Instructor: Jim Riach riachjim85@gmail.com
Office hours: Mon/Fri: 1:30-3:30; Tues/Thurs: 10-12
Location: ECS 335

Course Description:
The course provides an introduction to the study of human-environment relations by integrating information from the natural and social sciences. The approach involves analyzing relationships between human and ecological systems from local to global geographical perspectives. The course examines the roles of culture, worldview, and other evolutionary forces on shaping relationships. Students will learn about the current status and trends of social and ecological dimensions of human populations and of the world's major ecosystems. They will also learn about the implications of these patterns on the future of biodiversity and human well-being. The course also provides a review of different ideas on how to respond to environmental and humanitarian concerns in light of global processes of social and ecological transformation.

Course Objectives:
After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:
- Recognize the global environment as the integration of human and ecological systems;
- Identify key components and processes of ecological systems;
- Identify key components and properties of human systems, particularly cultural and social dimensions;
- Summarize past and current dominant social theories regarding human-environment relations;
- Identify major global environmental issues of concern today;
- Explain how world views, human actions, and social forces contribute to major global environmental problems; and
- Describe different human-environment relations of different cultures from around the world;
- Identify causes of and possible solutions to environmental problems of global dimension.

CE6:
This as a web-assisted course. All students will be assigned a CE6 account for online access to the course, which will contain all review quizzes, all reading materials, lecture supplements, professor e-mail access, assignment submission tools, and suggested links.

Optional Materials for the Course:
Portions of text from the following books are going to be required throughout the semester. The required readings will be available through CE 6, but students have the option of purchasing or downloading (where available) the entire text.


Grading:
Exam I  25
Exam II  25
Essay Quizzes  20
Health Assignment  10
In-Class Activities  20
Total  100
Extra Credit  5  As much as 5 points total possible - no more (but could be less)

Grades are based on the following percentages
A = 94-100  A- = 90-93  B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86  B- = 80-82  C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76  C- = 70-72  D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66  D- = 60-62  F = 0-59

Exams:
There will be 2 non-cumulative exams during the semester. Exams will cover material from the readings and lecture. Lectures will not duplicate the material found in the readings, so class attendance is essential for a good grade in the exams. Several movies may be shown in class. Questions about the movies may appear on the exams. If you miss class on a day a movie is shown, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and/or try to see it. No electronic handheld devices of any kind are allowed during the exam. If a student is caught using a handheld device during the exam the exam will be taken from the student and the student will receive a zero on that exam. If the violation is found to be severe enough, the student may receive an F for the semester and will be referred to the Office of the Provost for Academic Affairs for further action that may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Essay Quizzes
There will be 5 essay quizzes that will be taken in class on Friday's between weeks 3 and week 9 of the semester. The essay quizzes will deal with the Koeppel reading only. The total of these quizzes are worth 20% of your final grade for the semester. Students will be informed one week before the quizzes on the information they need to know for the quiz. The essays will be closed book and closed notes and the answers should be 250 words in length. If your writing is deemed not to be legible, a photocopy of your original submission will be made and returned to you so that you can type your answer as written on the original submission. If necessary to do so, your paper will be returned the next day after the quiz is given. If you do not pick up the illegible paper and have the typed answer returned within 5 days of originally taking the quiz, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

Health Assignment
Students will be required to participate in a health assignment that will be due 4/11 at the start of class. As part of this assignment, all students will have to go to the FIU Wellness Center and complete the micro-fit test. The service is free and takes about 30 minutes to complete. Upon completion of the micro-fit test, students will be given a signed slip indicating the date the test was completed. Students will submit that form to the TA for class before the 4/11 deadline. In order to take the micro-fit test, students will have to make appointments during the semester. There can only be 15 appointments per week, so you must not wait to make your appointment. A representative from the Wellness Center will come to class to talk more about what is involved in the test, proper attire for the test and the number to call for your appointment. In addition, on 4/4 a series of questions related to health and environment will be posted online for the students to answer and submit online by start of class on 4/11.

In-Class Activities
Several GRADED activities will take place during class time. These activities will be UNANNOUNCED on either Monday, Wednesday, or both. Most, but not all the activities will be short quizzes. Students will be told in class on the week prior to the quizzes what they need to know for the quizzes. There are NO MAKE-UPS for these activities. Failure to participate in any activity will earn you a zero for that activity. Students are expected to arrive on time to class and to remain in class until the end of the class period. If a student misses the in-class activity as a result of arriving late or leaving early, they will receive a zero for the activity.
Extra Credit:
Default option: FIU Environmental Preserve work days. Points will be added to the final grade for the semester according to the following guidelines. One full day = 2.5 points. Students MUST make an appointment to meet with the professor if they wish to discuss other options for extra credit. No extra credit will be given without prior approval from the professor. **No more than 5 points will be given as extra credit for the semester.**

Policy on Laptop and Handheld Devices
Laptops can be a powerful learning tool if used properly in the classroom. However, they can be a major source of distraction for students and the professor. For this reason, all students who intend to use laptops in class must submit at the start of the semester a written request to use a laptop in class explaining why they will be using the laptop. These students will also be required to sit in the first 3 rows of the classroom only. No other students will be allowed to use a laptop in class.

