Lecture 1

Welcome to ENVIR215. Briefly describe the class in a few sentence and hand out syllabus

Introduction to instructors


2. Briefly introduce my research interests
Seismology and studies of hydrothermal systems have many practical applications – earthquake hazards, search for oil, mineral exploration, geothermal power but my work on mid-ocean ridges about as far from these as possible.

3. Why this class interests me
Irrespective of our backgrounds we all want to make a contribution towards solving real problems and I think scientists in particular do a poor job of communicating the contribution we can make to society. At a recent talk at the UW Paul Ehrlich who is a prolific ecologist and environmentalist from Stanford University touched upon the state of the national dialog that is embodied in shows like Face the Nation and other Sunday morning policy talk shows. He remarked that there was a distinct lack of knowledge of science and technology amongst our nation’s leadership – “confederacy of buffoons”.

Introduction to the Class

Class format and activities
• 3 sections – energy, air/water, earth/water
• non-cookbook open-ended lab experiments – work in pairs through ~ 6 labs
• learn about other experiments through informal interactions and 5 minute student presentations
• Build solar cookers and conduct plant growing experiments
• Write essays that explore scientific, environmental and policy issues that arise from the experiment
• Reading selected chapters from books and articles with contrasting viewpoints
• Lectures that introduce and build upon experimental and class discussions

Instructional objectives (see Syllabus)

Expectations
• Come to class and labs.
• Actively participate in the labs and do not expect us always tell you what to do.
• Come prepared for the discussions – do the reading.

Assessment and grading (see Syllabus)
• Essays (25%)
• Quizzes (25%)
• Lab notebook (25%)
• Participation (25%)

Grading procedure and policies (e.g., missed exams)

Dates and deadlines

Web page

To get you going

Hand out 1st day assignment

Information I need

I want to learn your names and get to know you as fast as possible. We will take pictures for a photo board.

Student introductions

Hand out the student questionnaire