SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Summer 2014
Discipline: Politics and International Relations
PLIR 3559: Conservation and Sustainability of Marine Resources
Upper Division
Faculty Name: Rob Wilder

Pre-requisites: None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines national/international governance of energy resources like offshore oil & gas, conservation of living marine resources such as via fisheries management, and protecting biodiversity. We address international Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and more recent thinking about conserving ecosystem structure and function. Readings specifically explore Scandinavian and European perspectives and concerns in managing ocean and coastal resources of their particular regions. More globally, issues of climate change and ocean acidification are also addressed – as are ‘solutions’ that might potentially be found such as marine protected areas, sustainable land-based renewable energy, and pollution prevention.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To develop a foundation for understanding issues faced in marine resources governance
To examine practical issues in exploitation of valuable resources like offshore oil, fisheries
To be exposed to options that may prevent harm to marine ecosystems such as sustainable energy
To gain knowledge of cross-cutting actions for marine biodiversity in Europe & Scandinavia
To become conversant in ideas of integrated fisheries management, MPAs, pollution prevention

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

AUTHOR: Robert Wilder
TITLE: Listening to the Sea: The Politics of Improving Environmental Protection
PUBLISHER: University of Pittsburgh Press

In addition there is a Course Reader of materials in a folder on the shipboard servers.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Course schedule:
Please note this schedule below is subject to change; at times we might want to expand further on a topic, or delve into new questions altogether. On occasion we may use some extra time to review particular concepts, but I will let you know when there are changes to the schedule. The Wilder course book readings and all folder readings are listed here in regular font:
June 16: Depart Southampton

June 17: Orientation

C1-June 18:
Introduction and expectations for Course – also the relevance today of historical governance of the seas, and background.
Wilder, pp. xiii-22

C2- June 19:
Carving Up the Sea: A Three Mile Limit and Beyond.
Wilder, pp. 22-46.

C3- June 20:
A Case-Study: Portugal’s Aim of a High Seas Protected Area for Marine Conservation.

June 21-24: In Lisbon

C4- June 25:
The Tidelands Debate. Creating Early Ocean Regimes: the SLA and OCSLA.
Wilder, pp. 46-68.

C5- June 26:
Spain and its EEZ. Valuing and Managing the Marine Resources Within Spanish Seas.

June 27-30: In Bilbao

C6- July 1:
Bounded Rationality for Oil and for Fisheries, and new energy/international regimes.
Wilder, pp. 97-127.
Also Reader #4. WilderHill New Energy Global Innovation Index (NEX) Rulebook.

C7- July 2:
Is this Holistic Marine Ecology or Just Muddling-Through? Conservation of Marine Biodiversity, Ecosystems Structure & Function. Also, the case of North Sea Oil.
Wilder, pp. 69-97.
Also Reader #5. Wilder, Tegner & Dayton. Saving Marine Biodiversity. 57-64 (1999).
Also, Reader #5.5: BBC Scotland News. Who Has a Right to Claim North Sea Oil? (April 2013).
C8- July 3:
Policy Implications of Devolving Resources Planning for Scotland & Northern Ireland.
Also Reader #6.5. Who would get the oil revenues if Scotland Became Independent? (2012).

C9- July 4:
Also Reader #9.5. Just skim this, Scotland’s Economy: the Case for Independence. (2013).

July 5-8: In Greenock/Glasgow

C10-July 9:
Some Ways that Climate Change might in Future Impact the Fishes of the British Isles.

July 10-13: In Dublin

C11- July 14:
Midterm Exam. In class exam.

C12- July 15:
Defining Program Objectives in Marine Resources Governance.
Wilder, pp. 127-149.

C13- July 16:
Is the so-called ‘Sustainable’ Extraction of Offshore Non-Living Resources, even possible?
Also Reader #12. Ihlen, Oyvind. The Oxymoron of ‘Sustainable Oil Production’: The Case of the Norwegian Oil Industry. 53-63 (2009).

Classic Movie, ‘Heroes of Telemark’ available for suggested entertainment watching.

July 17-20; In Bergen and Oslo

C14- July 21:
Applications of the Precautionary Principle to Marine Resources.
Wilder, pp. 149-182.

