

# Soc. 869: Communities and Conservation

## Course Syllabus

Faculty        Stephen P. Gasteyer

Time/Place    Wed 7-9:50; 112B Berkey Hall

Office hours   By appointment, 422A Berkey Hall

For all contact use my MSU account: [gasteyer@msu.edu](mailto:gasteyer@msu.edu)

### Course Objectives and Design

This course aims to introduce students to the theories, concepts, and methodologies for analysis of the conservation activities and the role of communities within that process. We will look at the definition of community, the definition of conservation, and how we understand the dynamics and processes of each of these concepts. We will investigate these issues through looking at the literature around conservation in multiple sectors and contexts, many of which overlap, but are often in silos within disparate institutional and regulatory settings. These sectors include: energy conservation, water conservation, soil conservation, habitat conservation, biodiversity conservation. Our goal in this class is to move beyond questions of best practices and technologies to discussions of the systems and structures that make conservation possible; or do not.

### Expectations

This graduate seminar will be conducted as an exercise in co-learning. As professor, I have found chapters and three readings per week, plus provided additional materials that will not be required, but will be available as resources. Students are requested to come to class having read sufficiently to discuss the implications of the readings in class. More importantly, the course will be conducted as an exchange of information around development of research. Early in the semester students will be asked to develop a topic for a research paper pertaining to communities and conservation. I will be happy to assist in development of topics. Once the topic is chosen, the classes will be a forum for discussing the readings in reference to the various paper topics. (Note: I will also plan to have a research project that I am carrying out on this topic over the course of this semester.) Ideally (but not of necessity), our topics will relate to one of the many examples of community conservation initiatives that surround here in Michigan.

## Grading

Class Attendance and participation –	40%
Final Presentation	30%
Final paper	30%

## Academic integrity

All work in your final paper and presentation is expected to be original (e.g. not plagiarized). Where information is pulled directly from other sources, it should be quoted and cited accordingly. Ideas that are taken from other sources should be cited using a standard citation format (preferably the standard utilized by the American Sociological Association). Plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

## Course Schedule and Assignments

Sept. 8 – Introduction: Overview:

What is Community?

What is Conservation?

Under what conditions do they meet

September 15 – The Community in Modern Society

Communities of Place – Small Town to Interaction

Communities of Interest – Associations to Internet

The Community and the City – Neighborhoods and Networks

Bradshaw, T. K. 2008. "The Post-Place Community: Contributions to the Debate about the Definition of Community." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. 39(1): 6-15.

Goodsell, T. L. and O. Williamson. 2008. "The Case of the Brick Huggers: The Practice of an Online Community." *City and Community* 7(3): 250-272

Sampson, R. 2008. "What Community Supplies." Pp. 162-173 in *The Community Development Reader* J. DeFillipis and S. Saegert (eds.) New York: Routledge.

Sennett, Richard. 2008. "The Myth of the Purified Community." Pp. 174-180 in *The Community Development Reader* J. DeFillipis and S. Saegert (eds.) New York: Routledge.

Wilkinson, Kenneth P. *The Community in Rural America*. Contributions in sociology, no. 95. New York: Greenwood Press, 1991.

#### September 22 – How Communities Work

Local government and natural resources decision making

Civic Institutions and Natural Resources Management

Economic Development and Natural Resources Management

Allen, J., S. Dawson, G. Madsen, and C.Y. Chang. 2008. "A Social Relationship Response to a Proposed Coal-Fired Power Plant: Network Theory and Community Change." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. 39(1): 36-49.

Brennan, M. A. and G. D. Israel. 2008. "The Power of Community." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. 39(1): 82-98.

Bridger, J.C. and T.R. Alter. 2008. "An Interactionist Approach to Place-Based Rural Development." *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*. 39(1): 99-111.

Jaret, C., R. Ghadge, L. W. Reid, R. M. Adelman. 2008. "The Measurement of Suburban Sprawl: An Evaluation." *City and Community* 8 (1): 65 – 84.

