EAS 510: Science and Practice of Social Change  
Winter 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. M’Lis Bartlett  
School for Environment and Sustainability  
Email: [mlis@umich.edu](mailto:mlis@umich.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 4:15-6 pm  
Office Hours Zoom Link:

**Graduate Student Instructors (GSI)**  
Celina (CeCe) Horbat  
Office Hours: Tuesday from 11 am - 1 pm EST  
Office Hours Zoom Link:

**Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 2:30-4 pm**  
Lecture Zoom Information:  
[https://umich.zoom.us/j/93561253653](https://umich.zoom.us/j/93561253653)  
Meeting ID: 935 6125 3653

**Discussion Sections**  
Section (2) 510.002 | Thursday 1:00-2:00 PM EST  
Section (3) 510.003 | Thursday 5:30-6:30 PM EST  
Section (4) 510.004 | Friday 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM EST  
Section (5) 510.005 | Friday 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM EST  
All times are listed in Eastern Time Zone

**Course Description**  
The current environmental challenges facing humanity are grounded in complex social systems. Solving them will require professionals and engaged community members to understand and address the cultural, political, and economic setting in which they are grounded. In this course, we will move between theories of change within the social sciences and the application of these theories to current environmental issues across scales. Through case studies of current environmental issues, we will examine the interactions/intersections between people, place, and power that need to be addressed as we work to create just sustainable solutions.

**Course Requirements**

**Readings:** All readings and class materials will be made available on the Canvas Website. Readings from guests will be posted with sufficient time for you to read and enter your reading responses.

**Assignments:** There are a number of short assignments across the course that provide for deeper exploration of a topic, practice at a particular skill, or the opportunity to apply concepts from the course. They range in style from an executive summary, a mind map or sketch, or a social-ecological system to
planning a course of action for a particular case study. Each one is designed for you to think creatively, applying theories and skills to a social-ecological concern. While they are short, your responses should be well written, referenced and professional in nature.

**Facilitating Discussion:** Discussion sections are a place for you to talk with your peers about the readings and the lecture presentations. Each week a small team of students will be responsible for facilitating a conversation or workshop in the discussion section related to the readings. Your team will provide a plan prior to your facilitation that will be approved by M’Lis or CeCe. The details of this process will be organized in your discussion.

**Reading Responses:** Reading responses are short pieces of writing where you will reflect on the week’s readings in a small online discussion group. Responses are to be posted in your Canvas Module by Monday morning at 10:00 am ET. Each response is worth 10 points and should be a concise response to the prompt that references material from lecture or reading. As a part of your reflection, you will respond to one of your peer’s comments or questions in the Canvas Module thread. Please see canvas lecture page for details on your assigned Lecture Group. These groups will change over the course of the semester so that you may “meet” and get to learn from more people in the course.

**Participation Quizzes:** With this large of a class this is a small way for you to gather participation points and it will help us take attendance. These quizzes will include one or two questions in either a short answer or multiple choice form. You can earn up to 2 points for each question. (0 if you don’t answer; 1 for an incorrect answer and 2 for a correct answer.)

**Attendance and participation:** This course will be taught synchronously and attendance is expected at all lectures and your registered discussion.

If you know that you are going to be absent from class for religious, cultural or other reasons please let us know ahead of time. I strongly encourage you to honor your cultural and religious holidays. If are unable to attend class or you need an extension on your homework due to a serious illness or family emergency, arrangements must be made with one of us before the homework due date.

Please note if you miss class, for whatever reason, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate. If you have questions about the reading assigned for the day or the discussion that you missed, please feel free to come to office hours or make an appointment to meet at an alternative time. We will not have notes in a form that can be emailed to you, nevertheless we will be happy to discuss the material with you in person.

**Course Resources**

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; [http://ssd.umich.edu](http://ssd.umich.edu)) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.
Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (VISA) form. Please present this form to me at the beginning of the term, or at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc...).

Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

**Additional Resources**
We have made a Resource Document connecting you to resources at SEAS and UM as well as ways for students to connect | [Link to Resources](#) & can also be found in Pages section of Canvas

**Technology Support for Students:** This a synchronous course, meaning that it will be taught at the time dedicated by the registrar. We know that tech issues will challenge many of us this semester. If you are having trouble accessing the lecture, discussion, related materials, doing group work etc. Please let us know as soon as possible so that we may address the issue. Please note that we will do our best to assist, but are not tech experts and we may have to refer you to others. I recommend reviewing the resources listed that include but are not limited to addressing technology issues and studying remotely.

**Course Recordings (UPDATED):**
Recorded lectures are not an alternative to taking notes or attending class and not will be openly posted. To assist students who may miss a class due a health concern or family emergency each lecture will be recorded and available upon request. Should you miss class for other reasons, feel free to make an appointment with CeCe or Dr. Bartlett. We are happy to meet with you.

Accommodations will be made for international students who can not, due to their location, attend class synchronously. The same is true for students with approved accommodations for students with disabilities.

Any shared recordings of this class are for your private use and may not be shared for any reason, likewise I will not share them outside of the class for any reason.

