

Degradation and Development in Tropical Forests

Tutorial - Fall 2003

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Goodnow Rm 204

x3017

SYLLABUS

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Course Schedule by Topic:

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<p><u>Meeting</u> T, Th 8:00-10:00 Fine Arts Rm 269 Course webpage: http://web.grinnell.edu/courses/tut/F03/tut100-30/index.html</p>	<p><u>Instructor</u> Monty Roper Goodnow Rm 204 Tel: 269-3017 e-mail: roperjm@grinnell.edu Webpage: http://web.grinnell.edu/individuals/roperjm/</p>
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Office Hours: 10-12 M-F, and by appointment. During office hours, you are welcome to stop by without an appointment. During non-office hours, you are also welcome to stop by, but I will often be occupied and unable to meet. I will be happy, though, to schedule appointments during non-office hours. If you are having problems with course materials for any reason, I strongly encourage you to come see me. If you need to get in touch with me and are unable to do so by phone (or prefer not to), you can e-mail me. I check my e-mail regularly.

Course Content: What's happening to the world's tropical forests? Why are they disappearing, why should we care, and what can be done about it? In this course, we will take an interdisciplinary social science examination of deforestation and development in tropical forests, focusing on Latin America and particularly on the Amazon basin. We will examine the various stakeholders in tropical forests and the relations between them, and how these actors relate to the causes and consequences of unsustainable development. Finally, we will explore the costs and benefits for people living in and around these areas of a variety of alternative development options.

Course Objectives and Expectations: The Tutorial is the only course required for graduation from Grinnell College, and its primary goal is to help you develop skills that will form the backbone of your liberal education. While this course does encompass a defined set of materials, it is unlike others in that it is less concerned with content than about learning some basic academic skills. The principal among these is writing. Indeed, the main focus of *this* tutorial is to write a single research paper. We will work on this project over the entire semester, alternating the focus of our class from lectures and discussions on assigned readings to focused writing and editing sessions. Other important skills that we will work on over the semester include: research, reading, analysis, engaging in discussion, and public speaking and presentations. In addition, the course will introduce you to resources available on campus that are available to further develop these skills over the next four years.

Everyone is expected to come prepared to participate everyday. On some days, you may be assigned to lead the discussion. You are also expected to actively engage one another in discussion in class. Proper participation requires a careful and thoughtful reading of the required texts. You must learn to truly engage the writer and the text in your reading. What is the author's argument? What evidence is used to support the argument? Is the argument sound and compelling? What is the logic of the organization? A reading and writing journal will help you to get in the habit of taking notes on readings and preparing questions to ask in class. In class discussions, you must be respectful to one another, but this *does not* mean that we need to come to agreement on issues. Reasoned debate/argument is one of the principal means of learning as well as understanding our own basic values and biases. In reviewing the readings, it is likely that we will occasionally engage in semi-structured debates.

Attendance is required. **Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of one grade** (e.g. from a B+ to a B). Excused absences include illness (with a note from the health center or student affairs), family emergencies (with a note from student affairs), or by prior agreement of the instructor (an e-mail or note from me). You should arrive on time for class. Each two late arrivals will count as one absence in affecting your grade. Anyone who does not by habit wake up sufficiently before 8:00 am should purchase or borrow a functioning alarm clock.

Assignments (To see more detail on assignments, go to the assignments page)		
Activity	Due	% of final Grade
Academic Honesty Exercise	Sept 2	Not graded.
Class participation	Always	15%
Presentations/leading discussion	TBA	10%
Writing Assignments		
Reading/Writing journal	Weekly	10%
Research Paper Sections		
• Paper 1	Tues, 9/9	Not Graded

• Paper 2	Mon, 9/22	5%
• Paper 3	Mon, 10/13	10%
• Paper 4	Mon, 11/11	10%
• Paper 5	Mon, 12/2	5%
Final Paper	Mon, 12/9	25%
Annotated Bibliography	(with papers)	10%

Topic 1: The state of tropical forests

Week 1

Sun, Aug 25	1 st Meeting.
Th, Aug 28	<p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a one paragraph summary of the reading <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Honesty • What's the Point - Summarizing an article • Choosing a focus country • Forests on the Map <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tropical Forests and Deforestation around the world

Week 2

Sept 2	<p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic honesty exercise. • Begin preparing bibliography. Identify useful books and journals. • Choose a focus country <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library workshop: IAF Room 9:00-9:45 • Building a bibliography. • Annotating a bibliography
Sept 4	<p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify useful websites and articles. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library workshop: IAF Room 9-9:45 • Building a bibliography • Annotate several websites

