

**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](mailto: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.

Frank Fisher. 2000. *Citizens, Experts, and the Environment: The Politics of Local Knowledge*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.  
Robert Gottlieb. 2001. *Environmentalism Unbound: Exploring New Pathways for Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

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](mailto: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  
Readings:  
    Stenhouse, Renae N. "Local Government Conservation and Management of Native Vegetation in Urban Australia." *Environmental Management*. Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 209-222. This is available on the PSU Library website in the electronic journals.  
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  
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.  
    Moir, W.H. and W.M. Block. "Adaptive Management on Public Lands in the United States: Commitment or Rhetoric?" in *Environmental Management*, Vol 28, No. 2, pp. 141-148. PSU Electronic Journals.
  
- 7      November 9    Information and Decision Making I  
Readings: Fischer, pp.1-142.

- 8 November 16 Information and Decision Making II  
Readings: Fischer, pp. 143-262.
- 9 November 23 Adaptive Governance  
Readings:  
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.  
Smith, Courtland, Jennifer Gilden, Brent Steel and Karina Mrakovcich, "Profile: Sailing the Shoals of Adaptive Management: The Case of Salmon in the Pacific Northwest," *Environmental Management*, Vol. 22., No. 5, pp. 671-681. PSU Electronic Journals.  
Stiftel, Bruce and John Scholz, eds. *Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict: New Institutions for Collaborative Planning*, Introduction.
- 10 November 30 Presentations
- Finals Week December 7. Presentations.  
Class meets 12:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.