

Social-Ecological Systems

FOR 890/ SOC 890 – 3 credits

Summer 2015: Wednesdays May 20 – June 17

Hybrid online course meeting once per week for
4 hours at the Kellogg Biological Station: Wednesdays 10 am – 2 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce conceptual frameworks and methodologies to explore social and ecological systems together – a task that remains critical to addressing today’s environmental challenges. Integrative frameworks have emerged from both the social and natural sciences and have been applied to study complex social-ecological systems. This course will focus on case studies to apply these frameworks and to explore how social-ecological research contributes to a deeper understanding of environmental problems. Students will learn how to apply social-ecological frameworks and the benefits and challenges of interdisciplinary research. Topics will include resilience theory, political ecology, and coupled natural and human systems.

This course will be offered over 5 weeks starting May 20, 2015. The course will be a hybrid online course with class meetings once per week for 4 hours at the Kellogg Biological Station (KBS). This time will be used for lectures, discussion, field trips, and site visits. KBS is located in Hickory Corners, approximately a 1.5-hour drive from main campus. The online portion of the class will include online discussion forums, assignments, and research projects.

The course will be open to graduate students from all departments and honors or advanced undergraduates with instructor approval.

Contact instructors with any questions:

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