Course Syllabus
Spring 2004

Resilience Seminar
(cross listed as 692BIO; Anthro, Econ, and NRM)
Offered Spring semester
Open to first-year IGERT students only
Instructor: Gary Kofinas
Assistant Professor
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ELIGIBLE: Incoming students of the Resilience and Adaptation Graduate Program or by
permission of the instructor. The Spring Resilience Seminar is offered as part two after the Fall
Resilience Seminar which proceeds it.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the Spring Resilience Seminar is to provide a forum for first year
students of the Resilience and Adaptation Graduate Program to explore issues of sustainability
and interdisciplinary studies. A considerable portion of the seminar is student directed, with
support from the instructor. Two objectives focus the activities of the Spring Resilience Seminar
1) planning for the Resilience Internship and 2) preparing and presenting a thesis prospectus.

TOPIC AREAS: The Spring Resilience Seminar serves as a forum for discussions on a range of
topics related to the topics of sustainability and methods of interdisciplinary studies. Several of
the topics included:

- Working with your thesis supervisor and committee to achieve
  interdisciplinary success
- What is science? Induction? deduction? and abduction?
- General introduction to qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Survey research methods for public policy questions
- Synthesis
- Writing a research prospectus
- Planning the internship – making contact, learning contracts,
  documentation
- Using qualitative research software
- Writing Grants

ACTIVITIES AND METHODS: Students meet once a week, from 1-3 on Wednesdays to discuss
topics and readings, address individual and common questions, and meet with invited speakers.
Once each month the group meets with all students of the Resilience and Adaptation Program to
hear from guest lectures and discussion key topics.

KEY ASSIGNMENTS: Students undertake reading assignments and present material to the
group. Each student takes responsibility for one of the classes and coordinates the discussions
and other related activities.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Readings will be identified and provided by the instructor,
student leaders, and guests
EVALUATION: Evaluation will be based on level and quality of each student's participation, and each student's role in organizing and leading seminar activities. Grades will be Pass or Fail.