

DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

Seminar: Green Criminology

FALL 2013

CCJ 4934-002

SYLLABUS

**Meeting Time**: T/R 3:30- 4:45

**Room**: SOC 149

**Instructor**: Michael J. Lynch

**Office Location**: SOC 315

**Office Hours**: Before and After Class, and other times by appointment

**Phone**: 974-8148

**E-mail**: mjlynch@usf.edu

*In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.*

**Course Description and objectives:**

The first work on green criminology was published in 1990 (Lynch, 1990) – or 23 years ago. Follow up work on that topic was presented in Frank and Lynch’s (1992) book, *Corporate Crime, Corporate Violence*. But it was no until 1998 with the publication of a special issue on Green Criminology by Piers Beirne and Nigel South that interest in Green Criminology began to spread more widely. Thus, in broader terms, green criminology has only been more widely recognized for the past 15 years. The popularity of green criminology has grown in recent years, and we now see some coverage of this topic in textbooks, and the emergence of special courses on green criminology, especially in England and Europe.

Given growing interest in green criminology, in 2009, green criminologists from around the world formed the International Green Criminology Working Group (IGCWG), to bring together green criminologists from around the world, and make it easier for them to share research and ideas with one another. In 2012, I organized the construction of the IGCWG website ([www.greencriminology.org](http://www.greencriminology.org) ) which provides research links, member information, a Monthly Publication, and meeting and other information for green criminologists and others to employ. There are currently 45 active members with “published” member pages, but hundreds of subscribers to the website.

Green criminology is a relatively recent area of specialization within criminology. This course will examine some of the issues green criminologists examine, the importance of those issues, why they are worthwhile studying from a criminological perspective, and how they are studied. Some of the material we will read will not be written by criminologists – that is because some of the issues relevant to green criminology have a basis in other disciplines, and those works are worth reading to support the kind of work green criminologists do.

The core idea behind green criminology is that human harm the environment – by which green criminologists mean the whole ecosystem (Gaia, or the living planet earth), components of the ecosystem (e.g., air, land, water, forests), and species that inhabit ecosystems is serious ways. Some of those harms are defined as crimes under law, while a significant volume of that harm has yet to be defined as illegal. There is debate over which behaviors ought to be illegal, examinations of specific green harms, and studies of the failure of legal systems to enforce environmental regulations.

One of the purposes of this class is to expose you to a wide range of crime that criminologists ordinarily fail to examine. Thus, the works you will read and discuss are not written by criminologists. Topic include crime against animals, forests, and water, the ways in which these crimes can be addressed, and the efforts of socially responsible actors to remedy these problems.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to: define green criminology; identify major works in green criminology and related field relevant to the study of green crimes; discuss the need for green criminology; identify how green criminology differs from orthodox criminology.

**Required Texts**:

The required texts for each student will differ. The books you are required to obtain depends on which books you choose to read for this course. During the semester you need 1 book for a presentation, and 3 additional books on which you will write book reports.

Additional Required Course Materials:

Additional required course materials are provided on the class website or directly in the syllabus. You will be given further instruction on accessing these materials in the introduction to this course.

**Class Expectations:**

1. Attendance. Students are required to attend class.

## 2. Absences due to Religious Observances:

## Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for a class or announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed. For further information, please refer to:

## <http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf>

3. Incompletes (I). May be granted after consultation with the instructor of this course

4. Extra Credit. There is no provision for extra credit.

1. If you need to be absent due to medical reasons (yours or your immediate family's) on a test day or a day that an assignment is due, please provide a physician's note and notify me ***prior*** to class.
2. Students will behave in a respectful manner.
3. Students will complete all required assignments.

**Course Requirements:**

**Exams**: None.

**Quizzes:** None.

**Group Discussions** : Yes.

**Assignments**: Yes.

**Group Project**: Yes

**Your grade will be based on the following**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assignment/Test | Percent of Grade |
| Midterm | 0 % |
| Final | 0 % |
| Group Discussion | 20 % |
| Attendance | 10 % |
| Book Reviews | 40 % |
| Paper/Written Assignments | 30 % |

**The following is the grading scale to be used**: This course employs a standard +/- grading scale:

A = 95-100 A- = 90-94 B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83 C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76 C - = 70-73 D = 60-69 F = below 60

**ASSIGNMENTS**

There are three general types of assignments for this course: (1) book presentation; (2) three book reviews (cannot be on the book you present to the class); and (3) collection of news articles on environmental issues. These are explained in more detail below.

