

Kunzig – “Population 7 Billion”

- Be able to explain *in detail* why the growing world population poses environmental concerns.
 - Know some of the causes Kunzig notes of the population boom in *now* developed countries the 19th century—causes that still explain the growth in developing countries today.
 - Understand the *two* common economic effects that the end of a population boom entails.
 - What are some of the alternatives that countries like China and India have instituted to curtail the problems of population growth—and what are some of the drawbacks to these policies?
 - Be able to explain some of the possible solutions to curb population growth discussed here.
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United Nations – “U.N. Secretary-General Announces New Sustainable Development Initiative”

- Be able to recite the *three* general goals of the new sustainable development initiative, which are mentioned here (albeit only briefly).
 - Explain what the role of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network is, and *how* it will strive to help countries achieve sustainable development.
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Harris – “Rio Environment Meeting Focuses On ‘Energy For All’” (podcast)

- Know how poverty, consumption of resources, and the effects of climate change are related.
 - Be able to explain the *three* chief goals of the *Sustainable Energy For All* initiative.
 - What is primary reason why Christian Bach is skeptical that these goals can be achieved?
 - Also, make the connection: how does this initiative challenge the conventional climate debate and efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change?
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Forero – “Hungry For Energy, Brazil Builds Monster Dams in the Amazon” (podcast)

- What are the causes driving the construction of these large hydro-electric dams in Brazil, and how many dams will be necessary to accommodate the growing demand for electricity?
 - What are the *three* causes for concern with the construction of these dams that Forero notes?
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Arrow et al. – “Economic Growth, Carrying Capacity, and the Environment”

- Explain how, according to conventional belief, economic growth is supposed to lead to greater environmental protections.
- Be able to articulate some of the *seven* objections that the authors level against this conventional belief—why is it that they reject this alleged correlation between economic growth and environmental quality?
- What do Arrow et al. claim is necessary for human activities and, thus, for economic growth to be sustainable?
- How do they think that we should understand environmental sustainability? Be specific.

Daly – “Sustainable Growth: An Impossibility Theorem”

- According to Daly, what is the difference between growth and development?
 - And how does Daly use this distinction to criticize the concept of “sustainable growth?”
 - Be able to explain the other *two* reasons why Daly rejects any talk of “sustainable growth.”
 - Given this critical understanding of sustainable growth, why is it necessary to achieve sustainable development—and how can sustainable development be achieved?
 - How does Daly think global poverty can be alleviated (there are *three* necessary components)?
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Hardin – “Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor”

- Explain Hardin’s lifeboat metaphor, what the example is actually intended to illustrate, and also the *three* options that Hardin claims those in the boat have with regard to those in the sea.
 - What is Hardin’s explicit justification for rejecting initiatives aimed at aiding the poor, like the world food bank?
 - Understand Hardin’s notion of the *tragedy of the commons*—and, more importantly, how this notion pertains to his argument against having the rich share their resources with the poor.
 - What is Hardin’s justification for restricting the flow of immigrants to developed countries, and how does he compare the effects of unrestricted migration to the effects of international food aid programs (like the world food bank initiative)?
 - Be prepared to explain whether or not (and why!) you agree with Hardin’s analysis and the policy implications of his position.
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UNESCO – “Responsibilities of the Present Generations Towards Future Generations”

- Be able to explain *in detail* some of the 14+ responsibilities outlined in this declaration.
 - Also, be prepared to critically defend the plausibility or implausibility of these responsibilities to future generations. (Does it make sense to worry about the welfare of future generations when the needs and interests of many of the *living* are not met—shouldn’t we be focusing on improving/protecting the needs and interests of *current* generations?)
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Dobson – “Environmental Citizenship: Towards Sustainable Development”

- What are the *two* primary objections that Dobson has to relying on fiscal incentives to motivate individuals to act in more environmentally sustainable ways?
In other words, what are the weaknesses with promoting more environmentally sustainable behavior by imposing positive or negative financial incentives?
- Explain what Dobson means by environmental citizenship (there are *four* specific components to this notion)—and how this approach is fundamentally different than using fiscal incentives.
- Know what we mean by “ecological footprint,” and how this directly relates to the responsibilities that ‘environmental citizens’ have.
- Lastly, be able to explain how Dobson suggests that we practically foster a greater sense of environmental citizenship.