

Principles of Environmental Studies **Discussion Sections**

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Office hours	MW 8:50-10am, or by appt.	Professor	Johannes Feddema

Objectives of the Discussion Section

These discussion sessions are designed to allow you to further explore the cultural and physical aspects that influence our environmental decisions. You will have the opportunity to discuss and work with your classmates on a range of current environmental topics affecting both the United States and other parts of the world. We will be talking about the issues raised by Jared Diamond in *Collapse* and pursuing hands-on activities and writing assignments that follow the lecture material. The sections will hopefully be both enlightening and enjoyable, and allow you to develop some of your own ideas on a variety of environmental topics.

Readings, assignment information and other material will be made available through the course; the required text for discussion is as follows:

Diamond, Jared (2005) *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. (ISBN 0143036556)

Schedule

Week	Topic
8/20	Introduction and discussion of <i>Collapse</i>
8/27	Our immediate environment (expedition)
9/3	<i>Collapse</i> discussion (Prologue, Chapters 1 & 2)
9/10	The Global View: countries and environments (presentation, assignment; 10pts)
9/17	<i>Collapse</i> discussion (Chapters 6, 7 & 8)
9/24	Water Balance lab
10/1	<i>Collapse</i> discussion (Chapters 10 & 11; Water balance assignment due, 10pts)
10/8	* Fall Break week – No Discussion Section
10/15	Aerial Photo lab
10/22	<i>Collapse</i> discussion (Chapters 12, 13, & 14; Aerial photo assignment due, 10pts)
10/29	Water Use debate (presentation, 10 points)
11/5	<i>Collapse</i> discussion (Chapters 15 & 16; assign and discuss final projects)
11/12	<i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> discussion (assignment due, 10 points)
11/19	* Thanksgiving week – No Discussion Section
11/26	Presentations: final projects (10 points)
12/3	* Last week of classes – No Discussion Section

Grading

In total the discussion section component of the course (including participation and assignments) will total 100 points and represent 35% of the final grade. It will be composed by:

Assignments: 60 points • *Collapse* quizzes: 10 points • General participation: 30 points

Attendance will be taken at each session and you are expected to contribute as best you can to all the discussions we have: this will form an important part of the grade.

Other Issues

The final assignment will take the form of a group project on an issue of local environmental concern. Groups should be of 4 people (if possible); select your group members carefully to avoid strife. Information on this project will be distributed well in advance.

Any written work that you submit should be double spaced and in an appropriate font. Don't plagiarize (!) and make sure you attribute any diagrams or other material you use appropriately.

Please make sure that the discussion section you are enrolled in is the section that you attend! If you do need to change, speak to me or Prof. Feddema as soon as possible.

If you have any special requirements or disabilities do let me know.

We will set aside some time for exam review prior to the Midterms and Final.

Most of all...learn and enjoy!

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TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.