



Sociology 3480: Environmental Sociology

ONLINE, Fall 2013, Section 090, class number 16868, 3 credits, no prerequisites

Syllabus and Course Outline

Instructor: Amanda Bertana

Class Meetings: ONLINE

Office Hours: by email and by appointment, 415-C BEH S

Email: u0810431@utah.edu

Required Texts:

Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. *The Vulnerable Planet*, Monthly Review Press. ISBN: 9781583670194 *

Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, Oxford U. Press. ISBN: 9780195371123*

Pellow, David Naguib. 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics*, MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262662017 *

Roberts, J. Timmons and Bradley Parks. 2007. *A Climate of Injustice*, MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262681612 #

You may want to purchase your own copy of these five books, especially since all quizzes and exams will be open book/open note, however, you should also be aware that:

* = a paper copy of this book will be on reserve at the U of U's Marriot Library

= you can obtain online access to this book via the U of U's Marriot Library

Page assignments in these books will be announced if they are not already on the syllabus.

All additional readings will be provided on Canvas.

We may watch some documentaries this semester; all will be available online.

Course Summary:

This is an ONLINE class. Students will submit all assignments, quizzes, and exams online, via Canvas. All due dates are Mountain Standard Time. Late assignments are not accepted.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify how the sociological perspective illuminates discussions of the environment.
- Discuss specific areas of study within environmental sociology.
- Synthesize the global nature and impacts of environmental problems and circumstances.
- Critically examine theoretical perspectives and be able to apply them to current issues.
- Evaluate specific forms of environmentalism and understand how these, combined with theoretical perspectives, frame environmental debates.

Teaching and Learning Methods:

Class discussion (directed by the instructor, posted online) of the readings and films is the primary mode of instruction. Discussion will help you learn not only from the readings and the films, but also from other class participants. Also, by stating your opinion and supporting it with evidence, it helps you test yourself to see if you understand, can articulate, and can effectively back up your argument. This is a valuable learning technique that is applicable in many

situations. Discussion will also help you both clarify and critically examine some of the nuances and debates in the field. The readings and the films are selected specifically for their effective and timely portrayal of topics in environmental sociology. The quizzes will encourage you to keep up with the readings. The essay exams will give you a chance to draw upon course materials in detail and to articulate what you have learned in depth. Exams will allow me to assess your learning and will motivate you to study all of the course materials. You must stay caught up with the readings and films to do well in this class. Late assignments are not accepted. Please contact me immediately should problems arise so we can discuss your options.

Instructor Responsibilities:

The study of the environment is a timely topic. I will strive to make the course clear, interesting, and useful. I enjoy learning, teaching, and transferring this enthusiasm to students. As the instructor for the course, I will hold class unless I provide notice and/or a valid reason to cancel class. I will return performance evaluations and feedback in a timely manner. I will inform you of general course content, course activities, course evaluation methods, course grading guidelines, and course schedule. I will also strive to ensure that the class environment is conducive to learning by restricting disruptive behavior and fostering respect for course participants and for the material. Other faculty rights and responsibilities are further detailed online: <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html>

Evaluation Methods and Criteria:

The final course grade will be determined by your performance on:

12 weekly response posts to the readings and sometimes films (10 points each, 120 points total, 30% of your grade)

4 reading quizzes (20 points each, 80 points total, 20% of your grade)

2 essay exams (100 points each, 200 points total, 50% of your grade).

There is no final paper. There is also no comprehensive final exam in this course; the first essay exam will cover the material from the first 6 weeks of class, the second essay exam will cover the material covered in the second half of class.

The following schedule will be used to determine grades:

Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages	Course Grade	Total Points	Percentages
A	372-400	93-100%	C	292-307	73-76%
A-	360-371	90-92%	C-	280-291	70-72%
B+	348-359	87-89%	D+	268-279	67-69%
B	332-347	83-86%	D	252-267	63-66%
B-	320-331	80-82%	D-	240-251	60-62%
C+	308-319	77-79%	E	0-239	0-59%

Weekly Assignments:

There will be 12 discussion questions requiring weekly postings to be posted on the Canvas discussion boards. Often these will ask you to critically assess the week's readings, or discuss them using theoretical framing from environmental sociology. I will post each week's discussion prompts by Monday morning and they will be due by the following Saturday at midnight. Each week's post should begin with a very brief summary of the readings and then respond to the prompt/questions by discussing that week's readings and any other class materials, including posts from other students. You get one free skip with no penalty.

