ESM 202 Biogeochemical Principles

DISCUSSIONS

Objectives:

To encourage you to
- read scientific literature related to environmental science and policy;
- be able to summarize it to a general audience;
- use the terminology we are presenting in class;
- form a critical assessment of published information;
- talk to others about these issues in the context of a guided discussion.

Mechanics:

1) You will pick a topic the first week (give us your top three choices by writing in your initials and a 1, 2 or 3 afterwards, e.g. AK1, AK2, AK3).

2) We will inform you soon after which topic you have been selected to present.

3) Browse, through the UCSB Library, the top journals in this area (e.g. Science, Nature, Environmental Science & Technology, Biogeochemical Cycles, Water Resources Research, Groundwater, Journal of Am Water Resources Association, J Air & Waste Mgmt Association, J Industrial Ecology, J Environmental Mgmt, etc.) for articles related to the topic.

4) Pick one or two articles. If you need help narrowing it down, talk to John or Arturo, at least a week before your presentation.

5) Read it carefully and summarize it in brief written notes for yourself. Do NOT read directly from the paper...

6) Your presentation will be 5 minutes maximum. No PowerPoints. If you need to present a graphic, draw it on the board or make an overhead. We need to keep it short so everyone has a chance to present and discuss the paper. You are not an expert, so don’t feel you need to defend the paper. Feel free to ask us questions about the paper if something is confusing.

7) Bring the paper to discussion. Before you present it, tells us the title and main authors, as well as the journal.

8) Be prepared to ask questions to others about their presentations. Participation is part of your grade.