Syllabus of Environmental Studies 132  
(ES 132: Human Behavior and Global Environment)  
Summer 2016

Instructor: Manny Kundu

Office: HSSB 2028

Office hours:  
Mondays 3:15 - 4:15  
Tuesdays 3:15 - 4:15  
& by appointments

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Course Outline: The objective of the course is to understand humanity’s relationship, attitude and behavior to their environment since the emergence of the human species. Attention would be given to the issue how environment determined the course of humankind’s biological evolution and cultural development. Special attention would be given to how we started to control environment and eventually developed the current anthropogenic environmental crises of our planet. Attempts would be made to find some of the roots of the crises in human behavior. It would also analyze how technological innovations – such as development of agriculture, and the process of industrialization in combination with rapid population growth altered our environment. The course also studies the impact of current globalization and consumerism. Finally and evaluates the prospect of changing our behavior for promoting sustainable development. Some of the topics that would be covered are:

1) The role of environment in human evolution  
2) Our technological development and the impact on the environment  
3) The history of contemporary environmental consciousness  
4) Human impact on tropical forests, desert vegetation, and island vegetation  
5) Case studies on environmental destruction in different countries  
6) Global destruction of fauna
7) Non-Western and Western views regarding nature
8) A few case studies on environmental movements
9) Rio Summit, Johannesburg conference, Kyoto Protocol, WTO, Copenhagen Climate Conference, Rio+20, COP 21
10) Green Revolution, Bio-diversity, GMOs
11) Our dietary habit
12) Global population growth and its impact
13) Consumerism and destruction of environment
14) Alternative behavior to promote sustainable development
15) Mahatma Gandhi’s view of self-restrain

**Reading Assignment:** No textbook is required for the course. Instead, weekly reading assignments would be posted online (Gauchospace and/or UCSB Library’s online reserve). First week’s assignments have already been posted in Gauchospace.

**Exams:** There will be three one-hour tests. Reading and lecture materials of one test are not cumulative to the following test/s. Each test will carry approximately 1/3rd of the final grade. The tests will contain only multiple choice and True/False questions.

There is no system of getting extra credit in the course and there will be no make-up exam unless you face an unforeseen medical emergency. If you can’t take the tests according to the regular schedule your course grade will be penalized.

**Schedule of Exams**
- 1st Exam: Thursday, August 11, 2016
- 2nd Exam: Thursday, August 25, 2016
- 3rd Exam: Thursday, September 8, 2016

**Films:** A few documentary films relevant to the course will be shown in this course. Each exam will include a few questions on the films.