

Geographies of Resilience: Climate, Livelihoods & Adaptation (GEOG294) FALL 2024

Faculty: Holly Barcus
Topic: Carnegie 06A
MWF 12:00pm-1:00pm

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Drop-In / Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30pm;
Th 2:30-3:30pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As climates continue to change and indications of ecological stress emerge across the globe, the concept of resilience and resilient socio-ecological systems, has gained support across different scientific communities. Although the concept of resilience has its roots in the ecological sciences literatures, new inquiries into the many dimensions of resilience are emerging, including the greater inclusion of humans in social-ecological systems and the inter-linkages between social, cultural and economic dimensions of resilience. Scholars argue that rural resilience is a pathway towards an end goal of sustainability, one in which the linked socio-ecological circumstances of a community are able to adapt to and survive when faced with significant shocks. Such shocks may include changing climates and natural hazards on the ecological end of a spectrum to the ability of communities to adapt socially to economic crises, such as economic restructuring on the other end of a spectrum. Community resilience inherently involves engaging multiple and many voices and perspectives from within a community to address small and large crises. Community engagement practices are one strategy for creating resilience at the community scale, but other scales, such as ecological systems scales, or individual resilience are also embedded in concepts of resilience.

In this course, we will explore the varied conceptualizations of “resilience” from ecological and sustainable development framings to more individual, community, and spiritual conceptualizations. We will specifically discuss the concept of resilience at various spatial scales, from the individual to community-scale practices of resilience. Topics are likely to include agricultural resilience, cultural resilience, livelihood adaptation strategies for resilience. Guest lecturers will provide case studies from around the world presented by scholars from these places who are actively working in resilience studies and will complement discussions, readings and field excursions.

COURSE READINGS

Required Materials

- All readings will be available on Moodle

Additional Reading

- *See attached reading list*

COURSE RESOURCES, REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Attendance

Attendance will be taken during each class period. Your attendance counts towards your participation grade. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to make-up any assignments or work that you missed. I do ask that you PLEASE BE ON TIME to avoid disrupting the class.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO BRING FOOD TO CLASS – PLEASE DON'T SKIP LUNCH!!

Classroom Policies

The first and most important classroom policy is to BE COURTEOUS! This includes:

- If you arrive late or need to leave early, do so with a minimum of disruption.
- Please turn-off all cell phones, etc. during class.
- Be polite when others are speaking, there is enough time to discuss all perspectives.

Course Information – A fair amount of course information will be disseminated via Moodle and email.

Please be sure to check your Macalester email account and the course Moodle page regularly.

Discussion and Class Participation

Participating in class is an important component of your grade. You should attend each class period and be prepared to discuss the weekly readings. Please complete the readings before coming to class. I frequently call on students to give a brief overview of an article that we've read or respond to specific questions about a reading. By taking notes while you read the assigned articles and books you will be more prepared to participate in discussion.

Make-up and Late Assignments:

Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted for partial credit only. However, I am always happy to meet with you ahead of time or discuss by email alternative arrangements if you need extra time. So PLEASE come see me and we'll work out a plan.

Course Assignments:

Graded Assignments

We have a handful of graded assignments in this course (See list in grading section). Several are individual but two of the larger projects are group-based. Each project requires a little imagination, a little research, and a bit of writing. You will gain experience working with other students and hopefully practice understanding different perspectives on the issues and topics that we will tackle in this class. You will receive more detailed information about each assignment as we progress through the semester.

In Class Writing and Non-Graded Assignments

In addition to the graded assignments listed above, we will have many small, in-class reflective or opinion-based writing opportunities. While these are not graded, it is expected that you will contribute to the discussions and complete these short tasks as part of your overall participation grade in the course. These short assignments are intended to enhance the course and help you develop your ideas and perspectives on complex topics.

Drop-In Hours – Drop-in hours provide a great opportunity to discuss questions, issues, or concerns about the class or to just talk about GIS. Feel free to stop by during office hours or schedule a different time to meet, if your schedule conflicts with the posted office hours.

