

## COURSE INFORMATION:

### Introduction to Human Ecology

11:374:101:01-12

Fall 2015 T/TH 2:30-3:25, Intro Lecture , Loree 022, (Sections 1-6)  
T/TH 4:10-5:05, Intro Lecture , Loree 022, (Sections 7-12)  
T/TH 5:35-6:55, Population, Resources & Environment, Loree 024

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Instructor(s): George F. Clark

Office Location: Room 209, Cook Office Building

Office Hours: T/TH 12:00-2:00 & by arrangement

Phone: 848-932-9207

Email: clark@aesop.rutgers.edu

You should feel free to contact me at any time. I am happy to meet with students during office hours or before or after class. Generally, e-mail elicits a faster response than phone.

## COURSE MATERIALS:

The required text for the class is the *Introduction to Human Ecology* reader (5<sup>th</sup> revised edition) edited by Clark. You are also asked to acquire one of seven other books to be used in recitation for the oral book presentation and book paper. The seven are Savages by Kane, Changes in the Land by Cronon, The Big Thirst by Fishman, Tomatoland by Estabrook, Legacy of Luna by Hill, Plastic: A Toxic Love Story by Freinkel and Sleeping Naked is Green by Farquharson. They are all available at NJ Books and B & N. The reader is also available from Kendall-Hunt Publishing Company online.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES/ASSESSMENTS:

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify the primary disciplines and synthesize the key concepts of the field of Human Ecology,
  - Areas include: human-environment interactions, agriculture, population dynamics, environmental movements, climate change, development and risk, among many other themes.
  - Readings, lectures, and discussions of original research articles, including many by Rutgers faculty, investigating various dimensions of this field.
  - In-class and recitation discussion, group activities, and other exercises are employed to contextualize the theories and research of written material.

*Assessed through recitation participation and exams.*

2. Evaluate how central themes of Human Ecology are interrelated and produce complex effects (political, economic, social), in addition to unintended consequences in local, regional, national, and global contexts.
  - Discussion of various positions concerning perceptions of population and land-use, with a focus on agriculture, as well as envrinks and natural hazards and the role of social scientists in investigating and communicating research of human-environment relationships.
  - Focus on issues facing the Rutgers community, New Jersey, and the US, as well as a broad international scope.

*Assessed through recitation participation, exams, film response papers, and book papers.*

3. Critically assess how different scientists from the various fields associated with human ecology, as well as other individuals, such as journalists and activists, write about environmental issues from a variety of perspectives.
  - Topics may include environmental history, industrial agriculture and food movements, indigenous movements and natural resource conflict, among many others.
  - Readings and other forms of media: academic journals, news articles, op-eds, in-class film screenings, and one assigned full-length text.

*Assessed through recitation participation, film response papers, one book paper, and a group book presentation.*

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## REQUIREMENTS:

There will be two non-cumulative examinations during the semester and a third during the finals period. Exams will be given in lecture, but will be specific to recitation classes. Dates for the two in-semester exams will be decided in class; those at a disadvantage may make other arrangements with their instructors. Exams cover all assigned readings, books, films, and in-class lecture and recitation materials and employ a variety of question types. The other requirements include a group book presentation, individual book paper, and two film papers. Attendance and participation may count, depending upon recitation section. Weightings of requirements, due dates, and late policy are all set in recitation. Each recitation is bound by the rules agreed upon at the start of the semester. If you have problems or questions, please ask. There is now a self-reporting system at Rutgers for absences, although we would still appreciate you communicating with us directly.

Below is what will be covered during the semester. Specific reading assignments will be made in lecture as we proceed. Depending upon examination dates chosen, film schedules may be altered slightly. Book presentations, film papers' and book paper assignments' due dates will be set in recitation. Problems you may have with scheduling – or any other problems – should be discussed with your instructor(s).