Topic 2: Perceptions of the Forest

Week 3	
Sept 9	<p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 Due. Forests and deforestation in my focus country/region. • Preliminary Bibliography Due, with 5 annotations. <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish discussion on bibliography • Discussion on each person's focus country. • Discussion of articles <p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Henry Walter Batges, <i>Spring, Summer and Autumn in One Tropical Day</i> 2. John Vandermeer and Ivette Perfecto, <i>A Spider Web or a House of Cards?</i> 3. José Eustasio Rivera, <i>The Champion of Destruction</i>
Sept 11	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of readings <p>Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Betty J. Meggers and Clifford Evans, <i>Environmental Limitations on Culture in the Tropical Forest</i> 5. Katherine Milton, <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> 6. Gerardo Reichel-Dolmatoff, <i>A Well-Adapted Life</i>
<p>Topic 3: The Consequences of Deforestation and Degradation (Why Save the Forest?)</p> <p>Week 4</p>	
Sept 16	<p>Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised paper 1 due. <p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of articles <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. John Terborgh, <i>A Glimpse at Some Tropical Habitats</i> 14. David Francis, <i>Natural Resource Losses Reduce Costa Rican GNP Gains</i> 15. Norman Myers, <i>A Cornucopia of Foods</i>
Sept 18	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Articles <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Mark Plotkin, <i>An Earthly Paradise Regained</i> 17. Wendy Call, <i>Mexico's Highway to Hell</i>

Week 5	
Paper 2 (due Mon 9/22): The Consequences of Forest Degradation	
Sept 23	Activities: Group reading and editing.
Sept 25	Activities: Group reading and editing.
Topic 4: Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation	
Week 6	
Sept 30	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of articles <p>Reading:</p> <p>7. Manuel Moreno Fraginals, <i>The Death of the Cuban Forests</i> 8. Philip Howard, <i>The History of Ecological Marginalization</i></p>
Oct 2	<p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Articles <p>Reading:</p> <p>9. Myrna Santiago, <i>Rejecting Progress in Paradise: Huastecs, the Environment, and the Oil Industry in Veracruz, Mexico 1900-1935.</i> 10. Daniel Faber, <i>Revolution in the Rainforest</i></p>
Week 7	
Oct 7	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of articles <p>Reading:</p> <p>11. José A. Lutzenberger, from <i>Who Is Destroying the Amazon Rainforest</i> 12. Tadeu Valadares, <i>Deforestation: A Brazilian Perspective</i></p>
Oct 9	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap up discussion • My Bolivian case study <p>Reading:</p> <p>Roper, <i>Whose Territory is it? Resource Contestation and Organizational Chaos in Bolivia's Multiethnic Indigenous Territory.</i></p>
Week 8	
Paper 3 (due 10/13): The Causes of Deforestation	
Oct 14	Activities: group editing and paper revisions.
Oct 16	Activities: group editing and paper revisions.
Week 9 Fall Recess	

Topic 5. Local People and Other Stakeholders (Amazonian case studies)

Week 10

Oct 28	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films • Discussion of films and reading <p>Reading: Amazon Journal</p>
Oct 30	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films • Discussion of films and reading <p>Reading: Amazon Journal</p>

Week 11

Nov 4	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films • Discussion <p>Reading: Amazon Journal</p>
Nov 6	<p>Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films • Discussion <p>Reading: Amazon Journal</p>

Week 12

Paper 4 (due 11/10): Stakeholders and Their Relations

Nov 11	Activities: Group editing and paper revisions
Nov 13	Activities: Group editing and paper revisions

Topic 6. Solutions

Week 13

Nov 18	<p>Assignments: Paper 4 revision due</p> <p>Activities: Discussion of readings</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>18. Chico Mendes, <i>Fight for the Forest: Building Bridges</i></p> <p>19. Darrell A. Posey, Alternatives to Forest Destruction: Lessons from the Mebengokre Indians</p> <p>20. William Booth, <i>U.S. Drug Firm Signs Up to Farm Tropical Forests</i></p>
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Nov 20	<p>Activities: Discussion of readings</p> <p>Readings: 21. A.B. Cunningham, <i>Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity</i> 22. John O. Browder, <i>Alternative Rainforest Uses</i> 23. Rhona Mahony, <i>Debt-for-Nature Swaps: Who Really Benefits?</i></p>
Week 14	
Nov 25	<p>Activities: Discussion</p> <p>Readings: 24. David Rains Wallace, <i>Reefs, Rainforests, Caves, Ruins, and Rookeries.</i> 25. Susan E. Place, <i>Ecotourism and the Political Ecology of "Sustainable Development" in Costa Rica</i> 26. Kathryn Stafford, <i>Peten Crafts a Future.</i></p>
Nov 27 (No Class - Thanksgiving Nov 27-Dec 2nd)	
Week 15 Paper 5 (due 12/1): Solutions, past and future.	
Dec 2	Activities: Group editing and revisions
Dec 4	Activities: Group editing and revisions
Week 16 Final Paper and Poster Presentation	
Dec 9	Activities: Group editing and revisions
Dec 11	Activities: Group editing and revisions

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