Knowledge, Governance and Land Use Dynamics in the Tropics

LAS 6290
3 credit hours
Fall 2017

TCD Conceptual Core Course

This course will be closely aligned with the Fall TCD Workshop on "Tools and Strategies for Conservation and Development in the Amazon: Lessons Learned and Future Pathways." It will address similar themes, interact with conference participants, and contribute to the conference report.

Grinter Hall, Room 376
Tuesday afternoons: periods 7-8 (1:55-3:50 pm)

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Office hours by appointment

This course will address decision-making processes, from drivers to individual agency, that influence land use management practices in the complex, multi-scalar social-ecological systems of the Tropics. The course will explore competing visions for the future of the Amazon, look at interactions from local to global scales, cross social and biophysical disciplines, and explore how academic and practical perspectives can be complementary. Students will explore cases and experiences that apply different types of tools and strategies for conservation and development in order to distil lessons learned and recommend future directions.

This is a seminar-style course, and the course content is not entirely predetermined; students and faculty will explore together the topics of the October, 2017 TCD Workshop on "Tools and Strategies for Conservation and Development in the Amazon: Lessons Learned and Future Pathways." Students will work in teams, and engage in different ways with participants in the TCD conference.

Note: While the TCD conference has a geographic focus on the Amazon, students are welcome to analyze relevant experiences from anywhere in the Tropics.

The course will consist of two parallel, interacting approaches to learning:
1) Weekly 2-hour discussion sessions, Tuesday afternoons 1:55-3:50 in Grinter 376;
2) Group projects linked to conference themes[1].

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[1] *Grinter 376 is reserved for periods 7-9, 1:55-4:55 pm, on Friday afternoons for team meetings and group work, if needed.*

Using the TCD Workshop as the fulcrum of the learning process, the course has been divided into 4 stages:

Part I. Exploring the linkages between knowledge, governance and land use outcomes (Weeks 1-3).
  ➢ A few shared readings and facilitated discussion to frame the course.

Part II. Initial review of conference themes in 3 groups: decision support and monitoring; learning and adaptation; negotiation strategies (Weeks 4-6).
  ➢ Students will work in teams to review the virtual planning meetings and preparatory materials being developed by conference participants working on each theme;
  ➢ interact with conference participants (possibly conducting interviews or surveys);
  ➢ produce a preliminary review of literature, cases and experiences related to their theme; and
  ➢ lead one class discussion on their topic.

Part III. Learning Day, Conference and debrief (Weeks 7-8).
  ➢ Each group will facilitate a 2-hour session at the TCD Learning Day on one of the 3 main conference themes;
  ➢ Each group will monitor and annotate conference discussions of their theme [Note: because the TCD conference is an invitation-only event with space limitations, the number of participating students may be limited; *if necessary,* more senior graduate students will be given preference.];

Part IV. Post-conference analysis of conference themes (Weeks 9-16).
  ➢ Discussion sessions to review and share learning about conference themes. Includes sessions that will engage TCD faculty, and sessions to be led by each thematic team.
  ➢ Produce an online resource (Wikiversity or a mutually agreeable alternative) containing reflections, references, resources;
  ➢ Obtain review and feedback from selected Conference participants;
  ➢ Collaborate with development of conference proceedings on that topic.

		Part I. Introduction to Knowledge, Governance and Land Use Dynamics in the Tropics **How can knowledge ➔ governance ➔ more resilient landscapes?**	
1	August 22	How governance influences land use dynamics	Defining the arena: governance model and theory of change
2	August 29	Knowledge as a key input for governance. "Knowledge of" and "knowledge for"	To invite: Stephen Perz, Catherine Tucker
3	September 5	Competing Visions: What Amazon future do we want, and who decides? Biodiversity vs. Resilience vs. Indigenous vs. Developmentalist.	Buschbacher article on attributes and resilience. Paulson article on Buen Vivir.
		Part II. Introduction to Conference Themes	
4	September 12	Decision Support and Monitoring Tools	Group presents overview of the theme; discussion
5	September 19	Learning and Adaptation	Group presents overview of the theme; discussion
6	September 26	Negotiation Strategies: multi-stakeholder processes, planning, legal contestation and political resistance	Group presents overview of the theme; discussion
		Part III. TCD Conference on Tools and Strategies	
7	October 3	Learning Day	
	October 4-5	TCD Conference	
8	October 10	Conference Debrief	Share impressions and A-ha's
		Part IV. Further Analysis of Conference Themes	
9	October 17	Discussion: alternative approaches to science (traditional knowledge, community participation)	To invite: Simone, Angelica and Jynessa
10	October 24	Discussion: data and monitoring tools	To invite: Emilio and Eben
11	October 31	Decision Support and Monitoring Tools	Group presents preliminary findings; peer review
12	November 7	Learning and Adaptation	Group presents preliminary findings; peer review
13	November 14	Negotiation Strategies: multi-stakeholder processes, planning, legal contestation and political resistance	Group presents preliminary findings; peer review
14	November 21	Group work -- no class meeting	
15	November 28; December 1	Decision Support & Monitoring Tools; Learning and Adaptation	Final presentation; faculty response Final presentation; faculty response
16	December 5	Negotiation Strategies: multi-stakeholder processes, planning, legal contestation and political resistance	Final presentation; faculty response
	December 12		FINAL PRODUCTS DUE

Grading: Will be based on attendance, participation and completion of assignments. There will be no exams.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.

**NETIQUETTE: COMMUNICATION COURTESY: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior] http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents current course plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly and made in consultation with course participants, are not unusual and should be expected.