Sociology 3480: Environmental Sociology

Syllabus and Course Outline

Summer 2010, Section 001
Soc 3480 sect001 (class number 8106) Soc 380 sect001 (class number 8463)

Instructor: Jennifer Givens
Class Meetings: Summer 2010 Session ONE: May 17th-June 23rd 2010
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:45-11:35, BEH S, room 110
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:35-12:35, BEH S, room 418, and by appointment
Email: jennifer.givens@soc.utah.edu

Required Text:

Recommended (you do NOT have to purchase these):

1. Objectives
The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the field of environmental sociology and discover how the study of society illuminates environmental issues. The course will make use of sociological analysis to examine timely environmental problems and their impacts on people and populations. Some of the topics include the environment and its links to public health, famine, disease, access to food, water, and other resources, migration and urbanization, technology, biodiversity, education, economic development, population growth, and national security and global stability. The course will cover these issues from the local to global level.

A main component of this course involves watching the excellent PBS series Journey to Planet Earth. This series, narrated by Matt Damon, explores “the fragile relationship between people and the world they inhabit.” Students will be able to watch these episodes online on the course WebCT site, or at the Marriott Library. Learn more about the series at http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/about/index.html

2. Grading Procedures
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on two exams, one quiz, ten short assignments on the readings and the videos, and a discussion leader presentation. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course. The two exams will consist of multiple choice, true-false type and short answer questions. Each exam is worth 100 points. The quiz is worth 10 points and will be given before the first exam so students will have an idea of the type of questions to expect on the exam. The weekly assignments are worth 10 points each for a total of 100 points. Your overall participation including your presentation as discussion leader is worth 90 points. This all adds up to a grand total of 400 points.
The following schedule will be used to determine grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>372-400</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>292-307</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>360-371</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>280-291</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>348-359</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>268-279</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>332-347</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>252-267</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>320-331</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>240-251</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>308-319</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>0-239</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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3. Important Dates
- Exam #1 – Wednesday June 2, 2010
- Exam #2 – Wednesday June 23, 2010

4. Ten Assignments
There will be 10 homework assignments worth 10 points each during the course which will require you to respond to questions about the assigned films or readings. These should be approximately one page typed and will be turned in at the beginning of the class on the due date.
(10 x 10 = 100 points)

5. Quiz and Exams
One quiz will be given before the first exam so that students will have an idea of the types of questions to expect on the exam.
(1 x 10 = 10 points)

The two exams will consist of multiple choice, true-false type and short answer questions and will cover the assigned readings and Journey to Planet Earth videos and any additional materials noted by the instructor. Each exam is worth 100 points.
(2 x 100 = 200 points total)

6. Discussion Leader Presentation and Participation
Each student will be expected to take the role of discussion leader either alone or with a partner during the session. Students will summarize the day’s readings and pose discussion questions.
(90 points)

7. Learning Environment and Testing
Environmental concerns and their links to societal concerns is a timely topic. I will strive to make the course interesting and useful experience for the participants. We will discuss the issues in global and local terms. We will create a positive learning environment for all students.

8. Student Code
All students are expected to maintain respectful and professional behavior in the classroom setting. Appropriate behavioral guidelines are spelled out in the student code found in the student handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the code. The code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the responsibility of the faculty to enforce responsible classroom behaviors. Violations of the student code may result in a written warning, dismissal from the class, a failing grade, or dismissal from the university. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavioral Committee.
ADA NOTICE: University guidelines for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternate format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.”
Course Outline for Environmental Sociology

This is a basic outline of the episodes and readings covered to help you keep track of what is due and when it is due. Note that the episodes of *Journey to Planet Earth* are **not in order** on the website, therefore, make sure you check the schedule below for which episode is due that week. Thanks.

May 17: Intro to Environmental Sociology: what is environmental sociology?

May 19: Theories in Environmental Sociology

May 21: Due: response to episode 1, Rivers of Destiny and Gould & Lewis 1-3

May 24: Due: response to episode 2, The Urban Explosion and Gould and Lewis 4-5

May 26: Due: response to episode 3, Land of Plenty Land of Want and Gould and Lewis 6-7

May 28: Quiz
Due: response to episode 4, On the Brink and Gould and Lewis 8-9

June 2: EXAM 1

June 4: Due: response to episode 5, Hot Zones and Gould and Lewis 10-11

June 7: Due: response to episode 6, Seas of Grass and Gould and Lewis 12-13

June 9: Due: response to episode 7, Future Conditional and Gould and Lewis 14-15

June 11: Due: response to episode 8, State of the Planet and Gould and Lewis 16-17

June 14: Due: response to episode 9, State of the Planet's Wildlife and Gould and Lewis 18-19

June 16: Due: response to episode 10, State of the Ocean's Animals and Gould and Lewis 20

June 21: catch-up and review

June 23: EXAM 2

*Schedule may be subject to change.
*Please note there is NO comprehensive Final Exam in this course
*Additional information will be provided on WebCT and in class.