ENVS/GEOL 394  
NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE WEST: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
Fall 2014 Syllabus

Instructors:
Dr. Tamera Minnick, Environmental Science, 248-1663, tminnick@ColoradoMesa.edu, Wubben 223F  
Dr. Gigi Richard, Geology, 248-1689, grichard@ColoradoMesa.edu, Wubben 223C

Schedule:  
Lectures: M 4 – 5:30 pm, WS 141

Course Summary: The class will meet once per week for one and a half hours. Class meetings will also be open to the public to encourage discussion and exposure to different perspectives. Students are required to attend all classes and participate in discussion.

In the western United States, we have historically had an abundance of natural resources – land, water, soil, minerals, energy, plants and animals. As population grows and our use of resources increases, sustainable management of those resources become critical. Resource management includes activities such as land use planning, water management, biodiversity conservation and managing the sustainability of agriculture, tourism, recreation, mining, fisheries, drilling and forestry. The sciences, including social, biological, environmental and physical sciences, play a key role in informing decision and policy making related to our natural resources. Resource use, extraction, consumption and disposal all impact our natural environment and science can play an important role in monitoring the physical, environmental and social impacts. This semester we will focus on the role that science plays in managing our natural resources, from economics related to resource management of the Grand Canyon to impacts of cattle grazing.

Learning Objectives:  
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:
- Demonstrate an understanding of terminology, concepts, theories, and practices in environmental science. (Specialized knowledge)
- Identify and evaluate assumptions, hypotheses, alternative views on environmental problems, then articulate implications and form conclusions. (Critical thinking)

Evaluation:
Grading will be entirely based on attendance and participation in discussion.

Letter grades will be assigned using the standard scale: A 90-100%; B 80-89%; C 70-79%; D 60-69%; F< 60%

Web Page: Information about the class and changes to the schedule will be posted on the course web page which will be accessible through the instructor’s home-page:

http://home.ColoradoMesa.edu/~grichard/

Academic accommodation for students with disabilities: In coordination with Educational Access Services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Students must register with the EAS office to receive assistance. Please meet with the instructor the first week of class for information and/or contact Dana VandeBurgt, the Coordinator of Educational Access Services, directly by phone at 248-1801, or in person in Houston Hall, Suite 108.