Hello gCORE (Conceptualizing Our Regional Environment) Students!

Welcome to the 36th cohort of the Master of Environmental Studies Program at The Evergreen State College!

We’re writing with a few details about the upcoming quarter.

We have a **required MES orientation** on Monday, September 23, 9:30am – 5:00pm. We’ll meet in the Seminar 2 Building, Room E1105. (Seminar 2 is to the right of the “Bus Loop” on the enclosed campus map.) You should have received details about orientation in a previous email and letter—please contact Andrea Martin at [martina@evergreen.edu](mailto:martina@evergreen.edu) if you missed them to make sure you get future communications. We will distribute the syllabus for gCORE at orientation.

We have a **required three-day field trip to the Olympic Peninsula** from the morning of Thursday, October 10 to the early evening of Saturday, October 12. There will be an additional course fee of $200 for the overnight trip that will cover all transportation, lodging, and food expenses and will be assessed with your tuition. Although we recognize that field trips require a significant investment of money and time, the consistent feedback from previous MES cohorts is that these field trips are an invaluable opportunity to explore the Pacific Northwest, understand key ecosystems and environmental issues in our region, and build a strong learning community. We will be staying in dorms at the Olympic Natural Research Center in Forks, Washington, for both nights

Our **first class meeting** (also required :-) is Tuesday, October 1, 6pm-10pm, in Seminar 2, C1105. Prior to class, you are invited to a “Welcome/Welcome Back” potluck for all MES students at 5pm in the next-door classroom, C1107.

We will hit the ground running on the first day of class with a seminar on **Donella Meadows, *Thinking in Systems***. Here’s the complete list of **gCORE textbooks** in order of appearance:

Donella Meadows, Thinking in Systems (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2008).

Wayne C. Booth et al., *The Craft of Research*, Fourth Edition (University of Chicago Press, 2016).

Charles Wilkinson, *Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2005).

Eugene Bardach and Eric Patashnik, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis,* Fifth Edition (Sage, 2016).

CHECK EDITIONS!

This list will also be available at <https://www.evergreen-greener-bookstore.com>. (My apologies for sending the wrong link in the summer letter.) Books can be purchased from any bookstore--but make sure to get the appropriate edition. You can also rent books from the Greener Store or check them out from the Evergreen Library through interlibrary loan.

Additional readings, as assigned, will be posted on our Canvas site, which is an online course management system. We will email via the Canvas site with updates as we approach the first day of class.

We’re looking forward to meeting each of you at orientation and working with you this quarter in gCORE!

Kevin Francis

Shawn Hazboun

E. J. Zita