

**V36.0101**  
**Environment and Society**  
**Summer 2008**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys social aspects of the relationship between human beings and the non-human world. Through an exploration of historical and contemporary debates, we will consider the many ways that the relationship between nature and society can be conceptualized and politicized. We will further consider the stakes of various ideas about nature and society.

Three analytical questions will guide our inquiry:

- How do ideas and knowledge about the environment vary across time and place?
- How have ideas about the environment and society developed in relation to historic, economic, and political processes?
- How are environmental problems and solutions articulated, and by whom?