READINGS FOR ESPM 226

1/25/13 - Week 1 – Introduction to the Course

Discussion reading:
http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol17/iss14/art44/


2/1/13 - Week 2: Vulnerability

Discussion reading:


Background reading:


Note: WA Adgers is a leading vulnerability researcher.

2/8/13 - Week 3 – Ecosystem Resilience and Natural Capital

Discussion reading:
Background readings:


(See also, as needed, Background Readings: Ecology of Ecosystem Services, What are Ecosystem Services)

2/15/13 – Week 4 – Salinas Vulnerability Project

Discussion reading:


Background reading:

2/22/2013 Week 5: Human resilience / social and financial capital

Discussion readings: (choose two of these readings or you can find better readings)


Background readings:

3/1/2013 week 6: Perceptions and behavior regarding agricultural risks and uncertainties

Discussion readings: (choose 2 out of these, or add better readings you can find)


Background readings:
There is a huge literature on risk perceptions and responses to risk. Below are examples from several schools of risk research:

1. Psychometric approach:

2. Social approach:

3. Cultural cognitive approach:
see: [http://www.culturalcognition.net/](http://www.culturalcognition.net/)

3/8/13 Week 7 - Ecosystem services – part 1- Different forms of agriculture present different risks for loss or maintenance of ecosystem services, and different risk exposures for growers

**Student topics:** Exploring ecosystem services that are inputs to farming (perhaps compare and contrast pest control vs pollination services in risk exposure generated by different farming practices, with one student doing pollination and the other pest control)

**Discussion reading:**
Kremen, C. and A. Miles. 2012. “Ecosystem Services in Biologically Diversified versus Conventional Farming
Background readings:

For both students:

For the student doing Pest Control:


For the student doing Pollination Services:


3/15/13 – Week 8 - Ecosystem services -- part 2 -- How different forms of agriculture influence the mitigation of environmental externalities or reduce risks / promote adaptation to climate change

Student topics: One student could examine externalities (risks to others) such as nutrient run-off, GHG emission, and how different farming systems mitigate these risks. Another student could examine how
different farming systems mitigate the risk to the farmer from environmental disturbances, like climate change, or flooding.

**Discussion reading:**

**Background readings:**
*Both students:*

*Student doing risks to others:*


**Student doing climate change:**


(See also Background Readings: Ecology of Ecosystem Services; Agricultural Sustainability – and, for papers specific to flood or climate risks in California – our Salinas Project list)

**3/22/2013 Week 9: Farmer resilience and vulnerability in the face of risks: ability to adapt/cope**


**Discussion readings:** (choose 2 out of these, or add better readings you can find)


**Background readings:**

**4/5/2013 Week 10: Supply chain effects on agricultural risks and uncertainties**

Possible student topics: Risks and uncertainties associated with markets including commodity price dynamics and international trade. Risks and the agri-food industry including retailer and processing company sourcing decisions, sharing of risks across supply chains, price-setting power, buyer-dominated commodity chains.

**Discussion readings:** (choose 2 out of these, or add better readings you can find)


**Background readings:**


**4/12/2013 – Week 11 – Land sparing versus Land sharing: Debate about how different broad agricultural land management strategies affect the risk of biodiversity loss.**
Discussion reading:

Background Readings:


4/19/2013 Week 12: Approaches to dealing with vulnerability: food sovereignty, sustainable intensification; also, working on class project

Discussion readings: (choose 2 out of these, or add better readings you can find)


See also: http://www.julespretty.com/Sustainable_Ecological_Agri.html