July 22 – no class.
C15- July 23:
**Building Fisheries Management in Modern Russia after the Soviet Union.**

July 24-28: In St. Petersburg

C16- July 29:
**The Challenge of Integrating Marine Science & Policy.**
Wilder, 183-212.

C17- July 30:
**Application of the Precautionary Principle, in Sweden.**
Reader #15. Zander Book, *read Chapter 5 only* on Sweden at pp. 152-175

July 31- August 3: In Stockholm

C18- August 4
**Issues Ahead: Might Ocean Acidification be a ‘Game Changer’? And, can MPAs be one means to help conserve marine biodiversity – despite increases in atmospheric CO2?**

C19- August 5
**Two Issues Confronting Marine Resources Sustainability and Conservation in Finland: Growing Aquaculture Industry, and Fast-Rise of Maritime Traffic Externalities.**

August 6-9: In Helsinki

C20- August 10
**Environmental Concerns Over Present and Coming Installations Offshore Poland.**
C21- August 11
Reader #24. Opiola & Omelan. Poland’s Energy Balance and its Future: The Case Study of
Gas as an Energy Source. 5-12. 2012.

August 12-15: In Gdansk

C22- August 16
Wrapping it All Up: Integrating Science/Policy in Making Decisions about Marine Resources
Conservation Focus on Europe: Major Conservation Policy Issues that Need to be
Reader #26. Narayanaswamy, Bhavani. Synthesis of Knowledge on Marine Biodiversity in
European Seas: From Census to Sustainable Management. (March 2013)

C23- August 17
Course Review.

C24- August 19: Final Exam. In class exam.

FIELD WORK. A Windy Revolution: Sustainable Energy in Scotland.
For our Field Lab during the Greenock Port Stop on July 8th, we will meet first at University of
Strathclyde in Glasgow (which has been named a ‘U.K University of the Year’) for discussions
with Faculty who are expert in environmental engineering, wind power, and climate. It is
anticipated this will include the University’s Director of Postgraduate Studies in the Department
of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Both the University and the City of Glasgow are in a
notable setting.
We next visit Whitelee Wind Farm near Glasgow, largest in the U.K. to tour the site and speak
with representatives. One aim of this meeting is to discuss offshore & onshore wind issues such
as their Habitat Management Plan, and how local views were addressed in its construction over
years. We will spend time at the educational Visitor Center onsite – and discuss the nexus
between low-carbon energy upstream and addressing oceans/marine ecosystems health.
Academic Objectives:
1. Learn about issues stemming from sustainable energy, given its growth globally.
2. Understand nexus of CO2 & climate risk for conservation & sustainability of Marine
   Ecosystems.
3. Discuss engineering & wind at the University of Strathclyde; then see firsthand largest
   Wind Farm in the U.K.

Associated Assignments, Paper: As one of their two papers students will write up an analysis
(6-8 pages double spaced) with regard to a conservation of marine resources or sustainability
topic raised in this class. It should be specific to this country (visited on the Field Lab), or draw
upon fieldwork they have done in another country of the voyage.
METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC
The Course Grade will be made up of the Following:

**Attendance and Active Participation: 25%**
Each class will typically be a combination of lecturing and engaged discussion in the classroom of the required reading. Hence it is expected that you will have read assigned materials before class & engage: your participation – and attendance – are components of your final grade. Participation is your active thought and engagement; questions are encouraged, as are differences of viewpoints.

**Midterm Exam: 25%**
This is an in-class Exam.

**Final Exam: 25%**
This is an in-class Exam.

**2 Course Papers; 1 should incorporate the Field Lab or Field Work: 25% total**
There are 2 course papers, each 6-8 pages, double-spaced. One should specifically relate to the Field Lab or fieldwork done by the student on issue(s) raised during this course. The other paper can address marine resources or sustainability regardless of Field Lab. Students should get their proposed topics approved first by Dr. Wilder; this can be done at the end of any class session.

**RESERVE LIBRARY LIST**
Besides the Course book, all other required readings are in the electronic course Reader below.

**ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**
*All these Readings Below are On Reserve, stored in Ship’s Server:*


16) Jutfelt, Souza, Vuylsteke, Sturve. Behavioural Disturbances in a Temperate Fish exposed to Sustained High CO2 Levels. 8 PLOS One Issue 6 | e65825 (June 2013).


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
A newer 2014 version of the story may soon be filmed as well.
**HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”

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