(12 x 10 = 120 points, 30% of your grade)

Quizzes:

Four reading quizzes will be given to encourage students to keep up with and complete the readings. Quizzes will be multiple choice and/or short answer, open book and open note, timed, and taken online. Quizzes will be available for two days, and students will need to log on and take the quiz in 30-45 minutes at some point on these two days. (Students who would like to take quizzes at the testing center should email me in advance to make arrangements.)

(4 x 20 = 80 points, 20% of your grade)

Essay Exams:

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. Each exam will likely consist of two questions, not to exceed five pages each, for a maximum total of 10 pages per exam.

(2 x 100 = 200 points total, 50% of your grade)

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.

Notes regarding online classes:

Electronic or equipment failure: It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. You are responsible for making sure your assignments are received before the deadline. Late assignments are not accepted: Canvas uses electronic dating to close (the Assignment Drop Box, Postings, and Assessments/Quizzes), so late (Assignments, Postings and Quizzes) cannot be submitted. Naming conventions and software type: You are responsible for submitting the assignment with the required naming convention, correct file extension, and using the software type and version required for the assignment, note, all assignments must be submitted via Canvas, PLEASE DO NOT submit assignments as attachments. Online Classroom equivalency: Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code. Specifically: Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting. Off-color language and photos are never appropriate. Using angry or abusive language is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code. Course e-mails, e-journals, and other online course communications are part of the classroom and as such, are University property and subject to GRAMA regulations and the Student Code. Privacy regarding these communications between correspondents must not be assumed and should be mutually agreed upon in advance, in writing.

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." <http://www.oeco.utah.edu/ada/guide/faculty/>

Schedule for Environmental Sociology

Week 1: Week of August 26: Topic: What is Sociology? What is the Environment? What is Environmental Sociology?

(Optional: Please post a brief introduction to the discussion section, if you would like, introducing yourself to me and the rest of the class; please see more detailed instructions on Canvas.)

- Gould and Lewis. 2009. Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology Chapters 1 & 3
- Catton, William R. Jr. and Riley E. Dunlap. 1978. "Environmental Sociology: A New Paradigm." *The American Sociologist* 13:41-49.
- Rockström, Johan et al. 2009. "A Safe Operating Space for Humanity." *Nature* 461(24)472-475.
- Liu, Jianqun et al. 2007. "Coupled Human and Natural Systems." *Ambio* 36(8):639-649.

(Note: Prompt for response 1 will be available on Monday morning, August 26th and is due Saturday August 31st; responses will always be available on Mondays and due Saturdays by midnight.)

Week 2: Week of September 2: Ecological Modernization Theory

- Mol, Arthur P.J. and Gert Spaargaren. 2000. "Ecological Modernisation Theory in Debate: A Review." *Environmental Politics*, 9(1)17-49.
- York, Richard and Eugene A. Rosa. 2003. "Key Challenges to Ecological Modernization Theory: Institutional Efficacy, Case Study Evidence, Units of Analysis, and the Pace of Eco-efficiency." *Organization & Environment* 16:273-288.
- Foster, John Bellamy. 2012. "The Planetary Rift and the New Human Exemptionalism: A Political-Economic Critique of Ecological Modernization Theory." *Organization & Environment* 25:211-237.
- York, Richard, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2003. "Footprints on the Earth: The Environmental Consequences of Modernity." *American Sociological Review* 68:279-300.

Quiz 1: Readings for weeks 1&2 available to be taken on Canvas on Fri. Sept. 6th and Sat. Sept. 7th.