**No electronic handheld device of any kind is permitted in the classroom.** This includes, but is not limited to telephones, texting devices, online devices, or cameras. If you expect an important message during class, place your device on vibration mode and go outside of class to use the device. **If a student is caught using a handheld device in class, he/she will be asked to leave the class for the day and will have 5 points taken away from their final grade in the semester.**

Attendance and Proper Conduct in Class
I do not take attendance in class. The only exception is for athletes who are required to sign in at the start of class. All student athletes and Golden Dazzler dancers need to inform the instructor ahead of time (or as soon as possible) and in writing of any absences due to official athletic events if they want to be excused for any graded activities assigned that day. Although I do not take attendance, I do have unannounced graded in-class activities throughout the semester. **Students missing these in-class activities will receive a zero for these activities. Students missing 3 of these activities will additionally be deducted 5 points from the final grade for the semester. Students will be deducted 5 additional points from their final grade for every additional activity missed.**

While students are in the classroom, they are expected to act as respectful adults. Disturbing other students with chatter or other disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and students will be asked to leave the classroom or referred to the Office of the Provost for Academic Affairs for further action. Sleeping in class is an indication that something is wrong and students may be referred to the clinic if this occurs.

Academic Misconduct:
All students are held to the following pledge

**As a student of this university:**
- I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
- I will not represent someone else’s work as my own.
- I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another’s cheating.

All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Procedure
All matters relating to academic misconduct are referred to the Office of the Provost for Academic Affairs. Acts of academic misconduct may be alleged by faculty, staff or students. Two actions that may be taken are:
- **Expulsion:** Permanent separation of the student from the University, preventing readmission to the institution. This sanction shall be recorded on the student's transcript.
- **Suspension:** Temporary separation of the student from the University for a specific period of time.
Readings and Course Schedule

I. COURSE FRAMEWORK
Week One:
1/10: Introduction
1/12 -14: The Environment
   Readings:
   Miller: Environmental Problems, their Causes and Sustainability

II. ECOLOGICAL ESYSTEMS
Week Two:
1/17: Martin Luther King Holiday (University Closed)
1/19-1/21: Biodiversity
   Readings:
   Chivian: Biodiversity

III. HUMAN SYSTEMS: CULTURE, SOCIETY AND HUMAN ECOLOGY
Week Three:
1/24-28: Human Societies as Defined by their Food
   Readings:
   Adaptive Strategies (chart)
   Human Societies are Defined by their Food
   Koeppel Part I: Family Trees: Chs. 1-4

Week Four:
1/31-2/4: Culture of Consumption
   Readings:
   Assadourian: Rise and Fall of Consumer Cultures
   Koeppel: Part II: Expansion: Chs. 5-8

Week Five:
2/7-2/11: Human-Environment Relations among Traditional Societies
   Readings:
   Davis: Sacred Geography
   Koeppel: Part IIIa: Corn Flakes and Coup d'Etats: Chs. 9-13

Week Six:
2/14-2/18: Cultural Diffusion and Culture Loss
   Readings:
   Koeppel: Part IIIb: Corn Flakes and Coup d'Etats: Chs. 14-17

Week Seven:
   Readings:
   Davis: Century of the Wind, Part 2 (Pp. 192-223)
   Koeppel Part IV: Never Enough: Chs. 18-23

2/25: Exam I
Week Eight:
2/28-3/4: World View Influences on Human-Environment Relations
    March 4 - Last day to drop a course with a DR grade
    Readings:
    Gardner: Engaging Religions to Shape World Views
    Koeppel Part V: Good-bye, Michel: Chs. 24-30

Week Nine:
3/7-3/11: Cultural Transmission and Human-Environment Relations
    Readings:
    Aubel: Elders: A Cultural Resource for Promoting Sustainable Development
    Koeppel Part VI: A New Banana: Chs. 31-36

Week Ten:
3/14-3/18 - Spring Break

IV. STATUS OF ECOLOGICAL AND HUMAN SYSTEMS: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES
Week Eleven:
3/21-3/25: Ecosystem Change and Well-Being
    Readings:
    WRI: Ecosystem Change and Well-being

Week Twelve:
3/28-4/1: Population and the Human Condition
    Readings:
    Brown: Chs. 6 and 7: Designing Cities for People AND Eradicating Poverty and Stabilizing Population
    Mair and Ganly: Social Entrepreneurs: Innovating Toward Sustainability

Week Thirteen:
4/4: Health Assignment: Due 4/11 @ 11:00 AM
4/4-4/8: Food Today and Tomorrow
    Readings:
    Brown: Chs.1, 9: Selling our Future AND Feeding Eight Billion Well

Week Fourteen:
4/11-4/15: Climate
    Readings:
    Brown: Chs. 3-5: Rising Temperatures and Energy Transition; Stabilizing Climate: An Energy Efficiency Revolution; AND Stabilizing Climate: Shifting to Renewable Energy

Week Fifteen:
4/18-4/20: Working Towards Sustainability
    Readings:
    Brown: Ch 10: Can We Mobilize Fast Enough?
4/22: Exam II

Week Sixteen:
4/25-4/29 - Final's Week - No Classes - Altered Schedule - Exams in Other Classes - Not in this class