

3 credit – A sections

Lecture Schedule: Attaining a Sustainable Society

FISH/ENVIR 439; PBAF 595 Spring 2009

Tuesday, 11:30–1:20; 389 Mary Gates Hall

N.B. Although class begins at 11:30, the lectures listed below begin at 12:00. See next page for 11:30 minilecture schedule.

- March 31 *Dissecting the Premise: Drivers and 21st-Century Consequences*
James R. Karr, Ecology/Environmental Science and Policy
- April 7 *Law, Sustainability, and the Limits of Reason*
Louis E. Wolcher, Law
- April 14 *Technology: The Solution or the Problem*
Denise Wilson, Electrical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering
- April 21 *Ethics and Climate Change*
Stephen Gardiner, Philosophy
- April 28 *Native American sovereignty issues*
Charlotte Cote', American Indian Studies
- May 5 *Arts for Social Change: Awakening Communities to the Present and Creating Visions for the Future*
Beverly Naidus, Artist, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences , Coordinator of Arts, Media, and Culture Concentration, UW, Tacoma
- May 12 *Attitudes Toward Sharks and the Sustainability of the World's Fisheries*
Aaron Wirsing, Forest Resources
- May 19 *New Voices in International Foreign Policy: How the Inuit are Reshaping the Global Dialogue*
Nadine C. Fabbi, Canadian Studies Center, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies
- May 26 *Global Partnerships in Conservation Biology: Can We Make a Difference with Field Training and Community Outreach Before It's Too Late?*
Randall C. Kyes, Psychology, WA National Primate Research Center
- June 2 *Attaining a Sustainable Society? Integrating Knowledge for Action*
James R. Karr, Ecology/ Environmental Science and Policy

All lecturers are asked to evaluate the following premise:

Building a sustainable future depends on restructuring the global economy, major shifts in human reproductive and consumptive behavior, and dramatic changes in values and lifestyles. If we do not accomplish this restructuring within the next three to five decades, environmental deterioration and economic growth are likely to feed on each other, pulling us into a downward spiral of social disintegration.

Course website: <http://fish.washington.edu/classes/fish439/>

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Minilecture Schedule: Attaining a Sustainable Society

N.B. Minilectures (11:30–11:55) will precede each guest lecture. See page 1 for lecture schedule.

March 31	<i>Course Introduction and Organization</i>
April 7	Video: http://www.storyofstuff.com/ also http://www.miniature-earth.com/me_english.htm
April 14	<i>The Many Faces of Biotic Impoverishment</i>
April 21	<i>Al Bartlett's Three Principles Everyone Should Know</i>
April 28	<i>Understanding Relationships Among Economy, Society, and Ecology</i>
May 5	<i>Some Lessons of History: Looking Back to See the Future</i>
May 12	<i>Collapse: What Happened to All Those Societies?</i>
May 19	<i>Revolutions Past and Present</i>
May 26	<i>Five Transitions to a Sustainable Future</i>
June 2	<i>Five More Transitions to a Sustainable Future</i>

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Course Requirements (3 credits; numeric grades)

1. Attend and participate in weekly lecture and discussion.
2. Write a short paper summarizing the messages and lessons from the lecture series, **including specific references to all lectures**. See premise on page 1. What did you learn? What did you agree or disagree with? What is your assessment of the premise, and why do you reach that conclusion? Maximum length of this paper is 3 double-spaced pages of text using 12-point type. **Due 5 pm, June 4. NO COVER PAGE. Please staple. Do not use any kind of binders. No electronic submissions. Please use paper that has already been used on one side, or print on both sides of the page.**
3. Lead a class discussion at least once during the quarter.
4. Write either (1) an op-ed essay that could be submitted to a newspaper on a subject from the course this quarter or (2) a letter that could be submitted to a political leader or agency head arguing for a particular policy decision on a subject from the course this quarter. Optional first draft due: May 7. Final paper due: May 20.

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Discussion Reading Assignments: Attaining a Sustainable Society
FISH/ENVIR 439; PBAF 595 Spring 2009
Tuesday, 2:00–3:20, 284 MGH or Tuesday, 3:30–4:50, 284 MGH or
Wednesday 2:00–3:30, 284 MGH or Wednesday, 3:30–4:50, 284 MGH

Date	Topic	Required Reading		
March 31-April 1	Introduction to Course Regionally Different Courses of History	Diamond, J. M. 2004. <i>Nature</i> 418:700–707.		
		Book	Chapter (# pp)	Author
April 7–8	Gauguin's Question	1	(27)	Wright
	The Great Experiment	2	(25)	Wright
April 14–15	Fool's Paradise	3	(26)	Wright
	Pyramid Schemes	4	(26)	Wright
April 21–22	The Rebellion of the Tools	5	(26)	Wright
	Preface		(9)	Speth
	Introduction: Between Two Worlds		(16)	Speth
April 28–29	Looking into the Abyss	1	(29)	Speth
	Modern Capitalism: Out of Control	2	(21)	Speth
	The Limits of Today's Environmentalism	3	(22)	Speth
May 5–6	The Market: Making It Work for the Environment	4	(18)	Speth
	Economic Growth: Moving to a Post-Growth Society	5	(19)	Speth
	Real Growth: Promoting the Well-Being of People and Nature	6	(21)	Speth
May 12–13	Consumption: Living with Enough, Not Always More	7	(18)	Speth
	The Corporation: Changing the Fundamental Dynamics	8	(18)	Speth
	Capitalism's Core: Advancing Beyond Today's Capitalism	9	(16)	Speth
May 19–20	A New Consciousness	10	(18)	Speth
	A New Politics	11	(16)	Speth
	The Bridge to the Edge of the World	12	(5)	Speth
May 26–27	Pollan, M. 2008. Farmer In Chief, <i>NY Times Magazine</i> , pp 62–71, 92. October 12, 2008.			
June 2–3	Beddoe, R., et al. 2009. Overcoming systemic roadblocks to sustainability: The evolutionary redesign of worldviews, institutions, and technologies. <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 106 (8): 2483–2489.			

Texts for discussion

Wright, R. 2004. *A Short History of Progress*. Carroll and Graf Publishers, New York.
Speth, J. G. 2008. *The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.