

Crisis in the Environment
Science & Society 9 – Spring Quarter
Lectures: Tuesday & Thursday, 3:10-4:30 pm
Room: TBD

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Erwan Monier
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Teaching Assistant

TBD

SCOPE OF COURSE

- Explores the question: What is the state of the global environment?
- Explores contemporary environmental issues: Causes → Effects → Solutions
- Independent research of environmental issues
- Integrated discussion of political, societal and economic impacts of environmental problems

GE Credit: Science & Engineering, Social Sciences, Writing Experience

COURSE MATERIALS

Lecture slides, reading materials, writing materials and selected assignments will be provided/administered via the Canvas course web page: canvas.ucdavis.edu.

COURSE GRADING

Reading quizzes – 10%: There will be a 5-question (true/false and/or multiple-choice) quiz administered on Canvas for each reading assignment. The reading quizzes are due each week on Monday at 11:59pm. They will be made available one week prior to the due date and you will have 90 minutes to complete them.

Lecture quizzes – 50%: There will be a 5-question (true/false and/or multiple-choice) quiz administered on Canvas following each lecture. The quizzes covering the Tuesday lectures will be due on Wednesdays at 11:59pm and the quizzes covering the Thursday lectures will be due on Fridays at 11:59pm.

Research assignments – 20%: You will be assigned 2 questions to be researched via the library or the Internet. We expect a one-page (single spaced) maximum response to these assignments.

Research paper – 20%: You will research and prepare a 5-page (double-spaced) paper on an environmental issue of your choice (topic must be approved by instructor/TAs). The paper should ideally address the causes → effects → solutions of the issue, as well as incorporating the political, societal and economic ramifications. We are open to innovative ideas!

The letter grade for the course is determined at the end of the year, approximately following standard guidelines (91-100% A, 81-90% B etc.) but may be “curved” if the class median grade falls below C+/B-.

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Date **Topics**

COURSE FORMAT

Week 1

Tuesday **Lecture 1** – Course administration

Thursday **Lecture 2** – The environment

Week 2

Tuesday **Lecture 3** – The climate crisis – science

Thursday **Lecture 4** – The climate crisis – impacts

(Due: Research Question #1)

Week 3

Tuesday **Lecture 5** – The climate crisis – solutions

Thursday **Lecture 6** – The climate crisis – politics

Week 4

Tuesday **Lecture 7** – Forest fires

Thursday **Lecture 8** – Forest management

Week 5

Tuesday **Lecture 9** – Acid rain

Thursday **Lecture 10** – Mercury

(Due: Research Question #2)

Week 6

Tuesday **Lecture 11** – Ozone pollution

Thursday **Lecture 12** – Particle pollution

Week 7

Tuesday **Lecture 13** – The global water crisis

Thursday **Lecture 14** – California water issues

Week 8

Tuesday **Lecture 15** – Ocean exploitation

Thursday **Lecture 16** – Ocean pollution

Week 9

Tuesday **Lecture 17** – Food security

Thursday **Lecture 18** – Environmental justice

(Due: Final Research Paper)

Week 10

Tuesday **Lecture 19** – Mass extinctions

Thursday **Lecture 20** – Biodiversity loss

Final Week

No final exam!!!

READING QUIZZES: due every Monday at 11:59pm (except week 1)

LECTURE QUIZZES: due every Wednesday at 11:59pm (except week 1) and Friday at 11:59pm

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Crisis in the Environment

SAS 9 – Spring Quarter

COLLABORATION POLICY

No collaboration whatsoever is permitted on the reading quizzes, lecture quizzes, research assignments and the final research paper.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism and other anti-intellectual behavior cannot be tolerated in any academic environment that prides itself on individual accomplishment. If you have any questions about the collaboration policy, or if you feel that you may have violated the policy, please talk to one of the course staff. Although the course staff is obligated to deal with cheating appropriately, we are more understanding and lenient if we find out from the transgressor himself or herself rather than from a third party.

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UC Davis is committed to educational equity in the academic setting, and in serving a diverse student body. I encourage all students who are interested in learning more about the Student Disability Center (SDC) to contact them directly at sdc.ucdavis.edu, sdc@ucdavis.edu or 530-752-3184. If you are a student who currently receives academic accommodation(s), please submit your SDC Letter of Accommodation to me as soon as possible, ideally within the first two weeks of this course.