

Week 1 Writing Assignment: gCORE

Due Thursday Sept. 29th in class

We are planning to discuss two scientific papers on Thursday in class. One of the papers is an empirical study (Battin et al. 2007) and the other is more of a review paper (Bachelet et al. 2011). Please take notes on your reactions to each paper as you read it. Notice how the structure of the two papers differs and how they are similar.

We hope you will learn to read critically throughout this program. Firstly, it is your responsibility to look up words and concepts that are unfamiliar to you. Please dedicate enough time to this process that you feel comfortable with these two papers. It may be helpful to take notes as you read, writing down questions you have as they arise. Please write a 1-page response paper (you will need to be concise) that does the following:

1. Reflect on your experiences reading these two papers briefly. How did you react to readings? What did you learn from each? How were they different?
2. In your estimation, from your reading of the two papers, which of the main findings of each is the most important to the program themes, or to your own work in environmental science? Say why.
3. Among the various claims the author(s) makes, state one with which you find fault or that you find particularly good. Say how you might counter or help support his or her claim.
4. Articulate one question from each reading that you would like to discuss in seminar.