

Land Cover and Land Use Change GEOG 615 Fall 2010

Wednesdays 3:30pm-6:00pm
1124 LeFrak Hall

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this graduate level class is to allow students to explore research aspects of LCLUC, developing an understanding of the **drivers**, impacts, and consequences of land cover and land use change and the implications for society and resource use in the context of **sustainable resource management**.

PREREQUISITES

GEOG306 (Quantitative Methods) or equivalent; GEOG123 (Global Change); GEOG 201 (Physical Geography); GEOG342 (biogeography); and/or GEOG331 (human dimensions) desirable, or permission of instructor.

It is strongly recommended that students have taken GEOG 415 before taking GEOG 615, as the material will build on the GEOG 415 class. Those that have not taken 415 may need to do remedial reading.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The course will be built around class projects and the associated reading, addressing aspects of land cover and land use change, specifically in the context of sustainability. Active participation in class projects is expected and students will be graded on their contributions.

Students will be given adequate time to complete assignments and are asked to make sure assignments are submitted by the date requested. Students will participate in the project design and implementation. As a result, the lecture sequence and content is subject to change as the course.

Guest lecturers will be announced prior to the class.

TEXTBOOK

No textbook is assigned for this class. Assigned reading material and lecture presentations will be provided for download at:

<https://elms.umd.edu>

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

The following is the allocation of points towards the grade:

- Class Assignments – 50%
- Active Participation - 20%
- Final Project – 30%

Students will be notified by email of any unanticipated class cancellations. Students are expected to attend all classes.

FACULTY CONTACT

The class will be taught by Dr. Evan Ellicott (ellicott@umd.edu)

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 1119 Lefrak Hall

Email me to arrange an appointment outside normal office hours.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please see the instructor and register with Disability Support Service in Shoemaker Hall.

HONOR CODE

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>.

Please keep the following pledge in mind when you are writing papers or submitting exam material: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.”

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept 1	Class introductions, course overview and introductory lecture on Land Cover and Land Use Change and connections with sustainability	Lambin et al., (2001)
Sept 8	Global Hot Spots of LCLUC: Causes and Impacts	
Sept 15	Amazonia – an examination of LCLUC– Set Assignment 1	
Sept 22	Sustainability – definitions and dynamics; footprint calculation	
Sept 29	PlanMaryland – local issues – Assignment 1 Due	
Oct 6	The Chesapeake Bay	
Oct 13	Agriculture, Energy, Population and the Bay – Set Assignment 2	
Oct 20	<i>No Class – Work on Assignment 2</i>	
Oct 27	Field Trip – CBF: Urban Ecology and Environmental Policy	
Nov 3	LCLUC modeling – Assignment 2 Due	
Nov 10	<i>No Class – St. Petersburg meeting</i>	
Nov 17	The Future of the Bay – 2050 – Set Final Project	
Nov 24	Class participation on final project	
Dec 1	Guest Lecture	
Dec 8	Final Project Presentations	