

Interdisciplinary Topics in Environment and Sustainability: course offerings for the academic year 2008/09

EnvrSust 9501: Environmental Policy (fall term) **Dr. Gordon McBean**

This lecture/discussion course focuses on climate and environmental change as dealt with through science, controversy and assessment. The roles of science-to-policy interactions, the media and national and international environmental organizations will be discussed in the context of environmental impacts on humans and ecosystems and national and international policy considerations. The objective is to give the student an opportunity to learn about and discuss and debate environmental policies that are very much now the centre of public and political attention.

EnvrSust 9502: Environment and Health (fall term) **Dr. Isaac Luginaah**

This seminar course examines the conceptual frameworks for environmental health research. The course also appraises the methods of deriving and substantiating evidence in environment and health research. The approaches to environmental health policy formulation and policy analysis and the uses of evidence in policy arena are also examined.

EnvrSust 9503: Environmental Change (fall and winter terms) **Dr. Brian Luckman and Dr. Katrina Moser**

This seminar course focuses on environmental change, both natural and anthropogenic, and highlights the importance of a long-term perspective for developing effective policy for many environmental problems. The course will review techniques used to determine environmental change and how environmental change data has been used to identify baseline conditions, natural variability, mechanisms of change and the impacts of change. Students will participate in weekly discussions, each one focused on a different environmental change paper.

EnvrSust 9503: Environmental Anthropology (winter term) **Dr. Karen Pennesi**

This seminar course explores theoretical and practical issues involved in studying relationships between humans and their environment. With a foundation in concepts and debates from environmental and ecological anthropology, students will be encouraged to investigate current questions of interest. Topics may include: human adaptation in various ecosystems, the role of language and culture in understanding and interacting with nature, the influence of the physical environment on cultural practices, and the division between indigenous and scientific environmental knowledge.

Depending on available resources, there may be an option to gain practical experience by conducting research on an environmental issue within a nearby community. Students with a background in other disciplines are encouraged to enroll.

EnvrSust 9504: Domestication (winter term) **Dr. Brock Fenton and Dr. Jeremy McNeil**

This seminar course focuses on issues surrounding domestication of other species. In addition to lectures to set the stage about domestication, each student will prepare a seminar outlining the following information about a domesticated species: a) why it is domesticated (as opposed to cultivated); b) how it is used by people; c) where it was domesticated; d) when it was domesticated; e) specific cultural information about the domesticated species (how it is prepared and used). Students' grades will be based on participation (attendance, participation in discussions) and presentation (seminar).