

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 316: War and the Environment

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 10 - People/Environment

Study of the relationship between human armed conflict and the physical environment, including climate change and resource demand as drivers for conflict, the international security issues arising from environmental disasters, contested borders, contamination resulting from wars and prospects for environmental humanitarianism and peacemaking. MnTC Goal 10.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 03/04/2013 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Impact of armed conflict and war preparation on the environment
2. Disasters, vulnerability and resilience
3. Environmental and humanitarian peacemaking
4. Policy and institutional responses
5. Environmental degradation and depletion in the conduct and aftermath of war
6. Climate change and security
7. Conflicts arising out of a context of contested resource wealth
8. Peak oil and its impact on world security
9. The geopolitical context of resource competition

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Describe the potential opportunities for humanitarianism and peacemaking through environmental means.
2. Explain the international security implications of natural and man-made disasters such as earthquakes, shipwrecks, volcanoes and nuclear accidents.
3. Identify historical and potential conflicts arising from contested resources and their effect on the human population.
4. Recognize the long-term effects of conflict on the environment in the form of contamination, degradation and depletion.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
2. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
3. Propose and assess alternative solutions to environmental problems.
4. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted