



NRRT 362 – ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT MANAGEMENT FA 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Walker

Email: sewalker@colostate.edu

Office: Forestry, 200

Office Hours: By appointment, use link to book - <https://calendly.com/sewalker/office-hours>

Teaching Assistant: Paula Cepeda Mahecha

Email: Paula.Cepeda_Mahecha@colostate.edu

Office Hours: By appointment, email to book, Forestry 237C

COURSE MEETING TIMES

Mondays 2:00 – 3:50pm

Wednesdays 2:00 -2:50pm

Location: Military Sciences 200

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Environmental conflict occurs at all levels of society and in diverse contexts - from local or disagreements about hydraulic fracturing, to national debates about protected areas, to global disputes about climate change or biodiversity loss. This course focuses on the drivers of environmental conflicts, and collaborative processes for managing them. Students will spend the first half of the course understanding how, why and in which contexts environmental conflict occurs and the second half of the course learning practical skills for facilitating, managing, and resolving real-world environmental conflicts.

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain and apply foundational theory and concepts relating to the source, structure, and management of environmental conflicts.



- Be familiar with current events and research regarding contemporary environmental debates and conflicts.
- Apply basic conflict management skills to simulated environmental conflicts.
- Understand and apply skills necessary for facilitating a group meeting and mediating an environmental conflict.
- Critically evaluate competing claims and theories regarding the complex causes of environmental conflicts.

COURSE MATERIALS & RESOURCES

All resources including readings and supplemental material will be provided on canvas.

COURSE POLICIES

Communication Policy:

We believe strongly in open and honest communication, if you are struggling with the material or expectations in this course, please let us know. Getting to know students is easily the most enjoyable part of teaching; feel free to reach out and set up an appointment to meet with either of us.

In addition to open and honest communication, we also believe strongly in the necessity of respectful communication. Let us all treat each other like the smart, curious, and kind human-beings we all have the potential to be.

Requests for Assignment Extensions:

Extensions on due dates for assignments will not be granted except in cases where extenuating circumstances arise. If this is the case, please let us know at the earliest possible opportunity to request an extension. We will not grant extensions after a due date has passed. In the absence of being granted an extension, the policy below applies for late submissions.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Late assignments (those not turned in or uploaded by the date/time published on Canvas) will be subject to loss of 5% per calendar day (including weekends).

Class Attendance:

This class is in-person. Students are expected to attend all classes, and some graded course assessments will only be offered in class. However, we do not want students attending class if they are unwell, and will make course content available in extenuating circumstances, but only after a student has communicated with us. In some cases, documentation will need to be provided.



Academic Integrity:

This course will adhere to the [CSU Academic Integrity Policy as found in the General Catalog](#) and the [Student Conduct Code](#). At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services. We take academic integrity seriously. Academic integrity means that no one will use another's work as their own. The [CSU writing center](#) defines plagiarism this way:

“Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding "credit be given where credit is due."

If you plagiarize in your work, you could lose credit for the plagiarized work, fail the assignment, or fail the course. Plagiarism could result in expulsion from the university. Each instance of plagiarism, classroom cheating, and other types of academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the principles published in the CSU General Catalog.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes regular class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community.

COVID-19 Contingency Plan:

If we are required to move class online temporarily (due to a COVID-19 exposure or need to quarantine), we will communicate with you the night before class and send you the link you will need to attend class virtually.

Universal Design for Learning/Accommodation of Needs:

We are committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning. If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. A verifying memo from [The Student Disability Center](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be distributed as follows:

Grade	Range
A+	100% to 96.67%



A	<96.67% to 93.33%
A-	<93.33% to 90.0%
B+	<90.0% to 86.67%
B	<86.67% to 83.33%
B-	<83.33% to 80.0%
C+	<80.0% to 76.67%
C	<76.67% to 70.0%
D	<70.0% to 60.0%
F	<60.0% to 0.0%

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in Canvas. With that said, we take our role as your instructor and TA very seriously, and we care about your learning in this course. To that end, we will respond individually to the work you submit and return your work in a timely manner. Smaller, weekly assignments and quizzes will be returned within 7 (week) days and major assignments, exams, and essays will be returned within 10 (week) days. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times we have listed here, we will keep you informed of our progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as we can.

ASSIGNMENTS

See Canvas for assignment descriptions, grading rubrics and specific due dates.

ASSIGNMENT	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Weekly Formative Assessments (in class)	20	5%
Learning Activities (Occur in scheduled class throughout the modules). <i>There will be 6 graded activities, your best 5 out of will count towards your grade.</i>	8 points x 5 = 40	10%
Midterm Exam	80	20%
Conflict Assessment	80	20%
Group Class Facilitation	100	25%
News Segment Opinion Piece	80	20%
Total:	400	100 %



COURSE SCHEDULE

Topic	Date	Assignments
Module 1: Introduction to Environmental Conflict		
Introduction to Course	Monday Aug 21	
What is Env Conflict?	Wednesday Aug 23	
Drivers of environmental conflict	Monday Aug 28	In Class Learning Activity # 1
Conflict and Environmental Justice	Wednesday Aug 30	
No Class	Monday Sep 4 – Labor Day	
Conflict Assessment Part 1	Wednesday Sep 6	
Conflict Assessment Part 2	Monday Sep 11	Learning Activity # 2
Module 2: Key issues and Contexts		
Climate Change & Conflict	Wednesday Sep 13 (Virtual)	
Case study: Syrian Civil War & Climate Migration	Mon Sep 18 (First half)	
Protected areas and Land Use Conflicts	Monday Sep 18 (Second half)	
Case study: Arming tribal violence in the name of conservation in East Africa	Wednesday Sep 20	In Class Learning Activity # 3
Energy & Livelihoods	Monday Sep 25	



Case study: Wind turbines in rural Canada	Wednesday Sep 27	Environmental Conflict Assessment Due Feb 27
Water: Drought, Flooding and Quality	Monday Oct 2	
Case study: Water in New York City's Drinking Watershed	Wednesday Oct 4	In Class Learning Activity # 4
Midterm review & Proposal Feedback	Monday Oct 9	
In class midterm exam	Wednesday Oct 11	In-class midterm Oct 11

Module 3 – Skills for Managing Environmental Conflict

Collaborative approaches to environmental conflict	Monday Oct 16	
Introduction to difficult conversations	Wednesday Oct 18	In Class Learning Activity #5
Introduction to facilitation skills	Monday Oct 23	
Decision-making strategy #1Negotiation	Wednesday Oct 25	
Decision-making strategy #2: Scenario Thinking	Monday Oct 30	
Decision-making strategy #3: World Cafe	Wednesday Nov 1	
	Monday Nov 6	



Decision-making strategy #4: Structured decision-making		
Group Project Time	Wednesday Nov 8	
Group Presentations	Monday Nov 13	Group Facilitation Presentations #1, #2, and #3
Group Presentations	Wednesday Nov 15	Group Facilitation Presentations #4, #5,
Nov 20 – Nov 24: Thanksgiving Break: No Class		
Negotiation Prep- Menehune Bay	Monday Nov 27	
Negotiation & Debrief- Beaumont Incinerator	Wednesday Nov 29	In Class Learning Activity #6
Special Topics Day	Dec 4	
Course synthesis and wrap up	Wednesday Dec 6	Opinion Piece due Dec 8th

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT COURSE SCHEDULE

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- [Login for Canvas](#)
- [Canvas Support](#)
- For passwords or any other computer-related technical support, contact the [Central IT Technical Support Help Desk](#).
 - (970) 491-7276



- help@colostate.edu

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The [Mission, Vision, and Focus](#) webpage of the Vice President for Diversity includes a comprehensive statement of CSU's commitment to diversity and inclusion. This is something that we take very seriously in our course, and we commit to learning and working with you to create a learning community that prioritizes the academic growth of all students.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUPPORT

Any CSU student who faces challenges or hardships due to their legal status in the United States and believes that it may impact their academic performance in this course is encouraged to visit [Student Support Services for Undocumented, DACA & ASSET](#) for resources and support. Additionally, **only if you feel comfortable**, feel free to reach out to us so that we can pass along any additional resources may possess.

TITLE IX/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

For the full statement regarding role and responsibilities about reporting harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and the retaliation policy please go to: [Title IX – Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment](#).

If you feel that your rights have been compromised at CSU, several resources are available to assist:

- Student Resolution Center, 200 Lory Student Center, 491-7165
- Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Student Services, 491-5836

A note about interpersonal violence: If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence and/or stalking, know that you are not alone. As instructors, we are required by law to notify university officials about disclosures related to interpersonal violence. Confidential victim advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide support related to the emotional, physical, physiological, and legal aftermath of interpersonal violence. Contact the Victim Assistance Team at: 970-492-4242.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

CSU does not discriminate on the basis of religion. Reasonable accommodation should be made to allow individuals to observe their established religious holidays. Students seeking an exemption from attending class or completing assigned course work for a religious holiday will need to fill out the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#) and turn it in to the Division of Student Affairs, located on the second level of the Administration building. Once turned in, the



Division of Student Affairs will review the request and contact the student accordingly. If approved, the student will receive a memo from the Dean of Students to give to their professor or course instructor. Students are asked to turn in the request forms as soon as the conflict is noticed. Similarly, unanticipated conflicts requiring a religious observance, such as a death in the family, can also be reviewed.

CSU PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents, and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually, and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.