

Political Science 201: Special Topics in Political Science
Ecological Restoration as Civic Engagement
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Spring 2020
MW 2:30-3:45; Education L 177

Instructors:

Maria Moreno (Earth Partnerships)

John Zumbrunnen (Political Science)

110 North Hall

zumbrunnen@wisc.edu

Office Hours by Appointment

Course Description: This course considers what citizenship means in the context of contemporary environmental challenges. It does so by exploring ecological restoration practices as a contemporary mode of civic engagement. An accompanying spring break study away experience will involve working alongside local residents in sand dune and mangrove restoration projects on the northern coast of Puerto Rico. To prepare for this experience, the first half of the course will consider theoretical arguments about citizenship; engage with practices of ecological restoration in the context of theories of broader understandings of environmentalism and ecology; review the complexities of the category of citizenship as it applies in Puerto Rico. Following spring break, the course will connect students with local ecological restoration efforts.

Course Learning Outcomes: Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Discuss and critically analyze different understandings of democratic citizenship and the implications for the nature of civic engagement.
2. Compare and contrast environmentalism and ecologism as political ideologies and their implications for citizenship and civic engagement.
3. Discuss the complexities of citizenship in the context of Puerto Rican history and politics.
4. Explain in their own words the goals, principles and practices of ecological restoration
5. Critically analyze ecological restoration as a form of civic engagement in light of contemporary environmental and political challenges, locally and globally.

How the Credit Hours are Met: This 3 credit course meets for two 75 minute sessions each week. In addition, students are expected to spend at least another 6 hours per week outside the classroom on related course activities (reading, writing, studying, etc).

Course Materials: Students should purchase the following books. Other course materials will be provided at no cost on the course Canvas site.

- Jorge Duany, *Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press, 2017
- Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Milkweed Editions, 2015
- Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*. Ballantine Books, 1986

Assignments: The most important requirement for our course is that everyone come to our class sessions having done the required readings and prepared to be fully engaged in our discussions and activities. The course is designed to help prepare us for our spring break experience in Puerto Rico and to help us draw links between that experience and how we think about and experience citizenship and our relationship to the natural world in our day-to-day lives, wherever we are.

More formally, you will write three essays:

- a 1000 word essay on citizenship
- a 1000 word essay on ecological restoration
- a 1000 word essay on environmental / ecological citizenship

Prompts for these essays will be distributed approximately two weeks before their due date. Each student will create a Digital Project linking our experience in Puerto Rico to issues of ecological citizenship more locally. Finally, part of your grade will be based on class participation.

Course grades will be calculated approximately as follows (though the instructor reserves the right to change course assignments as necessary, and with adequate notice and explanation):

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1000 word essays (3 @ 20 points each) | 60 points |
| Digital Project | 30 points |
| Class Participation | 10 points |
| Total Available Points | 100 points |

Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 93-100 points | A |
| 88-92 points | AB |
| 83-87 points | B |
| 78-82 points | BC |
| 70-77 points | C |
| 60-69 points | D |
| 0-59 points | F |

Academic Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UW-Madison's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. Substantial or repeated cases of misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer to <https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/academic-integrity/>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

McBurney Disability Resource Center syllabus statement: “The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy (Faculty Document 1071) require that students with disabilities be reasonably accommodated in instruction and campus life. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared faculty and student responsibility. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations by the end of the third week of the semester, or as soon as possible after a disability has been incurred or recognized. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to identify and provide reasonable instructional accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA.” <http://mcburney.wisc.edu/facstaffother/faculty/syllabus.php>

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Institutional statement on diversity: “Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.” <https://diversity.wisc.edu/>

| Day | Topic | Reading/Activity |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| W January 22 | Introduction to Course | |
| M January 27 & W January 29 | What is Citizenship? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14th Amendment • Ancient Athenian citizenship law • U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| M February 3 & W February 5 | Citizenship & Colonialism in Puerto Rico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know</i>, pp 1-132 |
| M February 10 & W February 12 | Environmentalism, Ecology, Citizenship | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Land Ethic” in <i>A Sand County Almanac</i>, pp. 237-363 • “The Principled Chapter” • 1000 word citizenship paper due Friday, February 14 |
| M February 17 & W February 19 | Ecological Restoration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Partnerships Ecological Restoration Curriculum |
| M February 24 & W February 26 | Digital Projects Work | |
| M March 2 & W March 4 | Disaster & Resilience in Puerto Rico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading TBA |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M March 9 & W March 11 | Preparing for Departure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “To Hell With Good Intentions” • “Accompaniment as Policy” • “The Voluntourists Dilemma” • 1000 word restoration paper due Wednesday, March 11 |
| F March 13 - SU March 22 | Study Away in Puerto Rico | |
| M March 23 & W March 25 | Revisiting Citizenship: The Puerto Rican Experience on/and the Mainland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know</i>, pp 134-174 |
| M March 30, W April 1 M April 6 & W April 8 | Ecological Restoration in Wisconsin: The UW Arboretum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Sand County Almanac</i>, pp 3-124 • <i>The Isthmus</i> Arboretum Issue • Concerned Neighbors |
| M April 13, W April 15 M April 20 & W April 22 | Ecological Restoration in Wisconsin: Native Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i>, all |
| M April 27 & W April 29 | Conclusion: Ecological Restoration as Civic Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental/Ecological Citizenship Paper Due F May 1 • Digital Project Due M May 4 |

Official Course Information from UW Guide:

POLI SCI 201 — SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

3 credits.

An experimental topics course that introduces students to compelling recent events and to the current research of political scientists. This course can be repeated by students, but not with the same content. Enroll Info: None

Requisites:None

Course Designation:Breadth - Social Science

Level - Elementary

L&S Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Repeatable for Credit:Yes, unlimited number of completions