#### September 29 – Community Development and Conservation

Agency initiatives to change community behavior

Creating Community and Natural Resources

Watershed Initiatives and NRM

A. H. and M. Traugot. 2008. "Place Matters, But How? Rural Identity, Environmental Decision Making, and the Social Construction of Place." *City and Community* 7(2): 97-112.

Stedman, et al. 2010. "Cleaning Up Water? Or Building Rural Community? Community Watershed Organizations in Pennsylvania" *Rural Sociology* 74(2): 178–200.

Brosius, J. Peter, Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt and Zerner, Charles(1998)'Representing communities: Histories and politics of community-based natural resource management' *Society & Natural Resources* 11(2): 157-168.

Koontz, T. 2006. "Collaboration for Sustainability: A Framework for Analysing Government Impacts in Collaborative Environmental Management." *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy* 2(1): 15-25.

Trentelman, C. K. (2009) 'Place Attachment and Community Attachment: A Primer Grounded in the Lived Experience of a Community Sociologist', *Society & Natural Resources*, 22: 3, 191-210.

October 6 -- How to Analyze Communities  
Indicators and Community Development

Community Capitals and Sustainability

The Problematic of Capital(s) and Assets

Flora and Flora (2008) *Rural Communities, Legacies and Change*. Ch 4: Natural Capital. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Phillips, Rhonda (ed.). (2005) *Community Indicators Measuring Systems*. London, Ashgate Press.

Magis, K. 2007. Indicator 38 – Community Resilience Literature And Practice Review. International Sustainable Forest Resources Roundtable.

<http://www.sustainableforests.net/docs/2007/0906%20Workshop%20Indicator%2038/RSF%20Indicator%2038%20Executive%20Summary%20070907.pdf>

October 13 —Local Knowledge and Conservation

Beyond Experts – Recognizing Local Knowledge

Beyond Hardin – From Commons Tragedy to Local Institutions

Local Knowledge and System Management

Steve Carpenter, Brian Walker, J. Marty Anderies, and Nick Abel. 2001. From Metaphor to Measurement: Resilience of What to What? *Ecosystems* 4: 765–781

Louis Lebel, John M. Anderies, Bruce Campbell, Carl Folke, Steve Hatfield-Dodds, Terry P. Hughes, and James Wilson. 2006. Governance and the Capacity to Manage Resilience in Regional Social-Ecological Systems. *Ecology and Society* 11(1): 19

Folke, C. 2004. Traditional knowledge in social–ecological systems. *Ecology and Society* 9(3): 7

Drew and Henne. 2006. TEK and Conservation Biology. *Ecology and Society*

October 20 – A history of conservation

TR's Progressive Conservation – the preservation of wilderness

The Wilderness Act and Preserving “Treasures”

## Beyond Wilderness

Miller, Char. 1992. The Greening of Gifford Pinchot. *Environmental History Review*, Vol. 16, No. 3 (Autumn, 1992), pp. 1-20

Merchant, B. 1999. The Era of Environmentalism: 1940-2000. Ch 10, pp. 174-192 in *The Columbia Review of American Environmental History*. New York: Columbia Press.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006. History of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System. *Encyclopedia of the Earth*.

[http://www.eoearth.org/article/History\\_of\\_the\\_U.S.\\_Fish\\_and\\_Wildlife\\_Service\\_National\\_Wildlife\\_Refuge\\_System](http://www.eoearth.org/article/History_of_the_U.S._Fish_and_Wildlife_Service_National_Wildlife_Refuge_System), accessed August 15, 2010.

Hays, S. P. 1999. *Conservation and the gospel of efficiency: the progressive conservation movement, 1890-1920*. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.

## October 27 – Agricultural Conservation

A brief history of soil conservation in the US

Making soil conservation law

Accounting for the Benefits of Conservation

Glenna, L. 1999. Systemic Constraints to Ecological Well-Being: The Case of the 1985 Food Security Act. *Rural Sociology* 64(1): 133-157.

Coughenour, C. M. 2003. "Innovation Conservation Agriculture: The Case of No-Till Cropping." *Rural Sociology* 68(2): 278-304.