## OTHER INFORMATION:

**In order to receive a final grade for the course, ALL requirements must be completed; otherwise, a “T” grade will be assigned.**

Students will be responsible for adhering to the academic integrity policies found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

It is important that students have the tools to succeed in this course. Please see the instructor \*as soon as possible\* with any difficulties or questions regarding the course materials. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs is available at <http://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu> for any other needs or concerns.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

### PART I

**Topics:** Introduction, Definition of Human Ecology, Disciplines Associated with Human Ecology, Some Key Concepts (e.g., ethnocentrism, cultural lag, the commons), Environmental Ethics, Diversity of Perceptions of, Perspectives on, and Interactions with the Environment, Adaptation & its Forms

**Readings:** McCay; Mooney, Miner; Thompson; Krauss; Reynolds; McElroy & Townsend; Desowitz; White; Tuan; Nussbaum; Krauss; La Valle; Kelley; DiBartolomeo; Berkes, et al; Carrier; Vayda, et al; articles (#s 1-18)

**Films:** “Cree Hunters”; “Sharkcallers of Kontu”; “Survival in the High North”

**Books:** Changes in the Land by William Cronon; Savages by Joe Kane

### PART II

**Topics:** Agriculture, Food, Nutrition, and Population – Interconnections and Issues, Spectrum of Thought on Population-Related Subjects, Policies, and Implications, Unintended Consequences

**Readings:** Parmley; McWilliams; Harrop; Madden; Johnson, et al; Mack; Cummings; Broad; Gross; Haugerud & Collinson; Turning Point Project; Carlisle; McCay; Arrow; Brown; Simon; Smith; Pfeiffer, Diamond; articles (#s 19-37)

**Films:** “Not For Sale”; “Maragoli”; “Island of Flowers”

**Books:** Tomatoland by Barry Estabrook; The Big Thirst - by Charles Fishman

### PART III

**Topics:** Resource and Environmental Problems & Impacts, Cost-Benefit Analysis, Free Market Environmentalism, Perception of Risk, Perspectives on Our Relationship with the Environment, Real and Potential Responses to Present and Future Challenges

**Readings:** Clifford; Dove; Shiva, et al; Rudel; Power & Rauber; Dixon; Rosenbloom; Wandersman & Hallman; Smith; Morren; E.P.A.; Rudel; Washington Legal Foundation; Overholser; Nielsen; Goleman, Krauss; articles (#s 38-55)

**Films:** “The Last Stand – Ancient Redwoods & the Bottom Line”; “The Poisoned Dream”; “In Our Water”

**Books:** Legacy of Luna by Julia “Butterfly” Hill; Plastic: A Toxic Love Story by Susan Freinkel; Sleeping Naked is Green by Vanessa Farquharson

Last Examinations: Lecture 1-Tuesday 12/15, 12:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Lecture 2- Thursday 12/17, 8:00 am - 11:00 am

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**Notes:**

**1. In order to receive a final grade for the course, ALL requirements must be completed; otherwise, a "T" grade will be assigned. There are no exceptions.**

**2. It is expected that the conventions of academic integrity will be observed at all times. The website of the Office of Student Conduct contains the Code of Student Conduct. You may also consult with us if you have any questions.**

Recitation Instructors

David Eisenhauer:  david.eisenhauer@rutgers.edu	Section 1	M 11:10-12:05	Hickman 210
	Section 2	M 12:50-1:45	Hickman 118
	Section 7	M 2:30-3:25	Hickman 131

Sheri Seminski  <a href="mailto:sheriseminski@gmail.com">sheriseminski@gmail.com</a>	Section 5	M 5:50-6:45	Hickman 213
	Section 6	M 7:30-8:25	Hickman 118

Arielle Wortzel adw75@scarletmail.rutgers.edu	Section 3	T 11:10-12:05	Hickman 202
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<u><a href="mailto:alanna.higgins@gmail.com">Alanna Higgins</a></u>	<u>Section 4</u>	<u>T 12:50-1:45</u>	<u>Hickman 201</u>
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Chris Wilkinson <a href="mailto:cjohnwilkinson@hotmail.com">cjohnwilkinson@hotmail.com</a>	Section 8	M 4:10-5:05	Hickman 202
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Holly Berman <a href="mailto:hmb85@scarletmail.rutgers.edu">hmb85@scarletmail.rutgers.edu</a>	Section 9	M 5:35-6:30	Hickman 130
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Arcadia Lee arcadialee13@gmail.com	Section 19	M 7:30-8:25	Hickman 202
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Brady Root <a href="mailto:bradyroo@echo.rutgers.edu">bradyroo@echo.rutgers.edu</a>	Section 11	M 11:10-12:05	Hickman 118
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Jason Capizzi jason.capizzi@gmail.com	Section 12	M 5:50-6:45	Hickman 201
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