

**Multicultural Perspectives in Natural Resources
FW 340**

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Spring

Instructor: Mitch Wilkenson

Course objectives: During this course you will become familiar with the physical landscape, natural resources and multicultural influences in the American West. Overall objectives for students in the class are:

1. To recognize the multiple values placed on natural resources both historically and in the present
2. To identify changes since 1800 in the distribution of natural resources of the American West
3. To understand the role of diverse cultures in changing uses of natural resources of the American West
4. To recognize the role of power and discrimination in cultural conflicts over resource use

Course content: This course is divided into five units: Introduction, Pacific Northwest, California, Great Plains, and Southwest. Each unit begins with a description of regional landscapes and overview of physical and biological resources of particular interest. Within each unit we will examine Native American resource use patterns, Euro-American influences on resource use and extraction, and new social structures developed when new cultures settled. The review discussion at the end of each unit considers these changes in resource use, and presents a contemporary resource issue. For each of these modern issues you are asked to consider how current controversies are related to earlier resource uses and conflicts.

Prerequisites: None

Proposed Text:

1. Sucheng Chan, Douglas Henry Daniels, Mario T. Garcia & Terry P. Wilson 1994. *Peoples of Color in the American West*. D. C. Heath, Lexington, Mass.
2. Craig Lesley. *River Song*. Picador Press.
3. Tony Hillerman. *Great Taos Bank Robbery*. University of New Mexico Press.

Term papers: Final project, 5 pages.

Testing: Quizzes and short essays.

Students for whom the course is intended: All undergraduate students with an interest in natural resources.

