources describing the environmental consequences of the topic you have chosen. 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. (See point below about Internet-only-based sources.) (10 pt.)
Due: October 19, 2005

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. The first assignment is for each participant to identify an element of the urban environment, and profile one municipality’s attempt to address that element. This “program profile” will include a description of the program’s goals and objectives, its history, and its major areas of activities. A required element in this assignment is a socio-economic demographic profile of the city’s population. 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 chosen for study. Citations should include at least 25% non-Internet-only -based sources. Due November 9, 2005. (35 points)

Assignment #3
We have been reading about and discussing an important concept in environmental management, “adaptive management.” 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 November 30, 2005. (35 points)

Assignment #4
Each student will have an opportunity to present their “case study” in a 15-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  September 28  INTRODUCTION
I will be out-of-town on this date. However, the class will meet and the syllabus will be distributed. I would like each of you to e-mail a brief description of yourself, your prior degrees, areas of study, where you grew up, and explain briefly (one paragraph) why you have elected to take this course. At the end of the e-mail, please identify (tentatively) a resource area of interest to you for examination during the term (e.g. air quality, lead in the soil, toxics, etc.) Submit this to me (ozawac@pdx.edu) by Thursday, September 29, noon.

2 October 5 The Urban Environment
Readings: Gottlieb, pp. 1-144.

3 October 12 People and the Environment
Readings: Gottlieb, pp. 145-272

4 October 19 Assessing Local Conditions and Program Success
Assignment #1 DUE.

5 October 26 Institutions and Management Systems
Readings: http://www.gdrc.org/uem/documents.html
http://www.portlandonline.com/bes/
http://www.portlandonline.com/bds/

6 November 2 Adaptive Management

7 November 9 Information and Decision Making I
Readings: Fischer, pp.1-142.
November 16  Information and Decision Making II
Readings: Fischer, pp. 143-262.

November 23  Adaptive Governance
Readings:

November 30  Presentations

Finals Week  December 7. Presentations.
Class meets 12:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.