Attendance – Attendance plays an essential role in learning; you are warmly invited, encouraged, and expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance will be important not only for your learning, but also for our ability to build a community together and maintain a sense of connection and commitment to one another and foster understanding across a range of perspectives. Your presence in class matters.

I recognize that there are unavoidable circumstances that sometimes make it impossible for you to attend class. If you will not be in class for any reason, it is your responsibility to inform me in advance via email. It is also your responsibility to make up work you missed in your absence. If you have accommodations, please discuss these with me early in the semester to work out a plan that aligns with maintaining course expectations and learning goals.

Participation* - Participation is distinct from attendance and is also an essential part of this course. In-class discussions, online discussion forums, responses to brief ungraded writing assignments, etc. will be factored into your participation grade. Engaging with the other individuals in class — including by helping to create an environment where all of us can learn and think well with one another — will also be factored into participation.

It is important to remember that we all have different styles of expression. If you have not been able to participate in a class discussion for any reason but want to demonstrate your active engagement, please send me an email after class with a comment or an idea you had that you would have liked to share, but were not able to do so during class.

This is an interactive course. Our days will be mostly oriented around in-class exercises and discussions. In this class, participation is defined as attending class regularly and on-time, asking questions, contributing to discussions, being prepared (this means doing the readings and exercises before coming to class) and generally being intellectually engaged in the material.

Students with any concerns, questions, or need for consideration for flexibility should connect with me as soon as possible to determine an appropriate plan.

*FOR SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS SEE “WHAT IS PARTICIPATION?” Slide in Moodle.

Academic Integrity – Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and dishonest. In this class you are expected to complete and turn in your own work and to follow established academic practices regarding proper use and citation of materials and ideas that are not your own. Engaging in cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in this class. More information is available about Macalester’s academic integrity policy in the Student Handbook (www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/).

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

Using AI can impede your learning. The assignments in this class challenge you to develop creativity, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills that AI does not have. Using AI technology could limit your capacity to do this type of work, and as the instructor, I urge you not to miss out on the educational opportunities that this course will provide. As is the case for all courses at Macalester College, work submitted by you for this class should reflect both your own ideas and your own language and you should properly cite any resources you have consulted. If you have any questions about citation or about what constitutes academic honesty in this course or at Macalester College in general, please feel free to raise these questions in class and/or contact me to discuss your concerns.

Health and Well-Being

Here at Macalester, you are encouraged to make your well-being a priority throughout this semester and your career here. Investing time into taking care of yourself will help you engage more fully in your academic experience. Remember that beyond being a student, you are a human being carrying your own experiences, thoughts, emotions, and identities with you. It is important to acknowledge any stressors you may be facing, which can be mental, emotional, physical, financial, etc., and how they can have an academic impact. I encourage you to remember that sleeping, moving your body, and connecting with others can be strategies to help you be resilient at Macalester. If you are having difficulties maintaining your well-being, please reach out to me or to the many resources available to you at Macalester.

Supporting Student Learning

In some circumstances, course design may pose barriers to a student's ability to access or demonstrate mastery of course content. If you are encountering barriers to your learning that I can help mitigate, please bring them to my attention. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Contact the Disability Services office by emailing disabilityresources@macalester.edu, or calling 651-696-6874 to schedule an appointment to discuss your individual needs. It is important to meet as early in the semester as possible; this will ensure that your accommodations can be implemented quickly.

Grading Scale – based on 900 points

100 = Landscapes of Resilience and Sustainability Analysis

100 = Discussion Leadership

150 = Group Project 1

Final paper = 100

Presentation = 50

150 = Group Project 2

Final Paper = 100

Presentation = 50

100 = Field Excursion Reflection Paper

150 = Portfolio

150 = Participation (including attendance, discussion, in-class assignments)

A = 94+

B+ = 87.0% - 89.9%;

C+ = 77.0% - 79.9%;

D+ = 67.0% - 69.9%;

A- = 90.0 – 93.9%

B = 83.0 – 86.9%;

C = 73.0 – 76.9%;

D = 63.0 – 66.9%;

B- = 80.0 - 82.9%

C- = 70.0 – 72.9%

D- = 60.0 – 62.9%

General Schedule: Dates are approximate – we will adjust as needed.

