

Drive, Hood River, Oregon 97031. Please use priority or overnight mail. Problems with student email addresses or web access will be considered the responsibility of the student to fix, not the instructor. I will in all cases attempt to respond to your questions promptly (excluding weekends). Please use Blackboard email for all correspondence. Also, it is your responsibility to regularly check your email and the course Announcements folder and Bulletin Board for course-related information. Failure to do so may jeopardize your grade.

Basic Computer Skills and System/software requirements:

You MUST be able to:

- Access and navigate the Internet
- Receive and send emails
- Create, open and send attachments via email
- Use Word and its main features

You must have access to:

- A reasonably fast computer, with at least 64 MB of RAM
- 56K modem minimum
- Internet service from a reliable Internet Service Provider
- Internet browser such as Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher
- Microsoft applications: Word, Powerpoint—note, if you don't use Word, there may be problems in transmitting things to me. So you need to check that your submissions are reaching me.
- To view portable document format (PDF) files, you need Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 (or higher). You can download the software free of charge from the company's website, at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat>

Student Names: if you have adopted a new name since coming to CSUF (via marriage, divorce, etc.), please be sure the instructor knows your "maiden" or alternate name(s). For some mysterious reason, Blackboard fouls this up regularly.

Netiquette. Although this course is completely online, it is important nevertheless that students respect university policies and procedures regarding classroom behavior. Students should use a respectful tone when discussing each other's ideas and opinions, asking questions of the instructor, in answering each other's questions or in any other online communication associated with this course. Failure to do so will result in the student being prevented from posting to the course site, which will seriously affect your final grade in the course

For details on acceptable online behavior—'netiquette'—see: <http://fdc.fullerton.edu/technology/blackboard/discussion/Default.htm>).

Plagiarism. The opportunities for plagiarism in an online class are obviously greater than in a classroom setting. For example, it is easy to find online book reviews for most if not all of the readings. Please be clear that I consider this a serious offense, particularly in a graduate level course. I reserve the right to give the student an 'F' on any piece of work that is partially or wholly plagiarized, and in extreme cases, an 'F' for the entire course. For example, if you copy and paste a sentence from another work, without either paraphrasing and/or giving credit to the author, that is plagiarism. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, you can visit with me or better consult "Student Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism: How to Write an Effective Research Paper"

(http://fdc.fullerton.edu/learning/Academic%20Integrity/student_guide_to_avoiding_plagia.htm). Written work will be evaluated using Turnitin, a plagiarism detection device.

Exams and Grading:

a) book reviews: there are four books assigned in this course, and each student is responsible for writing a book review of each. Reviews should be double-spaced, 10-12 point font, and be roughly 2.5-3.0 pages in length. Basic rules of grammar and style should be followed and will be considered in the grade (75% content/ 25% style). Remember that a book review is not the same as a book report. The objective in this case is to discuss what you discovered in this book that illuminated your understanding of the causes and consequences of a specific environmental challenge. Feel free to cite specific book sections to support your views; however, no quotes longer than a single sentence please. I am including under Blackboard Documents a few examples of published book reviews and a few good student book reviews.

In general, there are 4 major parts to a book review—introduction, evaluation, description, critique. Use this as a general guide, however, not as an absolute template. Thus, please don't simply list items 1, 2, 3, 4.

- 1) the introduction tells the reader who wrote the book, why the book was written, the general audience, and the book's purpose. Is this the author's first book, or is he/she building on a long and distinguished career? Did the book win awards? Is the press a prestigious academic press, or other?
- 2) the description includes an overall summary of what the book is about and how it is organized. You can also briefly summarize each or at least the main chapters. Does the book include figures, tables, illustrations? Does the book have a guiding philosophy or theoretical basis?
- 3) the evaluation should comment on the book as a whole, as well as how the parts of the book fit together. Are the methods of analysis and information sound and reliable? Does the data and information support the claims or conclusions? Do the figures support or detract from the narrative? Is the book well edited? What are the book's strengths and weaknesses?
- 4) what are the author's stated or implied goals and has he/she achieved them? Are there major gaps in the narrative or analysis that you can perceive? Is the author's argument logical and coherent? Do the author's biases interfere with his/her analysis? Is this an important or trivial contribution? What is your overall recommendation regarding this book?

Book reviews should be sent through the Digital Dropbox, **not my email address**. It is very easy to lose them in my email. Be sure to put your name somewhere in the subject so that I can put it in the appropriate file quickly. Reviews up to 48 hours late will be dropped one full grade in value (e.g. A to B). Papers more than 48 hours late will not be accepted. For different views on how to write a book review, refer to:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/bookreview.html>

<http://astro.temple.edu/~rimmerma/256revs.html>.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/bkrev.html>

Reviews:

- 1) Baskin. 2002. *Rats and Rubbervines*
- 2) Lichatowich, 1999. *Salmon Without Rivers*.
- 3) Diamond. 2005. *Collapse*.
- 4) Speth, J. 2004. *Red Sky at Morning*.

Due:

- 17th June, midnight
1st July, midnight
15th July, midnight
29th July, midnight

b) final exam: the final exam is a “do at home”, open book exam. It will consist of 3 broad, integrative questions, each drawn from the reading assignments. Although you will obviously use the readings as the basis for your responses, I want you to include your own analysis/perspectives as well. By this I mean that I encourage you not to simply repeat what you have read, but to use your skills of analysis and reasoning to address the questions. I expect each question to be typed, single space, on 2 pages more or less. This means about 1200 words per answer. Please do not go significantly over this word limit, or significantly under. You should paraphrase the readings, where appropriate, but please do not use quotes or citations. Where appropriate, you can refer to the books in your text, such as “According to Speth. . .”. As in the case with the book reviews, I will grade 75% content and 25% writing style. This means that you are rewarded for being organized, coherent, and for editing prior to submission. Please avoid plagiarism scrupulously.

c) extra credit: there is no extra credit available in the class.