

ESRM 301

Midterm Examination:

Distributed February 1, 2007

Due February 6, 2007 (12:30 PM)

Overview

Your task is to tie together everything that we have read, seen, heard and discussed over the first five weeks of the quarter. But, you have to do this “tying together” in an essay that cannot exceed 1000 words¹. It should be submitted in a format like you have been asked to use for the reading reports (so see the instructions again). It is CRITICAL that you cite from all aspects of the course (presentations, field visits, and reading and writing assignments) though not necessarily from each and every lecture or reading.

Also, please refer to the following definition in your essay:

Adaptive Management: “A *systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of previously employed policies and practices*” (source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report – but you can just cite it from ESRM 301).

Essay Topic

Write an essay, not to exceed 1000 words and using accurate and abundant references to specific class sessions (T-W-Th) as well as the reading/writing assignments, that addresses the following:

Over the past five weeks we have read about, visited, or heard from presenters about new models or approaches to maintaining urban nature, urban ecology or green infrastructure.

Describe, and compare and contrast, at least two examples of approaches. Be sure that your essay:

- States and explains why you think that urban nature/ecology approaches are (or aren't) now considered “new innovations.”
- Explains why such approaches didn't just become “standard operating practices” as cities grew and landscapes were converted to urban.
- Formally uses concepts from the class to explain your prognosis for approaches like you have used as examples.
- Clearly indicates whether or not the approaches (or ones like them) will be widely adopted or if they will continue to be applied in a very limited way.
- Addresses the conditions or dynamics that are likely to influence adoption (consider things such as values, economics, functionality, or ??).

Further Considerations

An evaluation rubric is forthcoming but please realize that your grade will depend on your

- Thorough attention to the task and prompt as described above.
- Formal, accurate, abundant and quality use of the course materials in your essay.
- The total clarity, logic and readability of your essay.

Remember that while your Reading Reports seek to tell the reader what a collection of writings have to say about a particular topic (the prompt) this midterm examination essay seeks to tie together the first half of the course using the particular topic (prompt) as a vehicle to do so.

¹ To get a sense of how much/little space you have to work with consider that an op-ed in the newspaper is usually limited to about 750 words (so read an op-ed and contemplate that you have only 1/3 more room than it's author had).