Students are prohibited from recording/distributing any class activity without written permission from the instructor. If you do not wish to be recorded or have questions/concerns, please contact CeCe Horbat at chorbat@umich.edu

Additional information regarding course recordings and privacy concerns can be found on the UM ITS Recording and Privacy Concerns webpage.

**Academic Integrity:** Please review Rackham’s Academic and Professional Integrity Policy at [https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section8/](https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section8/). If you would like further resources regarding writing and concerns about citations please see: Sweetland Writing Center’s [Beyond Plagiarism](#).

**Grading:**
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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Point Assignment</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50 points each assignment</td>
<td>300 (4 Assignments Total)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1-2 points each per class</td>
<td>60 (30 Participation Exercises)</td>
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<td>Exercises</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>10 points each assignment</td>
<td>60 (10 Reading Responses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading Discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>50 points each</td>
<td>50 (1 Leading Discussion)</td>
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A. Course Themes:
Week 1: Course Introduction
Week 2: Systems. Frameworks and Approaches
Week 4: Governance, Power and Policy
Week 6: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication
Week 9: Community Based Research Methods
Week 10: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking
Week 13: Organizing and Movement Building

B. Weekly Schedule
Week 1 Course Introduction

Wednesday January 20

Course Introduction Wednesday
Discussion Sections meet to organize discussion facilitation assignment
Week 2: Systems, Frameworks and Approaches

Monday January 25: Environmental Justice Framework
Wednesday January 27: Environmental Justice Framework

Required:


Bennett, J. (2020, November 19). What if Instead of Calling People Out, We Called them In? The New York Times, p.1, D.


Additional References:


The Principles of Environmental Justice: The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit
Week 3: Systems, Frameworks and Approaches

Monday February 1: Social Ecological Systems / Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Currie


National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center: https://www.sesync.org/for-you/educator/teaching-resources/introduction-to-socio-environmental-synthesis-series
Please look at the videos on the Intro to S-E Synthesis. There are 3 it should take you less than 1.5hrs. Total.

Reading Response Due 10am ET

Wednesday February 3: Systems and Interventions

Assignment 1 Released February 3 / 1 Due February 8
Student Led Discussion
## Additional References:

### Week 4: Governance, Power and Policy

**Monday February 8:** Guest Speaker: Dr Maria Carmen Lemos  
**Wednesday February 10:** Guest Speaker: Dr Maria Carmen Lemos


Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network [https://www.learngala.com/cases/glcan](https://www.learngala.com/cases/glcan)

*Assignment 2 Released / Due February 19*  
*Student Led Discussion*
**Week 5: Governance, Power and Policy**

**Monday February 15:** Sweetland Writing Center Workshop  (Writing an Executive Summary and Policy Brief)

**Writing Samples to be reviewed before class**

**Wednesday February 17:** Guest Speaker: Dr. Arun Agrawal


https://doi.org/10.1017/sus.2018.12


*Assignment 2 Due February 19*

*Student Led Discussion*
Week 6: Governance, Power and Policy / Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication

Monday February 22: Guest Speaker: Dr Sam Stolper

Reading Response Due 10am ET

Wednesday February 24: Introduction to Theme: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication

Student Led Discussion
Week 7: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication

Monday March 1: Guest Speaker: Dr. Raymond DeYoung
De Young, Raymond. (2013). Environmental Psychology Overview. 10.13140/2.1.3933.8560.

Reading Response Due 10am ET

Wednesday March 3: TBA

Student Led Discussion
Week 8: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication / Community Based Research Methods

Monday March 8: Place Based Education in Flint  Guests: Leyla Sanker, UM Flint
Wednesday March 10: Research Approaches: Community Based Participatory Research (CPBR)

Assignment 3 Released / Due March 15
Student Led Discussion
Week 9: Community Based Research Methods

Monday March 15: CPBR and Qualitative Research
Wednesday March 17: CPBR and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Guest Speaker: Dr. Maria Schaeffer

Assignment 3 Due
Assignment 4 Released / Due March 22
Student Led Discussion
Week 10: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking

We are in conversation with a set of guest speakers who have not confirmed their dates for visiting our class. They will be filled in when confirmed.

Monday March 22: TBA
Wednesday March 24: NO CLASS / WELL BEING BREAK (No Lecture Today)

Assignment 4 Due March 22
NOTE: Discussion will be held this week
Week 11: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking

Monday March 29: Guest Speaker: Joan Nassauer

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

Wednesday March 31: Guest Speaker: Nicole Bartlett, NOAA North Atlantic Regional Coordinator

*Assignment 5 Released / Due April 5*

*Student Led Discussion*
Week 12: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking

Monday April 5: Guest Speaker: Nicole Bartlett, NOAA North Atlantic Regional Coordinator
Wednesday April 7: Guest Speaker Dr. Steven Yaffee
Week 13: Organizing and Movement Building

Monday April 12: Theories of Change

Reading Response Due 10am ET

Wednesday April 14: Guest Speaker Mona Munroe Younis, Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

Assignment 6 Released / Due April 21st
Week 14: Organizing and Movement Building / Final Class

Monday April 19: Final Class

Assignment 6 Due April 21st