**1. News Article Assignment:**

Collect and hand in 5 news items related to environmental issues. These may be clipped from newspapers or magazines, or come from web-based searches (“environmental news”). You should be prepared to volunteer to read your news items in class so that we may discuss these items.

The purpose of this assignment is to become aware of the range of environmental news and the variety of topics addressed in the environmental news. These items should also bring to light the severity of the environmental problems the world currently faces.

Grading: You get 1 point for each article handed in, and 1 point for including a

cover page for each article with YOUR summary of the article. Possible points: 10.

**These assignments are due in class on SEPTEMBER 10th.**

**2. Book Reports:**

Each student is required to write three book reports on books. You MAY NOT write your book report on the book assigned for your group project.

Due Dates: Book reports are due on the day the book is assigned for review in class.

Each book report should address the following, and this description of the book report should be used as the outline:

(1) 5 page minimum;

(2) identify the major premise or thesis of the book;

(3) describe the evidence the author presents to support the thesis/premise, including the events/issues examined, their extent, impacts and potential solutions; (4) assess the argument the author made in the book.

(A) is it convincing?

(B) is this a topic with which criminologists should be concerned? Why or

why not?

(C) would you recommend this book to (i) friends, (ii) relatives, or (iii) other criminology students? Why or why not.

(5) Now that you have done the above, look up the author on the internet and read their biography in the book. Write a brief biography of the author. Does knowing more about the author influence your opinion?

**3. Group Project/In-Class Presentation**

Each group is assigned a book on which they will report. The group is expected to take at least one-half of a class period to provide a complete and ***thorough report*** on their assigned book and topic. Groups may, if needed, take the entire class period to complete their presentation.

Presentations will include, *at minimum*, an oral report on the assigned book, reviewing its contents and evidence. Presentations may include any additional materials the groups assembles to make their points about the book, such as video clips, power point presentations, posters, handouts and so on. These additional materials will help improve the score you receive on your project.

Groups will determine how the work is to be divided among group members, and the work load may be divided in any way as long as the group is comfortable with the work assignments. For example, the group might decide that one person will do the presentation, that a second person will type the report, that the third member will prepare a power point presentation, that a fourth member will create the bibliography (see below) and prepare other materials required by the groups, while all four members will also be responsible for writing a section of the group presentation.

The presentation is expected to last ***a minimum*** of 30 minutes. You may take the entire class period.

Groups must hand in the following before they begin their presentations:

1. Title sheet with assigned topic and list of group members;
2. a summary report (5 pages) that includes an outline of the presentation, and a summary of details to be addressed in the presentation;
3. a bibliography of a minimum of 15 journal articles and books related to your topic which illustrate the kinds of research that has been done on this topic.

* If there are people who want to do a project on their own, we can accommodate this option, AS LONG AS SOMEONE ELSE also agrees to do an individual presentation.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

Attendance is required.

Attendance will be taken randomly. Your attendance score is constructed based on your attendance percentage.

The participation grade is based on the *frequency and quality* of your participation in class. Frequent but off track or irrelevant contributions do not count toward participation. Students who do not wish to participate in class discussion may earn participation points by posting comments, questions, and relevant news items with discussion on the class room discussion board.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule is attached to the end of this document.

**CLASS POLICIES**:

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

* See Student Responsibilities – <http://www.sds.usf.edu/students.asp>
* See Faculty Responsibilities— <http://www.sds.usf.edu/faculty.asp>

#### Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on assigned papers constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. The University of South Florida has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process.

If you have any questions, please refer to the University’s Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty policy at

* Procedures for Alleged Academic Dishonesty or Disruption:

<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0809/adadap.htm>

* Student Academic Grievance Procedures -- <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0809/arcsagp.htm>

**Use of plagiarism tracking software**:

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

**COURSE OUTLINE (DATE and TOPIC)**

August

1. **Introduction, Review of Syllabus and Course.**
2. What is green criminology? And what is it about?

