Please find following clarification of this new course. Please contact us for any additional information (bhaack@gmu.edu, 703 993 1215).

Course number and title:

Geography 603, Geographic Perspectives of Complex Natural Resource Management Topics

Course Objectives:

Managing and restoring complex natural resource systems in many places, such as south Florida, coastal Louisiana, or Chesapeake Bay, are popular but massive (in scale and expense) and challenging endeavors. A geographic perspective is very useful in developing an understanding of both the problems being addressed and alternative solutions. The class will spend the term examining one such effort that meets four criteria: (1) it covers a large area; (2) an understanding of the physical geography is critical to success; (3) major interests are pursuing alternative outcomes; and (4) policy choices are complicated. The class will examine a different aspect of the selected effort each meeting. Students will develop a better understanding of the opportunities for protecting or restoring natural resource systems that working on a large scale offers, the physical and other limits that such efforts may encounter, how public policy interacts with science, and the central role of a geographer’s perspective.

Course justification.

One of the basic components of the discipline of geography is a focus on relationship between the cultural and physical landscapes. Geography has a long history of study on man and his environment. The Department of Geography has successfully taught for many years courses on this topic, Geog 303, Conservation of Resources and Environment, and Geog 503, Problems in Environmental Management. Geog 503 is taught on a regular basis in our Department and has been very successfully enrolled. This new course is to provide more depth for our students, and students from other departments, on a geographic analysis of environmental case studies. It has been offered as a Special Topics course several times.

Relationship to other programs.

In addition to supporting our own students, this course will be of interest to students from other programs particularly CAS Environmental Science and Policy. A number of Environmental Science students take courses in geography. We are informing and seeking approval of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy.
George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  

__X__ NEW  ___ MODIFY  ___ DELETE

Local Unit:  Department of Geography, CAS  
Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation:  GEOG  
Course Number:  603

Full Course Title: Geographic Perspectives of Complex Natural Resource Management

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Complex Nat Resource Man.

Credit hours:  3  
Program of Record: Geog MS

Repeatable for Credit?  

___ D=Yes, not within same term Up to hours  
___ T=Yes, within the same term Up to hours  
__ X_ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  

__X__ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___

___ Recitation (RCT)  ___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)

___ Independent Study (IND)  ___ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  

3 : 0 : 0  
GA(700+) ___

Course Level: GF(500-600) __X

Maximum Enrollment: 20  

For NEW courses, first term to be offered:  
Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites:

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  

Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.  
Managing and restoring large and complex natural resource systems have become popular. Students will develop a better understanding of the strengths and limitations of this approach by examining critical aspects of one such effort.
For **MODIFIED** or **DELETED** courses as appropriate:

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<th>Last term offered:</th>
<th>Previous Course Abbreviation:</th>
<th>Previous number:</th>
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Description of modification:

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES:**

Submitted by: ___________________________ email: ____________

Department/Program: ___________________________ Date: ____________

College Committee: ___________________________ Date: ____________

Graduate Council Representative: ___________________________ Date: ____________
Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

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<th>Unit: CAS Dept of Environmental Science and Policy</th>
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Graduate Council approval: ____________________________ Date: __________

Graduate Council representative: ____________________________ Date: __________

Provost Office representative: ____________________________ Date: __________
GEOG 603 Geographic Perspectives of Complex Natural Resource Management

Topics

Course Description: Managing and restoring complex natural resource systems in many places, such as south Florida, coastal Louisiana, or Chesapeake Bay, are popular but massive (in scale and expense) and challenging endeavors. A geographic perspective is very useful in developing an understanding of both the problems being addressed and alternative solutions. The class will spend the term examining one such effort that meets four criteria: (1) it covers a large area; (2) an understanding of the physical geography is critical to success; (3) major interests are pursuing alternative outcomes; and (4) policy choices are complicated. The class will examine a different aspect of the selected effort each class. Students will develop a better understanding of the opportunities for protecting or restoring natural resource systems that working on a large scale offers, the physical and other limits that such efforts may encounter, how public policy interacts with science, and the central role of a geographer's perspective.

Sample Syllabus

(Topics starting with class 5 are examples, and will depend on the case study):

Class 1 General Introduction and Selection of Class Project
Class 2 Physical and Cultural Setting
Class 3 Information and Key Interests
Class 4 Legal Issues
Class 5 Water Quality
Class 6 Water Supply
Class 7 Wetlands
Class 8 Biology and Endangered Species
Class 9 Recreation
Class 10 Development Pressures
Class 11 Engineering and Construction
Class 12 Agriculture
Class 13 Summary and Status Review
Class 14 "Hearing" or Role Playing Exercise