GEOGRAPHY 288: GEOGRAPHIES OF COASTAL MARINE MANAGEMENT
2 credits (or negotiable)
Winter 2012
Class: Th 1:00PM-3:00PM; ELLSN 4840

CONTACT INFORMATION
Instructor
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NATURE OF THE COURSE
This seminar will focus on social science perspectives on human-environment dynamics in coastal environments. Ocean dynamics have often been framed as an issue of the biophysical sciences, yet it is now clear that understanding the drivers and impacts of and responses to marine environmental change requires insight into human behaviour, social values and the institutions and politics surrounding marine resource use. We will explore these issues through perspectives from geography, political ecology, ecology, institutional economics, and political science. Participants in this seminar will gain an understanding of the core concepts of marine resource use, and human ecological footprint on the one hand and vulnerability, adaptive capacity and resilience on the other.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
(IF WE ARE SUCCESFUL IN THIS COURSE YOU WILL…)

1. Describe the significance and limitations of seminal marine resource management theories.

2. Select and defend theoretical and methodological approaches in course readings and for a research project of your choice.

3. Evaluate the appropriateness of the theories and methods selected in course readings and in class participants’ research projects.

Some steps you will take to achieve the above objectives:

- Understand key arguments developed in some of the seminal theories of marine resource management.
- Recognize the significance, assumptions, and limitations of these arguments and their applicability over time and across space.
- Select conceptual frameworks that best support your research project of choice.
- Understand how these conceptual models build on the canon of marine resource management theories.
- Argue persuasively for the comparative advantage of these arguments over others for developing your project.
- Identify limitations to these theories and ways in which your and your classmates’ proposed projects may concord with or challenge these theories.
- Select and defend effective methodologies for proposed research.
- Persuasively argue for the symmetry between your chosen theory with your research question(s) and your selected methods.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES?

• Class discussions. Students will take turns leading class discussions. Discussion leaders will direct our examination of the readings based on the course objectives. The discussions’ purpose will thus be twofold: 1) the class explores the significance of the readings to the broader marine management literature and 2) students receive feedback towards the improved development of their own research projects. To achieve these goals, discussion leaders will begin the class by presenting a three-paragraph manuscript. Paragraph one will present a research question and its significance to practice, theory, and methods. Paragraph two will propose a theoretical approach. Paragraph three will propose appropriate methods. This short paper will be disseminated before class with the weekly readings.

Guidelines for class discussions
• Be prepared for class.
• Share and explain your opinions.
• Don’t dominate; be fair about the amount of time you take to speak.
• Back up your arguments with evidence.
• Disagree politely.
• Listen carefully to other opinions.
• Change your mind when another argument is more cogent than yours.
• Do not hesitate to ask for clarification.
• Make your points succinctly, avoiding repetition, and providing a choice example of your main point.

READINGS
Readings will be regularly updated here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s988BDQ-Y-GCAEs_WfsMMjrCX51smALkfZ-9yLt5El4/edit