

**Political Science 125A**  
Fall Quarter 2012  
**Time:** MWF 1pm-1:50pm  
**Location:** Center 113

**Instructor:** Emily Matthews Luxon  
**E-mail:** eomattthews@ucsd.edu  
**Office Hrs:** Fridays 2-3pm, SSB 448  
and by appointment.

## **Political Science 125A: Communities and the Environment**

### **Course Overview:**

As individuals, we live in our communities and in the environment around us. But how can our communities both use *and* conserve that environment? This course examines the idea that communities can play an integral role in conserving their local environments by looking at the challenges and opportunities in community-based conservation. We will build our understanding from the small and (relatively) simple up to the large and complex, by looking at environmental and resource conservation through the lens of individual incentives, community governance, state activity, and global alternatives. Through these topics, you will learn to identify and evaluate the political choices that have been and that can be made in environmental conservation and governance; and you will learn to identify and evaluate the political choices and tools available for remaking and restructuring environmental governance according to your own values and preferences, whatever they may be.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

In order to achieve the course goals, you will need to read, watch, and digest the course texts, think through and complete the assignments, and participate fully in course activities and discussions. These are all necessary for the completion of the various assignments (paper, exams) which will give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge, understanding, and skills you will gain in the course. Any changes to the syllabus (including exams/due dates and required readings) will be posted to the TED page for this course, which you should check regularly { [ted.ucsd.edu](http://ted.ucsd.edu) }.

### **Required Texts:**

The course books and films will be available on reserve at Geisel Library { [reserves.ucsd.edu](http://reserves.ucsd.edu) }; to access films or electronic reserves off-campus you will need to enable a web proxy or vpn on your computer (to learn how to set this up, go to: [libraries.ucsd.edu/services/computing/remote-access/index.html](http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/computing/remote-access/index.html)). Some required course readings will be provided on the course TED page { [ted.ucsd.edu](http://ted.ucsd.edu) }. Help accessing TED can be found here: { [acms.ucsd.edu/units/iwdc/password.shtml](http://acms.ucsd.edu/units/iwdc/password.shtml) }. In addition, two of the course readings are available for purchase in the bookstore and for borrowing on reserve at Geisel Library. These are:

Agrawal, Arun, and Clark C. Gibson, eds. 2001. *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation*. Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, New Jersey.

Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

### **Student Evaluation:**

To earn a grade in this course, you must complete: two in-class exams; one short paper; and one in-class final exam. Any student who fails to complete one or more required assignments will not pass the course. These four items will be weighted, with an additional participation grade, as either: 1) Participation - 5%; In-class exam #1 - 20%; In-class exam #2 - 25%; Short paper - 25%; and Final exam - 25%; or 2) Participation - 5%; In-class exam #1 - 15%; In-class exam #2 - 20%; Short paper - 30%; and Final exam - 30%. Your final course grade will be based on the *higher* calculation of the two options. Exams will be based on lectures, presentations, readings, and films.

In-class exam #1 is scheduled for: Friday, October 19th, in class. In-class exam #2 is *tentatively scheduled* for: Friday, November 9th, in class. The due date for the short paper is *tentatively scheduled* for: Wednesday, November 28th, at the beginning of class. The final exam is scheduled for: Monday, December 10, 2012 from 11:30am-2:29pm (location TBA). Please double check with the course instructor and teaching assistants for any and all dates/times, as they are subject to change (with plenty of forewarning).

Incompletes or special exams will be given only in *pressing and properly documented* cases and in accordance with UCSD policy; petitions for these must be timely. If, for any reason, you are having difficulty with an assignment, you should seek help from the instructor or TAs in a *timely* manner and *before* the deadline; the instructor has office hours at the time/place listed above, and by appointment, *specifically* to help you with the course materials and assignments.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who may need accommodations are encouraged to notify, as soon as possible, both the instructor and the Office for Students with Disabilities {<http://osd.ucsd.edu>} in order to work out the particulars. Note: both the instructor and the Office for Students with Disabilities must be notified well in advance of any course deadlines or due dates.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Your instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously. Any student violating UCSD's Academic Dishonesty or UCSD's Student Conduct policies will earn an 'F' in the course and will be reported to their college Dean for investigation. Committing acts that violate Student Conduct policies, and which result in course disruptions, are cause for suspension from UCSD. See {<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14>} for more information.

Students also agree that by taking this course all take-home assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such assignments. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. Explanations for using Turnitin.com will be provided in class.

