

SEFS 572 – Spring 2026

Social Ecological Systems

Theories, Methods, and Applications

Instructor: Alex McInturff

Details: 3 credits, M/W 1:00 – 2:20



MyPlan Link:



Course description

How do society and the environment interact? Are they distinct, linked, or a single system? How can social-ecological connections improve research and management? In this seminar, we will explore questions like these through the lens of social-ecological systems (SES) research. This rapidly growing interdisciplinary field provides theories and methods for addressing the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. Through reading, discussion, application to students' research, and a targeted writing project, students will leave this course with a robust conceptual and practical SES toolkit.

Course goals

- Learn foundational SES theories and methods
- Apply concepts to your study system
- Meet thesis goals through targeted writing

Please contact Alex McInturff (amcintur@uw.edu) with any questions or to receive a course code