Background to the Course: Our focus is on how groups of people (communities, regions, nations) manage different types of resources together. I teach it from a sociological perspective, therefore we’ll start out with some readings about sociological concepts. As we move through the other readings and class materials, we’ll continually return to these concepts, using them to analyze human-environmental relationships.

We’ll read and talk about fisheries, land, and forest management. We'll see cases of successful, and not so successful, resource management. Throughout I’ll encourage you to think sociologically about these situations. This means viewing different groups of people as social actors who self-organize, interact, develop different rules of behavior for themselves, and understand their roles within the world using stories and symbols. It also means developing the skill of setting aside our own personal views on issues and immerse ourselves in someone else’s perspective.

Here are some of the BIG questions we'll be working on answering: Why do natural resource/environmental conflicts and problems exist? What role do human differences play in creating these issues? What strategies help groups work through their differences and figure out a way to protect their ability to use resources sustainably over the long run? What can sociology contribute toward understanding conflicts and problems?

This will be a largely reading and discussion course. Sometimes I’ll lecture, but mostly we’ll have class discussions, class exercises, small group work, guest speakers, and films. There are no tests, but you’ll do a fair amount of writing—in response to class readings and in the course of developing a research paper on a topic of your choice. My objectives for the course are that you 1) gain an understanding of basic sociological concepts, 2) gain an ability to use these concepts to understand human-environmental relationships and good resource management strategies, and 3) hone your skills in oral and written communication.

Required texts (under SS3760 in the bookstore and on reserve at the library):
Earl Babbie | The Sociological Spirit (also under SS5400 in the bookstore and library reserve)
John McPhee | The Pine Barrens
Mark Kurlansky | Cod
Kusel and Adler | Forest Communities, Community Forests

Assignments:
**Journals (25%)** – For most Tuesdays you will have a readings journal due. In this journal I want you to do three things:

1) Summarize the main points of the readings.
2) Application of Babbie concepts to the reading: For all readings (other than those from Babbie), apply a few sociological concepts from Babbie or class to material from the reading. You can use concepts learned at any time in the course, e.g. you don’t have to draw from the same week’s readings.
3) Application of readings concepts to your experiences, courses, or interests. Have you seen something similar in your life experience? Explain it. Does something in the reading relate to your research project? How?

Journal entries may be handwritten if your writing is clearly legible. Journal entries are due in class on the day that the reading is due. Late journals will be accepted, but will start out graded down. Journals should be a minimum of 2 pages handwritten or 1 page computer written (if 12 point font, single spaced). Longer is fine.

**Paper and Presentation (40%)** - You’ll choose a human-environmental problem or topic to research and develop a short (around 10 page) paper (20%) on it. You’ll have an early library research assignment to get you started thinking about topics (5%). During 10th week you’ll turn in an annotated bibliography (5%) on the readings you’ve found, during 13th week you’ll turn in an initial draft of your paper, and the final version of the paper will be due Tuesday of finals week. We’ll talk lots over the semester about the specifics of these assignments. The last weeks of the class will be devoted mostly to in-class presentations (10%) on your research project.

**Participation (25%)** – This will be an ideal class size for lots of discussion. I use “discussion points” as a fair (but kind of a pain) way for you to get credit for talking in class. Whenever you talk in class (ask a question, answer one, make a comment, etc.) jot down a brief description of what you said, date it and put your name on it. Hand it in to me at the end of that class. After three weeks, I’ll give you a preliminary grade (5%) for this to give you an idea of how well you are doing. You’ll get the rest of the grade (20%) for the remaining 12 weeks of the semester.

**In class exercises (10%)** - I’ll periodically give you an in class assignment designed to get you to think about human-environmental relationships sociologically. These can be kind of off-the-wall (so be prepared to roll with it!) but, in my experience with other classes, generally pretty fun ways to get you to think about your social world in a new way.
Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Class meets all Tuesdays and Thursdays unless otherwise noted. I don't include Thursdays in the schedule below unless you have an assignment due that day.

Week 1: Introduction to society and natural resources. **Tuesday (9/1)** Syllabus.

**Thursday (9/3)** **Reading Assignment:** Babbie Ch 2; McPhee Ch 1. **Reading Journal Due.**

**Sociological Concepts, Land Management, and Local Environmental Culture.**
Week 2: **Tuesday (9/8)** **Reading Assignment:** Babbie Ch 3; McPhee Ch 2-3. **Reading Journal Due.**

Week 3: **Tuesday (9/15)** **Reading Assignment:** Babbie Ch 5-6; McPhee 4. **Reading Journal Due.**

**Thursday (9/17)** **Research Project Topic Due.**

Week 4: **Tuesday (9/22)** **Reading Assignment:** Babbie Ch 9; McPhee Ch 5-6. **Reading Journal Due.**

**Thursday (9/24)** **No class – Library Assignment.**

Week 5: **Tuesday (9/29)** **Reading Assignment:** McPhee Ch 7-9. **Reading Journal Due.**

**Ocean Fisheries Management and National Priorities**
Week 6: **Tuesday (10/6)** **Reading Assignment:** Kurlansky Prologue AND Ch 1-3. **Reading Journal Due.**

Week 7: **Tuesday (10/13)** **Reading Assignment:** Kurlansky Ch 6-8 (**note we are skipping chapters). **Reading Journal Due.**

Week 8: **Tuesday (10/20)** **Reading Assignment:** Kurlansky Ch 10-12(**note we are skipping a chapter). **Reading Journal Due.**
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Week 9: **Tuesday (10/27)**  **Reading Assignment:** Kurlansky Ch 13-14; Kusel and Adler Ch 1. **Reading Journal Due.**

**Thursday (10/29)**   **Annotated Bibliography Due.**

Week 10: **Tuesday (11/3)** and **Thursday (11/5)**  **No Class.** I’ll meet with individuals about their paper/presentation work.

Week 11: **Tuesday (11/10)**  **Reading Assignment:** Kusel and Adler, Ch 2-3. **Reading Journal Due**

**Thursday (11/12)**  **Reading Assignment:** Kusel and Adler, Ch 4-5. **Reading Journal Due**

Week 12: **Tuesday (11/17)**  **PRESENTATIONS Reading Assignment:** Kusel and Adler, Ch 8, 10. **Reading Journal Due (if presenting, turn in Tuesday Week 13).**

**Thursday (11/19)**  **PRESENTATIONS** Draft of research paper due.

Week 13:  **PRESENTATIONS** **Tuesday (12/1) and Thursday (12/3)**

Week 14:  **PRESENTATIONS** (Tuesday 12/8 and Thursday 12/10)

Finals Week: No final exam!  **Final Paper** Due Tuesday 12/15 in my Social Science mailbox at 5:00 PM.