ENVR 2302: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY  
Online, June 4 – July 10, 2018

Instructor: Owen Temby  
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COURSE READINGS
The following book will be read in this course.
Additional required review material will be posted to Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES
A survey of society’s relationship to its natural environment. Topics include environmental ethics, economics, and government institutions, applied to a diversity of environmental challenges. Open to freshmen.  
Prerequisites: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES
The course is designed to develop and document content knowledge in the following areas:
1. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the environmental challenges associated with growing human populations  
2. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of common-pool resources and the institutions used to manage them  
3. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of ethical questions arising from human-environment interactions  
4. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of environmental economics, including environmental taxation and environmental political economy  
5. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how risks, hazards, and nature are articulated by society  
6. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of environmental challenges, including climate change, forests and wildlife, nuclear energy, food procurement, and urbanization

COURSE FORMAT
This course is organized into 5 weekly modules. Each of the first four modules contain assigned weekly preparation materials, such as readings and videos to watch. You will then complete a weekly assignment and brief quiz on the preparation material. The fifth module assumes you have completed all of the reading by then and consists of a cumulative final assignment and quiz. Each of the five modules is worth 1/5 of your final grade. See attached schedule for dates and topics.

To actively participate in this course, you will need to get familiar with the course environment. We will be using different tools such as a discussion board, online quizzes, etc. If you are not
familiar with how to navigate this environment as a student or use any of these tools, please review the following Blackboard Orientation page.

**GRADING POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item:</th>
<th>Value Each:</th>
<th>Quantity:</th>
<th>Marks:</th>
<th>Due Date:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Module Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>June 10, June 17, June 24, July 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Module Quizzes</td>
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<td>20%</td>
<td>June 10, June 17, June 24, July 1</td>
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**Grade Scale:**

- A  90% - 100%
- B  80% - 89%
- C  70% - 79%
- D  60% - 69%
- F  59% and below

**Weekly Module Assignments** and **Weekly Module Quizzes** are based on the preparation material (textbook readings and assigned videos) for that week. They are due every Sunday before the end of the day. Each weekly module assignment consists of written exercises, and each quiz consists of ten multiple choice questions. The **Final Module Assignment** and **Final Module Quiz** are due at the end of Week 5. They are similar to the weekly assignments and quizzes, except that they are cumulative.

**Policy on Late Assignments:** Module Assignments will be accepted late, with a 10% deduction per week, beginning with the day after the due date. Quizzes must be completed on time and will not be accepted late. No course work will be accepted after July 9, 2018.

**Policy on Grade Reviews and Appeals:** Students are welcome to request a review of a grade on an assignment or exam. This request must be accompanied on a written explanation of why the original grade should be changed.

**Policy on Extra Credit:** The instructor will not offer extra credit work or adjust the weight given to any assignment for individuals or for the class as a whole.

**Policy on Collaborative Work:** Discussing assignments with your colleagues is encouraged, but students are not permitted to submit the same work for evaluation. Therefore, those who copy and those who share their work will both be considered guilty of academic dishonesty. *Any written assignments deemed by the Instructor to be too similar will be given a grade of 0.* To prevent the possibility of getting a zero, please:

- DO NOT collaborate with other students when writing your assignments or exams;
- DO NOT share your written work with anyone else;
• DO NOT ask someone else to print your assignment;
• DO NOT ask someone else to hand in your assignment.

If you have any questions regarding collaboration or plagiarism in relation to assignments and exams please see the instructor.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES
The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login.

UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus**: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students. See “policy on collaborative work” above.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

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COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

SCHEDULE
The course is organized to enable flexibility in covering the course material. This schedule is to serve as a tentative guide only. Some changes may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>Module 1 Assignment Module 1 Quiz</td>
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<td>o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Approaches and Perspectives I:</td>
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<td>o Retro Report, “Population Bomb”</td>
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<td>o Market-Based Solutions</td>
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<td>o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>o Common-Pool Resources</td>
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<td>o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 4</td>
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2 Approaches and Perspectives II:
- Environmental Ethics
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 5
- Risks and Hazards
  o Retro Report, “Earthquake Readiness”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 6
- Political Economy
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 7
- Social Construction of Nature
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 8

Module 2 Assignment
Module 2 Quiz

3 Objects of Concern I:
- Carbon Dioxide
  o David Roberts, “Climate Change is Simple”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 9
- Trees
  o Retro Report, “The Fight to Save the Amazon”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 10
- Wolves
  o Retro Report, “Wolves at the Door”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 11
- Uranium
  o Retro Report, “Nuclear Power’s Public Opinion Rollercoaster”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 12

Module 3 Assignment
Module 3 Quiz

4 Objects of Concern II:
- Tuna
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 13
- Lawns
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 14
- Bottled Water
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 15
- French Fries and Tomatos
  o Retro Report, “GMO Food Fears and the First Test Tube Tomato”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 16
- Garbage
  o Retro Report, “Voyage of the Mobro 4000”
  o Robbins, Hintz, and Moore, Chapter 17

Module 4 Assignment
Module 4 Quiz

5 Course Conclusion

Final Module Assignment
Final Module Quiz