

# ESP 802 - Human Systems and Environment

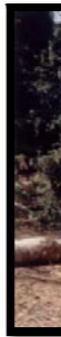
## Thursdays - 9:10 am-12:00 pm - 273 Giltner Hall

### Open to all graduate students

What are the underlying human drivers of Environmental Degradation and Change?  
How do we shape appropriate policy responses?

Topics to be addressed:

- 1) Social science tool-kit: Discounting, marginalist thinking, and optimality
- 2) Externalities
- 3) Property rights and the Tragedy of the Commons
- 4) Valuing the environment
- 5) Malthus and the Population Debate
- 6) Social Theory and the Environment
- 7) Environmental Law



Deforestation site in the Amazon.

Addressing environmental problems requires an understanding of the underlying social forces that give rise to the problems in the first place. This course will provide an overview of the major models that have been advanced by social scientists to explain environmental problems occurring throughout the world, and from global to local scale.

The course will provide both an analytical framework and exposure to the substantive ideas about how and why environmental problems occur. It is designed to be accessible to motivated graduate students from both the natural and social sciences.

An override is needed to enroll.  
Contact [espp@msu.edu](mailto:espp@msu.edu) or (517) 432-8296.

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