Sociology 3480: Environmental Sociology
Spring 2011, Section 070, class number 15842, 3 credits

Syllabus and Course Outline

Instructor: Jennifer Givens, M.S. M.Ed.
Class Meetings: Tuesdays 6-8:45 at the Sandy Campus
Office Hours: by email and by appointment before and after class or at the main campus at 418 BEH S
Email: jennifer.givens@soc.utah.edu

Required Text:
And choose ONE of the following: (see info on welcome doc)
Foster, The Vulnerable Planet, Monthly Review Press, 1999, 9781583670194 or 1583670194
Evans, ed. Livable Cities: Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability, University of California Press, 2002
Davis, When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution, 2002
Burke and Pomeranz, ed. The Environment and World History, University of California Press, 2009
Auyero and Swistun, Environmental Suffering in an Argentine Shantytown, Oxford University Press 2009

Course Summary
This course studies the environment from a sociological perspective. What are the links between society and the environment? How does the study of sociology help illuminate environmental problems, concerns, and the framing of discussions? The course covers topics from the local to global, with an emphasis on the global. Topics include global climate change, public health, famine, and disease, access to food and food production, water issues, migration, urbanization, globalization, technology, biodiversity, education, economic development, population growth, national security and global stability, and the media.

A main component of this online course involves the 10 episode PBS series Journey to Planet Earth. This series, narrated by Matt Damon, explores “the fragile relationship between people and the world they inhabit.” Each episode explores a global problem and how it plays out in four locations. Countries profiled include Bangladesh, Brazil, China, France, Haiti, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Peru, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Learn more about the series at http://www.pbs.org/journeytoplanetearth/about/index.html Each week students will complete the assigned readings and/or view one 50 minute 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 Marriot Library). Students will submit all assignments and tests online.

Course Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:
- Understand how the sociological perspective illuminates discussions of the environment.
- Be familiar with specific areas of study within environmental sociology.
- Understand the global nature and impacts of environmental problems and circumstances.
- Understand theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
- Identify specific forms of environmentalism and understand how these, combined with theoretical perspectives, frame environmental debates.

Teaching and Learning Methods
Class discussion of the readings and films is the primary mode of instruction, supplemented by lecture. You must stay caught up with the readings and films to do well in this class. Please contact me immediately should problems arise so
we can discuss your options. The study of the environment is a timely topic. I will strive to make the course interesting and useful. I enjoy learning, teaching, and transferring this enthusiasm to students in the classroom – whether that classroom is physical or online and I am excited about the potentials of online education.

Evaluation Methods and Criteria
The final course grade will be determined by your performance on two exams, one quiz, eleven 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 110 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>
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<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>
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Weekly Assignments
There will be 11 discussion questions requiring weekly postings to be posted on the WebCT discussion boards. You will post your comments on that week’s readings before the first class of the week; this will help stimulate productive discussion in class.

(11 x 10 = 110 points)

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)

Paper
A final 4-5 page paper will be due in which a student will look more deeply into a specific topic of interest by reviewing the most recently published material on the topic. More details and instructions will be posted on WebCT.

(80 points)
Faculty and Student Responsibilities
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.

**Week of January 11:** 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 but you may want to use the first two weeks to begin the reading early.)

**Week of January 18:** Original post for episode 1, Rivers of Destiny (Always see WebCT for the weekly discussion prompt and/or questions.)

**Week of January 25:** Readings due: Gould & Lewis readings 1, 2 & 3
Original post for episode 2, The Urban Explosion and readings

**Week of February 1:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis articles 4, 5 & 6
Original post for episode 3, Land of Plenty Land of Want and readings

**Week of February 8:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis article 7, 8 & 9
Original post for episode 4, On the Brink and readings **Quiz on readings and films so far, available 2/8-2/11**

**Week of February 15:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis articles 10, 11 & 12
Original post for episode 5, Hot Zones and readings

**Week of February 22:** **EXAM 1, Episodes 1-5 and assigned readings, available 2/22-2/25**

**Week of March 1:** Readings due: Foster chapters 1-4 *(or your book of choice from the syllabus)*
Original post for episode 6, Seas of Grass and readings

**Week of March 8:** Readings due: Foster chapters 5-7 *(Foster is a quick read and is inexpensive)*
Original post for episode 7, Future Conditional and readings

**Week of March 15:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis articles 13 & 14
Original post for episode 8, State of the Planet and readings

**Week of March 22:** **SPRING BREAK!!!**

**Week of March 29:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis articles 15 & 16
Original post for episode 9, State of the Planet’s Wildlife and readings

**Week of April 5:** Readings due: Gould and Lewis articles 17 & 18
Original post for episode 10, State of the Ocean’s Animals and readings

**Week of April 12:** Week for catch-up in case of technical difficulties and final paper conferences

**Week of April 19:** post for Gould and Lewis articles 19 & 20
Final paper due Friday Dec. 10th by midnight.

**Week of April 26:** **EXAM 2, Episodes 6-10 and assigned readings, available 4/26-4/29**

*Note: The syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of the modification.*

*There is NO comprehensive final exam in this course.*

*Additional Information will be provided on WebCT.*