

## Environmental Systems and Societies- Year 1- Semester 2 Independent Reading Assignment EXTRA CREDIT

Environmental Systems and Societies is an awesome combination of ecology, practical applications for world wide issues, and a variety of ethical systems. This class is what living, interacting in, and understanding the world is all about. There are so many fiction and nonfiction books that apply to this course, it is impossible to read them all!

This assignment requires you to read more deeply into a topic that interests you. You might know what this topic is on the first day of class or you might not discover it until second semester- that's okay. **If you would like to read a book that is not on this list, please see Ms. Cordes for preapproval before you begin the extra credit reading.**

Here are some suggestions that you might like....

### **Water**

*Cadillac Desert* by Marc Reisner --- water use and the west

*My Story as Told by Water: Confessions, Druidic Rants, Reflections, Bird-Watchings, Fish-Stalkings, Visions, Songs and Prayers Refracting Light, from Living Rivers, in the Age of the Industrial Dark* by David James Duncan --- an awesome read!

*Blue Covenant* by Maude Barlow --- water issues

*When the Rivers Run Dry: Water--The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-first Century* by Fred Pearce

### **Ecological history and theory**

*Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold --- the book that started it all- the modern ecology movement

*End of Nature* by Bill McKibben --- an interesting premise

*The Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson --- biomagnifications

*Walden* by Henry David Thoreau --- a classic example of someone who tried to live their ideals

### **Animal Behavior**

*Wolves: Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation* by David Mech --- pretty obvious what it's about...

*Adventures Among Ants* by Mark Moffett --- an intimate look at a important creature

*The Wolverine Way* by Douglas Chadwick

*A Beast the Color of Winter* by Douglas Chadwick

*The Essential Grizzly: The Mingled Fates of Men and Bears* by Doug and Andrea Peacock

### **Ecology and society**

*Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey--- a voice for the West that was written in Arches National Park

*Ordinary Wolves* by Seth Kantner --- an interesting look at the intersection of people, technology, and traditional ways

*The Light-Green Society: Ecology and Technological Modernity in France, 1960-2000* by Michael Bess

*Conservation in Africa: Peoples, Policies and Practice* by David Anderson

### **Agriculture and sustainability**

*Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan—discusses where food comes from

*Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman* by Miriam Horn--- awesome examples of people making conservation changes

*Botany of Desire* by Michael Pollan – discusses how agriculture affects biodiversity

*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver—how to live on what you grow

*Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World* by Dan Koeppel—if you really like bananas

### **Human population**

*The Population Explosion* by Paul Erlich

*The Myth of Population Control: Family, Caste and Class in an Indian Village* Mahmood Mamdani

## ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Choose a “book club.” You must have at least 4 members.
2. Decide on an approved text. Sign up on the sheet in class.
3. Meet with your book club to determine reading plan and schedule discussions. At least 3 members must meet during **AT LEAST FOUR** lunches or before/after school to discuss the book before you present to the class.
4. Read the text.
5. **Keep a reading log** that details your reactions to the facts presented and events described
6. **Keep a summary** of ideas/questions discussed at lunch meetings- everyone must contribute to the notetaking
7. **Sign up to give a book talk** --- must be arranged at least a week in advance and completed by: **May 20, 2020**

Book talk must:

- a. Present a summary of the book (format is flexible- see me for details)
- b. Highlight and explain the important issues and environmental systems (at least 3)
- c. Discuss specific changes that can be made to improve the status quo
- d. State your opinion of the author’s perspective supported by details!
- e. Give the class a question to consider related to the book and ESS
- f. Everyone in the group must help with the presentation.

**POINTS POSSIBLE: 50**

**DUE DATE: NO LATER THAN MAY 20, 2020!**

**YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE PARTS LISTED ABOVE TO RECEIVE EXTRA CREDIT!! LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT RECEIVE CREDIT. IF YOU ARE ABSENT FOR ANY REASON, SEND IT WITH A FRIEND OR EMAIL IT. I MUST RECEIVE IT AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!**