Watch this video – The Lorax, by Dr. Suess….. really…. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soRbNlPbHEo>

And read this short article “The Lorax, Criminology and Capitalism: Can Criminology Speak for the Trees.” <http://critcrim.org/node/331>

September

03 Modern Environmental Problems

Sand Tars (we will watch this video in class)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61X4IQqnmd0> (part 1) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8m5PFuYRSI> (part 2)

04 Hydrofracturing

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEB_Wwe-uBM>

10 Environmental News Articles – Discussion.

12 Evidence of Ecological Harm and Crime

11 Presentation # 1

13 Discussion

18 Presentation # 2

20 Discussion

25 Presentation # 3

27 Discussion

October

1 Presentation # 4

3 Discussion

8 Presentation # 5

10 Presentation # 6

15 Discussion

17 Presentation # 7

22 Discussion

24 Presentation # 8

29 Presentation # 9

31 Discussion

November

5 Presentation # 10

7 Presentation # 11

12 Discussion

14 Presentation # 12

19 Presentation # 13

**21 OFF – ASC MEETINGS**

26 Presentation # 14

**28 OFF – THANKSGIVING**

**DECEMBER**

3 Presentation # 15

5 Summary of Semester

**See Next page for books for presentations.**

**BOOKS FOR PRESENTATIONS**

Prices are from Amazon for used to new copies. Low price may include paperback or e-editions or used copies.

**Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation**. Dan Fagin ($ 12.33-$18.79)

Tells the story of pollution in Toms River, NJ. Examines the community impacts of the significant toxic waste problems there. Combines journalistic and scholarly styles of research. The story of what happens when industrial expansion is not regulated properly.   
  
**The End of Nature** -- Bill McKibben ($0.10 - $11.53)

Now considered a classic in environmental studies. Details how humans are damaging nature, and whether nature and humans can survive.   
  
**Eaarth: Life on a Tough New Planet -**- Bill McKibben ($ 3.89- $12.93)

Largely the same message as “The End of Nature,” but concentrates more fully on climate change.   
  
**Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness** --  Erik Reece ($ 1.64- $13.98)

Describes the impact of mountaintop mining removal used to excavate coal by looking at the history of the destruction of one mountain and the community that surrounds it.

**The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?** Joel Kovol ($ 9.22-$ 25.33)

Offers a critique of the effect of capitalism on nature. Capitalism cannot survive without exploiting, using and destroying nature to make commodities. Thus, humans face a choice between capitalism and saving nature – and themselves – from destruction.

**The Riverkeepers: Two Activists Fight to Reclaim our Environment as a Basic Human Right** -- John Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy JR ($ 1.59- $12.63).

The story of how the two authors take on large corporations to save waterways in the US. Focuses on the development of this story in the Hudson River in New York. Details encounters with more than 90 different environmental law-breakers and illustrates how citizen action can reclaim our environment.   
  
**The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw** -- Bruce Barcott ($1.00 - $14.14)

Tells the story of how one environmental activist (Sharon Matola) in South America takes on a corporate-government conspiracy to build a dam that would flood the nesting grounds of the Scarlet Macaw. Includes how these activists use street protests and legal battles to fight the dam and globalization of environmental harms.

**Lake Effect: Two Sisters and a Town's Toxic Legacy** -- Nancy Nichols ($ 1.95-$22.27).

One women tells how her sister was killed by a rare cancer caused by toxic pollution in their hometown. Leads to a larger investigation of the toxic problem in the US. While writing the story, the author discovers that she too, has cancer.   
  
**Eco-Amazon: 20 Women Who are Transforming the World** -- Dorka Keehn et al. ($ 6.24-$ 27.41).

Tells the story of 20 women who have been engaged in environmental battles to save nature. Women have been very influential in environmental preservation, yet the stories of their success is rarely told.

**The Green Belt Movement** -- Wangri Muta Maathi ($1.00-$13.50)

The amazing story, as told by the founder of this movement, about creating a green belt in Kenya. Maathi won a Noble Peace Prize for her work. She was the first women in Kenya to earn a Ph.D., and turned her knowledge into public activism to save the environment and provide economic subsistence for the women of Kenya.  
  
**Justice for Forests: Improving Criminal Justice Efforts to Combat Illegal Logging** -- Marilyne Pereira ($ 15.80-$19.90).

Every minute, 30 football fields of forest in the world is cut and harvested illegally, netting illegal foresters up to $ 15 billion dollars a year. These funds are often used to support illegal government operations and criminal organizations. Examines criminal justice enforcement efforts to control illegal logging.