WEEK	DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS	DUE DATES
1	Sept 4	Welcome and Introductions		
	Sept 6	Topic: What is Resilience?	Adger, 2000 Diamond, 1995	
2	Sept 9	Topic: What is Sustainability?	Ruggerio 2021	
	Sept 11	Discussion 1: Case Studies	The Cod Delusion	
	Sept 13	Finish Discussion 1 In-Class Work Day for Group Projects		Turn-in Cod Discussion Notes Assign 1 st Group Project and Landscape Analysis
3 (Holly @ CSRS in Argentina)	Sept 16	Topic: What is Adaptation? Asynchronous – details provided in class	PRB 1 2023; PRB 2 2023	
	Sept 18	Project Workday: Please meet with your group and be prepared to give an update of your progress on Monday		
	Sept 20	Landscapes of Resilience and Sustainability Analysis Assignment		Landscapes of Resilience and Sustainability: An Analysis Assignment DUE SUNDAY at 11pm
4	Sept 23	Group Project Updates Topic: People Centered Framework for Climate Resilience	Review PRB readings	Group Project Update – your group should be prepared to give a 3-minute, verbal only, update in class
	Sept 25	Topic: Water	UN Water 2023	
	Sept 27	Discussion 2 (Student-led): Case Studies	UN Water 2023	
5	Sept 30	Topic: Water Management	Water = Wealth (see link in Moodle)	
	Oct 2	Discussion 3 (Student-led): Case Studies	Wines 2014	
	Oct 4	Project Workday		Project papers due on Friday by midnight
6	Oct 7	Project Presentations		Project presentation ppts due by 10am
	Oct 9	Project Presentations		
	Oct 11	Discussion 4: Discussion of Group Project Topics	Based on project discussion questions	
7	Oct 14	Guest Lecture: Professor Pankaj Kumar, Department of Geography Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi	Kumar 1 -Vulnerability ; Kumar et al. 2023	
	Oct 16	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>
	Oct 18	FALL BREAK (No Classes)		
8	Oct 21	Topic: Food Systems Resilience	Hodbod 2015	Assign 2 nd Group Project
	Oct 23*	Discussion 5 (Student-led): Case Studies	Bhattarai_2020 Nepal	
	Oct 25	Field trip preparation	Field Trip 12-6pm	
FIELD EXCURSION				

9	Oct 28	Topic: Agricultural Resilience	Worstell and Green 2017	
	Oct 30	Discussion 6 (Student-led): Case Studies	Davies 2021 Barriers in Africa	
	Nov 1	Topic: Cultural Resilience		
10	Nov 4	Topic: Community Resilience	Barcus & Trail-Johnson forthcoming	
	Nov 6	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>	<i>Independent work day / Mental health day</i>
	Nov 8	Guest Lecture: Yazidhi Bamutaze Professor: Department of Geography, Geo-Informatics and Climatic Sciences. Deputy Principal (2022-2026): College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Makerere Uni.	TBD	
11	Nov 11	In-class work day		Project papers due Tuesday by 11pm
	Nov 13	Project Presentations		Project presentations due by 10am
	Nov 15	Project Presentations		
12	Nov 18	Discussion 7: Project Presentations	Based on project discussion questions	Assign Portfolios
	Nov 20	Topic: Spiritual & Individual Resilience	TBD	
	Nov 22	Guest Lecture: Reverend Kelly Stone, Macalester College	TBD	
13	Nov 25	In-Class Portfolio Workday		
	Nov 27	THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASSES)		
	Nov 29			
14	Dec 2	Topic: Climate Change and Resilience 1	Sattler 2021	
	Dec 4	Topic: Climate Change and Resilience 2	van Aalst 2023	
	Dec 6	Discussion 8 (Student-led): Case Studies	Metcalf 2021	
15	Dec 9	In-class Portfolio Workday		Portfolios Due at Midnight
	Dec 11	Last Discussion (9) & Reflection		
FINAL EXAM	MON Dec 16	MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8-10 AM		

*Midterm grades due Oct 23