Lemke, A.M., T.T. Lindenbaum, W.L. Perry, M.E. Herbert, T.H. Tear, and J.R. Herkert. 2010. Effects of outreach on the awareness and adoption of conservation practices by farmers in two agricultural watersheds of the Mackinaw River, Illinois. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 65.5.304-316

Batie, S. S. 1986. *Why soil erosion: a social science perspective*. Ankeny, IA: Soil and Water Conservation Society of America.

## November 3 – Internationalizing Conservation

International wilderness

International agriculture

Landrace and genetic conservation

Samuel A. Cushman and Falk Huettmann. 2010. *Spatial Complexity, Informatics, and Wildlife Conservation*. Springer Press

Berkes, F. 2004. Rethinking Community-Based Conservation. *Conservation Biology* 18(3): 621–630.

Leach, M., and Mearns, R. (eds) 2011. Chapter 10 in *The Lie of the Land: Challenging Received Wisdom in African Environmental Change and Policy*. IAI series Issues in African Development. London: James Currey.

November 10 -- Energy conservation

From Boundless Reserves to Limits to Growth

Boundless bioenergy?

Limiting Use? -- The (Dis)contents of Markets

Mol, A.J.P. 2008. Boundless Biofuels? Between Environmental Sustainability and Vulnerability. *Sociologia Ruralis* 47(4):

Rosa, E., G. Machlis, and K. M. Keating. 1988. "Energy and Society." *Annual Review of Sociology* 14: 149-172.

Jacobson, S. and V. Lauber. 2006. The politics and policy of energy system transformation. *Energy Policy* 34 (2006) 256–276

November 17 – Conservation and water

Limiting Domestic Use

Closing the tap on Irrigation

Growth and Conservation -- Divergent Paths

Allen, J. and B. Hamilton. 2009. The Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool. *Natural Resources Journal*.

Corral-Verdugo, V. and M. Frias-Armenta. 2006. Personal Normative Beliefs, Antisocial Behavior, and Residential Water Conservation. *Environment and Behavior* 38(3): 406-421.

Steinman, A. 2010. Groundwater Sustainability and the Public Participation Process in Michigan. *Water Resources Research*.

Miller, C. 2009. *Water in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century West*. Corvallis: Oregon State Press.

November 24 (considering Monday?)– Resilience, Adaptation and Community

Adaptive Management and the need for community management

Nested Systems and Governance

Measuring Resilience

Allen, C. R. and C. Holling 2010. Novelty, adaptive capacity, and resilience. *Ecology and Society* 15(3): 24. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss3/art24/>

Steve Carpenter, Brian Walker, J. Marty Anderies, and Nick Abel. 2001. From Metaphor to Measurement: Resilience of What to What? *Ecosystems* 4: 765–781

Louis Lebel, John M. Anderies, Bruce Campbell, Carl Folke, Steve Hatfield-Dodds, Terry P. Hughes<sup>6</sup>, and James Wilson. 2006. Governance and the Capacity to Manage Resilience in Regional Social-Ecological Systems. *Ecology and Society* 11(1): 19

Ostrom, E. 2009. A General Framework for Analyzing Sustainability of Social-Ecological Systems. *Science* Vol. 325 no. 5939 pp. 419-422.

December 1 – Putting Conservation and Community Together

Toward Sustainable Communities?

In the US

In Europe

In Africa, Asia, Latin America

Speth, G. 2010. Towards a New Economy and a New Politics. *Solutions* 1(5): 33-41.

Deitz, T. 2010. Coping with Climate Change by Learning from the Commons. *Solutions* 1(2): 31-32.

Berkes, F. 2010. Rethinking Community-Based Conservation. *Conservation Biology* 18(3): 621-630.

Drummond, I. and T. Marsden. 1999. *The Condition of Sustainability*. London: Ashgate Press.

Roseland, M. 1996. *Toward Sustainable Communities*. San Francisco: NSP Press.

December 8 – Toward sustainable communities II

A discussion of shared paper drafts...