

**Instructor.** Professor Jessica L. Green ([jlgreen@uoregon.edu](mailto:jlgreen@uoregon.edu))

**Instructor office:** 301 Pacific Hall

**Instructor office hours.** Weds. 9-11 and by appointment

**Lecture time.** Monday and Wednesdays, 2 – 3:20

**Lecture room.** 242 Gerlinger

**Teaching assistant.** Holly Arnold ([holly.k.arnold@gmail.com](mailto:holly.k.arnold@gmail.com))

**Discussion section times.** Tuesday 9-9:50, 10 – 10:50, 11 – 11:50

**Discussion section room.** 111 Huestis

**Teaching assistant office.** TBD.

**Teaching assistant office hours.** TBD.

**Course website:** <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>



*Gustav Klimt*

**Course Philosophy and Goals.** This course will provide a novel, and hopefully fun, way of learning about how and why life is distributed across the surface of the Earth. We will learn about biodiversity through a combination of reading, writing and discussion. My goal is that by the end of the course, all students will be able to digest and articulate the salient points of a scientific article on biodiversity. Equipped with these skills, students will be adept at making informed decisions relevant to science policy. My approach throughout the course will be to teach, rather than lecture. Students will be expected to participate in the learning process during class sessions. Adjustments will be made to the following outline based on the needs of the class as we progress.

**Readings.** The primary text for the course is:

Chivian E. & Bernstein A. (eds.) 2008. *Sustaining life: how human health depends on biodiversity*. Oxford University Press, Inc., New York.

A significant portion of the course will be centered on reading journal articles relevant to the topics covered in the text. These readings will be uploaded onto blackboard one week prior to the class lecture when we will discuss the articles.

**Homework.** Approximately seven homework assignments will be due in this course. Assignments are due before the beginning of class.

**Exams.** There will be one in class midterm 5.2.2012 and one take home final posted 6.6.2012 (due 6.8.2012).

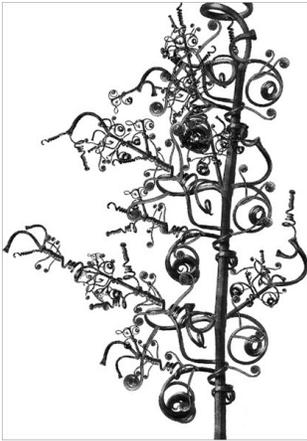
**Ideas project.** Each student will contribute to one Ideas project during the course of the term. The goal of these projects is to provide a multi-dimensional venue for engaging in intellectual discourse with your peers throughout the term. Projects will be centered on the following topics: 1) threats to biodiversity, 2) ecosystem services, 3) medicines from nature, 4) biodiversity and biomedical research, 5) biodiversity and the built environment, 6)

threatened groups of organisms, and 7) conserving biodiversity. Each project will be carried out by a team of five students: 2 science bloggers, 2 public speakers, and 1 “synthesizer”. Discussion sections will be a key time dedicated to the Ideas Projects. Students will be assigned to their project teams during discussion section Week 1; the first project will commence Week 3. Projects will require collaboration and independent work, and will be graded on both criteria. Details on Ideas Projects will be posted on the course blackboard site.

**Grade determination.** Your final grade will be based on  $\frac{1}{4}$  homework,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Ideas project,  $\frac{1}{4}$  midterm and  $\frac{1}{4}$  final exam.

**Cell phones.** All portable electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class.

**Academic Conduct.** Academic integrity is the foundation of an academic community and without it none of the educational or research goals of the university can be achieved. All members of the university community are responsible for its academic integrity. Existing policies forbid cheating on examinations, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Please refamiliarize yourself with the definitions of cheating and plagiarism (see the “about cheating” section at



[http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student\\_judi\\_affairs](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs)). If you have doubts or questions about acceptable conduct in any situation, I encourage you to discuss the situation with me in advance. University rules on academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

*blog.metaphorical.net*