**Animal Investigators: How the World’s First Wildlife Forensic Lab is Solving Crimes and Saving Endangered Species** -- Laurel N. Neme ($ 2.26- $16.56)

Examines the development and methods used to solve wildlife crimes by the US Fish and Wildlife Services Forensic Laboratory. The story of how “CSI” methods are used to solve wildlife crimes. Uses three case studies to illustrate these methods. Discusses the international scope of demand for animal parts.   
  
**The Last Tortoise: A Tale of Extinction in our Lifetime** -- Craig B. Stanford ($ 11.98-$22.98)

Written by a noted biologist, this book tells the story about the extinction process affects turtles in the modern world. Looks at tortoise and turtle populations across the world, they use as food, and how they are trapped for the animal/pet market.   
  
**Black Market: Inside the Endangered Species Trade in Asia --** Ben Davies ($ 7.99 - $21.95)

There is a significant black market in animals and animal parts in the modern world. These include the behaviors of local poachers as well as organized crime. Many governments throughout the world ignore dealing with these crimes. Not for the easily disturbed – the book includes 100 photos of harms against animals.   
  
**Living Downstream: An Ecologist's Personal Investigation of Cancer and the Environment** -- Sandra Steingraber ($ 4.58 - $ 12.83).

Award winning book by biologist Sandra Steingraber. Links her story about her own and her friend’s cancer to environmental pollution. Weaves together personal narrative experiences and the science of toxic chemicals and cancer.  
  
**Toxic Exposures: Contested Illnesses and the Environmental Health Movement** -- Phil Brown and Lois Gibbs ($ 3.25 - $29.76)

Communities across the US are experiencing increasing health problems linked to toxic exposure and chemicals in their neighborhoods. The authors describe the development of community health movements, some of which have been led by scientists over “contested illnesses” that industries and the government refuse to recognize.

**Toxic Deception: How the Chemical Industry Manipulates Science, Bends the Law and Endangers Your Health**. Daniel Fagin and Marianne Lavelle. ($1.00-$16.16)

The failure to adequately regulate toxins produce by industry causes extensive public harm. This book examines why this is the case, and how industries manipulate scientific evidence to make it appear that the pollution they produce is harmless, and how the government contributes to this process.

**Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent** – Andrew Nikforuk – ($3.89 - $ 11.56)

Examines the current, large scale development of tar sands extraction in Canada, and its costs. The Canadian tar sands are now the major source of oil for the US. Tar sands are the cost costly form of oil to produce, and comes with extensive social and environmental costs.

**Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America’s Energy Future** – Jeff Goodall ($1.00 - $11.22)

America has a large coal supply, and has increasingly turned to the use of coal, the dirtiest hydrocarbon, to generate electricity. Coal has become one of the nation’s biggest and most influential industries, shaping our energy policy. The use of coal, however, come with extraordinarily large costs, producing, for example, nearly 40% of US carbon dioxide emissions. Air pollution associated with the use of coal kills nearly twice as many people in the US annually as homicide.

**Coal River** – Michael Shayerson – ($ 2.00- $ 18.45).

Coal mining has a devastating impact on the American environment. This book tells hat story as well as the story of a lawyer, Joel Lovett, who took on the battle against big coal in West Virginia in an effort to protect the local environment and the people who live there.

**Bringing Down the Mountains: The Impact of Mountaintop Removal Mining on Southern West Virginia Communities.**  Shirley Stewart Burns – ($ 11.20 - $ 21.88).

How mountaintop removal mining impacts people who live in mining regions in West Virginia.

**The Price of Justice: A True Story of Green and Corruption**. Laurence Leamer ($ 17.29 - $22.99).

The largest producer of coal in the US is Massey Energy, lead by its CEO, Don Blankenship. Under Blankenship, Massey engaged in number illegal activities to become the number one coal company. This is the story of those crimes, which includes bribery of government official, defeating environmental laws, undermining unions and making coal mining for Massey a very dangerous occupation.

**Diamond: A Struggle for Justice in Louisiana’s Chemical Corridor. Steven Lerner** ($ 4.99- $ 12.20).

Louisiana is home to one of the most chemically polluted areas in the US. This books tells the story of Diamond, LA, the harm produced by that industry, and the different effects the chemical industry has for Black and white communities in the area.