

**Instructor: Dr. Kate Svyatets**  
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Office: SOS B15D  
Office Hours:  
Mon, Fri, 12-1 p.m.  
(and by appointment)

**Environmental Issues in Society (ENST 150)**

Lecture: Mon, Wed 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Location: GFS 106

Fall 2016, 4 units

Section	Time	Days	Location
33005R Lecture	10:00-10:50am	Mon, Wed	<a href="#">GFS106</a>
33006R Discussion	1:00-1:50pm	Monday	SOS B52
33007R Discussion	1:00-1:50pm	Friday	SOS B52
33008R Discussion	1:00-1:50pm	Wednesday	SOS B52
33009R Discussion	2:00-2:50pm	Friday	SOS B52

**Course overview:** This course is an interdisciplinary study of environmental issues and challenges, examining their scientific, social, cultural, political, and ethical aspects. During the course, we will explore the environmental and social impacts of modern industries and lifestyle; the roles of different actors and institutions; environmental debates on such topics as fracking, nuclear energy, waste management, etc. We will also explore institutional and social barriers to environmental and social policies and will discuss strategies for environmental regulation in the global economy. Finally, we will talk about our personal responsibilities and roles in environmental and social problems.

**Lectures:** This course is built both on lectures and on student discussion and debate. Students are expected to study the required text assignment before lectures. Students will be also asked to prepare group presentations (15 minutes) on major issues discussed in the course.

**Discussion Section Participation:** Each student must attend one discussion section per week. In sections, students will talk in detail about the week's reading assignment. Discussions are highly interactive and include such activities as debates, group presentations, individual presentations, and small group activities.

**Text and Readings**

- Withgott, Jay, Brennan, Scott. Environment: The Science behind the Stories. 4th Edition. Other editions of the textbook are OK to use.
- Additional reading materials for this class will be posted to Blackboard in the folder labeled, "Readings." Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to each class.

**Blackboard and E-Mail:** The Blackboard website is our main means of communication. The updated syllabus, readings, and assignments will be all posted there. The instructor will use your official USC email, so please make sure that you check it every day. Related current news articles will be posted in the "Readings" on some weeks. This syllabus may be updated during the semester, and the latest version will be posted on the Blackboard.

**Writing Course:** Some of you are registered in the Writing 140 course. Many of you are taking the writing course separately, or not at all, because you met the requirement as a transfer student. The Writing Center on campus is also a useful free resource for students who want to improve their writing skills.

**Research paper:** This is a writing-intensive course. Per USC GE requirements, there will be a total of 15 pages of graded writing assignments. We will accomplish this via a **15-page paper** on environmental issues that will require research and citation of sources. Please use a 12-point font; 1-inch margins; double-spaced. Required number of sources: **20 per paper**. The instructor will provide additional guidelines on the required diversity of sources. Each student will present his/her major research points in class during discussion sections. Please use **the APA format** of citations (author, year, page – in text, with full references on the last pages). The research paper rubric will be posted on the blackboard. When you submit a paper, you need to give a hard copy to the instructor AND to upload the paper on the Blackboard in “Assignments.”

### Grading

Midterm 1	Sept 26	20%
Midterm 2	Oct 31	20%
Research Paper (15 pages)	Nov 7	20%
Final Exam	Dec 12	20%
Attendance & Participation	rolling	5%
Quizzes/Homework/Presentations in class	rolling	15%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Course learning outcomes:

1. Be able to use critically the many sources of information about environmental policies to solve empirical problems.
2. Be able to use theoretical perspectives to identify and explain domestic and global environmental problems and the linkages among them.
3. Demonstrate the habit of accessing sources of environmental knowledge and the skill to critically interpret, assess and apply evidence.

### Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

#### Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety*

<http://capsnet.usc.edu/departments/departments-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage [sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu) describes reporting options and other resources.

### Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* [http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html) provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

### Grading and Correction of Grades

Excerpts for this section have been taken from the University Grading Handbook, located at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/ARR/grades/gradinghandbook/gradingpolicies.html>. Please see the link for more details on grading concerns.

A grade of Missing Grade (MG) “should only be assigned in unique or unusual situations... for those cases in which a student does not complete work for the course before the semester ends. All missing grades must be resolved by the instructor through the Correction of Grade Process. One calendar year is allowed to resolve a MG. If an MG is not resolved [within] one year the grade is changed to [Unofficial Withdrawal] UW and will be calculated into the grade point average a zero grade points.

A grade of Incomplete (IN) “is assigned when work is not completed because of documented illness or other ‘emergency’ occurring after the twelfth week of the semester (or 12<sup>th</sup> week equivalency for any course scheduled for less than 15 weeks).”

### Course Schedule

For the best learning experience, you are expected to have read assigned material by the date it is discussed in class. In addition to the textbook, other articles will be posted on the Blackboard. The readings and schedule of topics may be adjusted throughout the semester depending on the progress of the class.

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings
1	Aug. 22, 24, 29	Course Intro, Objectives, Structure	Withgott: Ch. 6, See Bb
2	Aug. 29, 31; Sept 2	Human Impacts & Climate Change	Withgott : Ch. 1 and 18, See Bb
3	Sept. 7, 9	<b>Monday Sept. 5 – LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</b> Environmental Policies	Withgott : Ch. 2 and 3; See Bb

4	Sept. 12, 14, 16	Natural Resources Production	Withgott : Ch. 19 and 20; See Bb
5	Sept. 19, 21, 23	Energy Production I	Withgott : Ch. 21 and 23; See Bb
6	Sept. 26, 28, 30	Air Pollution & Population I <b>MIDTERM I – September 26</b>	Withgott: Ch. 17 and 22, See Bb
7	Oct. 3, 5, 7	Agriculture	Withgott: Ch. 9 and 10, See Bb
8	Oct 10, 12, 14	Endangered Species & Fisheries	Withgott : Ch. 4 and 5; See Bb
9	Oct 17, 19, 21	Environment & Human Health	Withgott : Ch. 7 and 8; See Bb
10	Oct. 24, 26, 28	Economic Policies I	Withgott : Ch. 12; See Bb
11	Oct 31; Nov 2, 4	Economic Policies II. <b>MIDTERM II – October 31</b> Paper Presentations Start	Withgott : Ch. 15; See Bb
12	Nov 7, 9, 11	Urban Sprawl, Megacities, Water Scarcity <b>Research Paper DUE – November 7.</b>	Withgott : Ch. 13 and 14; See Bb
13	Nov 14, 16, 18	International Agreements & Regulations	Withgott : Ch. 16; See Bb
14	Nov 21	<b>Nov 23-27 – THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS</b> Environmental Policy & Media	Withgott : Ch. 11; See Bb
15	Nov 28, 30 Dec. 2	Sustainability & Green Economy. Review	Withgott : Ch. 24; See Bb
	<b>Monday, December 12 8-10 a.m.</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM (GFS 106)</b>	