1. Objectives
The primary goal of this online course is to familiarize students with the field of environmental sociology and discover how the study of sociology illuminates environmental issues. The course will make use of sociological analysis to examine 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 global to local level.

A main component of this online course involves 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.” Learn more about the series at [http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/about/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/about/index.html)

Each week students will complete the assigned readings and view one digitized episode of the Journey to Planet Earth series online via the course WebCT website (students may also watch the DVD version at the media center in the Marriott Library). Students will participate in discussion postings, take quizzes and tests, and submit assignments online.

2. Grading Procedures
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on two exams, one quiz, ten weekly postings on the readings and the videos, and a final paper. There is no comprehensive final exam in this course; the first exam will cover the material from the first 6 weeks of class, the second exam will cover the material covered in the second half of class. 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. 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. An additional participation grade will be given out of 10 points. The final paper is worth 80 points for 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>
</table>

3. Important Dates

Exam #1 – week of 10/5 (Episodes 1-5 and assigned readings)
Paper due: week of 11/30
Exam #2 – week of 12/7 (Episodes 6-10 and assigned readings)

4. Weekly Assignments

There will be 10 discussion questions requiring weekly postings to be posted on the WebCT discussion boards. I will post each week discussion questions by Monday mornings. Each week’s post should begin with a very brief summary of the readings and then respond to the questions by discussing both that week’s readings and video. You are expected to respond at least twice weekly, with original thoughts by Wednesday (by midnight) and one comment on another classmate’s post by Saturday (by midnight). Postings are required by Wednesday at midnight to give students several days to read each other’s posts and respond by midnight Saturday. The first posting of the week should respond to all elements of the prompt and/or question. The second, response posting should not simply be “I agree” but should extend the conversation in a meaningful way, either by providing additional examples or evidence for the point, by disagreeing respectfully and providing reasons why, by posing additional questions and ideas to consider, etc. More specific instructions will be posted on the course WebCT website. Responses will be graded from 0-10 points per week, with approximately 5 for the first post and 5 for the second. (10 x 10 = 100 points, plus 10 additional participation 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 and also to become familiar with the online format. The quiz and the exams will be taken online. (Students who would like to take quizzes and exams at the testing center should email me in advance to make arrangements.) (1 x 10 = 10 points)

The first exam will cover the material from the first 6 weeks of class, the second exam will cover the material covered in the second half of class; there is no comprehensive final exam in this course. 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. Paper

A final 4-6 page paper will be due in which a student will look more deeply into one of several suggested topics of interest. More details and instructions will be posted on WebCT. (80 points)

7. Learning Environment and Testing
I love learning and I enjoy transferring this enthusiasm to students in the classroom – whether that classroom is physical or online. I will strive to make the course interesting and useful. I am excited about the potential for learning that online education provides. I would ask that we all plan ahead so that we can avoid last minute technical difficulties. That being said, I would also ask that we are all patient should technical difficulties arise.

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.

**Week of August 24:** First week of class. Please post a brief introduction to the discussion section, introducing yourself to me and the rest of the class, by Friday. More details about what to include in this posting are on the course WebCT website.
Watch episode 1, Rivers of Destiny, of the PBS series Journey to Planet Earth.
(There is no assigned reading until the third week of class. I would encourage students to use the first two weeks to begin the readings early.)

**Week of August 31:** Original post for episode 1 due by Wednesday, one comment on another post by Saturday.
(Always see WebCT for the weekly discussion prompt and/or questions.)

**Week of September 7:** Readings due: Bell chapter 1, Gould & Lewis article 3 pp. 25-43.
Original post for episode 2 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of September 14:** Readings due: Bell chapters 2 & 3, Gould and Lewis articles 4 & 5
Original post for episode 3 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of September 21:** Quiz on previous week’s readings
Readings due: Bell chapter 4, Gould and Lewis articles 6 & 7
Original post for episode 4 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of September 28:** Readings due: Bell chapter 5, Gould and Lewis articles 11, 12 &14
Original post for episode 5 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of October 5:** EXAM 1

**Week of October 12:** FALL BREAK!

**Week of October 19:** Readings due: Bell chapter 6, Foster chapters 1-4 (Foster is a quick read.)
Original post for episode 6 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of October 26:** Readings due: Bell chapter 7, Foster chapters 5-7
Original post for episode 7 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of November 2:** Readings due: Bell chapter 8, Gould and Lewis article 15
Original post for episode 8 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of November 9:** Readings due: Bell chapter 9, Gould and Lewis articles 17 &18
Original post for episode 9 and readings due by Wed, one comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of November 16:** Readings due: 10 &11, Gould and Lewis article 20
Original post for episode 10 and readings due by Wed, comment on another post by Sat.

**Week of November 23:** THANKSGIVING WEEK
Week for catch-up in case of technical difficulties and final paper conferences

**Week of November 30:** Final paper due Friday Dec. 4th by midnight.

**Week of December 7:** 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.