### **\*Tentative\* Course Calendar:**

#### **Week 0: Introduction**

#### **Week 1:**

##### **The Tragedy of the Commons?**

Edwards 2008: How to Read a Book [9p]

Hardin 1968: The Tragedy of the Commons [5p]

Leung and Magee 2012: Lily pond trashed during Balboa Park water-gun fight [2p]

Hudnall 2012: Balboa Park water fight was a tragedy of the commons [2p]

Ostrom 1990: Series preface [1p]

Ostrom 1990: Preface, pp xiii-xvi [4p]

Ostrom 1990: Chapter 1 [28p]

#### **Week 2:**

##### **Common-Pool Resources**

Ostrom 1990: Chapter 2 [29p]

Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Conclusion by McCay [10p]

Ostrom 1990: pp. 182-192 [11p]

Film: *Global resources: management and competition* [39min]

#### **Week 3:**

##### **Successful Commons Management**

Ostrom 1990: Chapter 3 [45p]

Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Chapter 5 by Singleton [17p]

### **In-Class, Exam # 1: Friday, October 19th, 2012**

**Week 4:**

**Thinking about Community**

- Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Foreword by Ostrom [4p]  
Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Introduction by Agrawal & Gibson [20p]  
Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Chapter 6 by Li [19p]  
Film: *The Living Forest* [13min]

**Week 5:**

**Failed Commons Management**

- Ostrom 1990: Chapter 5 [39p]  
Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Chapter 1 by McDermott [27p]  
Campbell, et al., 2001: Challenges to proponents of common property... [8p]

**Week 6:**

**Creating Institutions for Commons Management**

- Ostrom 1990: Chapter 4 [40p]  
Ostrom 1990: pp. 192-216 [25p]

**\*TENTATIVE\* In-Class, Exam # 2: Friday, November 9th, 2012**

**Week 7:**

**Community Challenges to Adapting Institutions**

- Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Chapter 2 by Meinzen-Dick and Zwartveen [22p]  
Agrawal & Gibson 2001: Chapter 3 by Ilahiane [20p]  
Lu 2001: The common property regime of the Huaorani Indians... [21p]  
Film: *Children of the Land* [18min]

**Week 8:**

**Global Challenges to Adapting Institutions**

- Phelps, Webb, and Agrawal 2010: Does REDD+ threaten to recentralize... [2p]  
Berkes, et al. 2006: Globalization, Roving Bandits, and Marine Resources [2p]  
Witbooi 2008: Governing Global Fisheries [14p]  
Watts 2012: World Bank launches global coalition for marine protection [2p]  
Brown 2011: UK cod collapse due to overfishing and political failures... [2p]  
Rosenthal and Lehren 2012: Profits on Carbon Credits Drive Output of a Harmful Gas [5p]

**Weeks 9-10:**

**Extending the Commons and The New Commons Movements**

- Holder and Flessas 2008: Emerging Commons [11p]  
Heller and Eisenberg 1998: Can patents deter innovation? [4p]  
Walljasper 2010: Excerpts TBA  
Hopkins 2008: Excerpts TBA  
Film: *This Land is Our Land* [46min]

**\*TENTATIVE\* Short Paper DUE on Wednesday, November 28th, 2012**

**Hope or Despair for the Future?**

- Bollier 2012: A tour of commons activism around the world [5p]  
Film: *The Power of Community* [53min]

**Final Exam: Monday, December 10, 2012, 11:30am-2:29pm, Location TBA**

### **Helpful Contact Information:**

**Instructor, Emily Matthews Luxon:** eomattthews@ucsd.edu or eoluxon@gmail.com

**Teaching Assistant, Saul Cunow:** scunow@ucsd.edu

**Teaching Assistant, Rosaly Byrd:** rbyrd@ucsd.edu

### **List of Sources:**

- Agrawal, Arun, and Clark C. Gibson, eds. 2001a. *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation*. Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, New Jersey.
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- Berkes, F., T.P. Hughes, R.S. Steneck, J.A. Wilson, D.R. Bellwood, B. Crona, C. Folke, L.H. Gunderson, H.M. Leslie, J. Norberg, M. Nyström, P. Olsson, H. Österblom, M. Scheffer, B. Worm. 2006. Globalization, Roving Bandits, and Marine Resources. *Science* 311. 1557-1558.
- Bollier, David. 2012. A Tour of Commons Activism Around the World. *Commons Magazine*. March 5, 2012. <<http://onthecommons.org/magazine/tour-commons-activism-around-world>>
- Brown, Paul. 2011. UK cod collapse due to overfishing and political failure, says fisheries expert. *The Guardian*. Friday 30 September 2011. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/sep/30/uk-cod-collapse-overfishing?INTCMP=SRCH>>
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- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science* 162. 1243-1248.
- Heller, Michael A., and Rebecca S. Eisenberg. 1998. Can patents deter innovation? The anti-commons in biomedical research. *Science* 280. 698-701.
- Hudnall, Justin. 2012. Balboa Park water fight was a tragedy of the commons. *San Diego CityBeat*. Tuesday Aug 14 2012. <<http://www.sdcitybeat.com/sandiego/article-10848-balboa-park-water-fi.html>>
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- Hopkins, Rob. 2008. *The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company, White River Junction, Vermont.
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- Li, Tania Murray. 2001. Boundary Work: Community, Market, and State Reconsidered. In, Arun Agrawal and Clark C. Gibson, eds., *Communities and the Environment: Ethnicity, Gender, and the State in Community-Based Conservation*. Rutgers University Press, Piscataway, New Jersey. 157-179.
- The Living Forest (Floresta Viva)*. 2007. Electronic Resource. By Benki Pianko. Video in the Villages Series. Documentary Educational Resources, Watertown, MA.

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