Week 3: Week of September 9: Treadmill of Production Theory

- **Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. *The Vulnerable Planet* Chapters 1-3**
- Gould, Kenneth A., David N. Pellow, and Allan Schnaiberg. 2004. "Interrogating the Treadmill of Production: Everything You Wanted to Know About the Treadmill but Were Afraid to Ask." *Organization & Environment* 17(3) 296-316.
- Gould and Lewis. 2009. Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology Chapters 5 & 16
- Bell, Shannon and Richard York. 2010. "Community Economic Identity: The Coal Industry and Ideology Construction in West Virginia." *Rural Sociology* 75(1)111-143.

Week 4: Week of September 16: Two key concepts in Environmental Sociology: The Kuznets Curve and the Jevons Paradox

- Dinda, Soumyananda. 2004. "Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis: A Survey." *Ecological Economics* 49:431-455.
- Stern, David I. 2004. "The Rise and Fall of the Environmental Kuznets Curve." *World Development* 32(8)1419-1439.
- Cole, Matthew A. 2004. "Trade, the Pollution Haven Hypothesis, and the Environmental Kuznets Curve: Examining the Linkages." *Ecological Economics* 48:71-81
- Alcott, Blake. 2005. "Jevons' Paradox." *Ecological Economics* 54:9-21.
- York, Richard. 2006. "Ecological Paradoxes: William Stanley Jevons and the Paperless Office." 13(2)143-147.
- Foster, John Bellamy, Brett Clark, and Richard York. 2010. "Capitalism and the Curse of Energy Efficiency: The Return of the Jevons Paradox." *Monthly Review* 62(2)1-12.

Quiz 2:

Week 5: Week of September 23: The Metabolic Rift

- Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. "Marx's Theory of the Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundation for Environmental Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 105(2):366-405.
- Longo, Stefano B. 2012. "Mediterranean Rift: Socio-Ecological Transformations in the Sicilian Bluefin Tuna Fishery." *Critical Sociology* 38(3):417-436.
- Gunderson, Ryan. 2011. "The Metabolic Rifts of Livestock Agribusiness." *Organization and Environment* 24(4):404-422
- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapter 12

Week 6: Week of September 30: Structural Human Ecology

- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapter 9
- Rosa Eugene A. and Tom Dietz. 2012. "Human Drivers of National Greenhouse-Gas Emissions." *Nature Climate Change*.

Week 7: Week of October 7: Water Scarcity

- Hoekstra, A.Y. and A.K. Chapagain. 2007. "Water Footprints of Nations: Water Use by Peoples as a Function of Their Consumption Pattern." *Water Resources Management* 21(1):35-48.
- Postel, Sandra. 2000. "Entering an Era of Water Scarcity: The Challenges Ahead" *Ecological Application* 10(4): 941-948.
- Doucette, Kitt. 2009. "An Ocean of Plastic." *Rolling Stone* (October 29):54-57
- Wolf, Aaron T. 1998. "Conflict and Cooperation Along International Waterways." *Water Policy* (June 1998): 251-265

Quiz 3:

Week 8: Week of October 14: FALL BREAK!!!!

Week 9: Week of October 21: Ecologically Unequal Exchange

- Jorgenson, Andrew K., Kelly Austin, and Christopher Dick. 2009. "Ecologically Unequal Exchange and the Resource Consumption/Environmental Degradation Paradox: A Panel Study of Less-Developed Countries, 1970-2000." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 50: 263-284.
- Jorgenson, Andrew K. 2012. "The Sociology of Ecologically Unequal Exchange and Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 1960-2005." *Social Science Research* 41:242-252.
- Steinberger, Julia, Timmons Roberts, Glen Peters, and Giovanni Baiocchi. 2012. "National Emissions Pathways and Human Development: Correcting for Carbon Embodied in Trade." *Nature Climate Change* 2:81-85.
- Rice, James. 2009. "The Transnational Organization of Production and Uneven Environmental Degradation and Change in the World Economy." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 50:215-236.

Week 10: Week of October 28: Global Climate Change

- **Roberts, J. Timmons and Bradley Parks. 2007. A Climate of Injustice**
- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapter 14
- Hansen, James. 2009. "How to Solve the Climate Problem." *The Nation* (December 30).
- York, Richard. 2012. "Do Alternative Energy Sources Displace Fossil Fuels?" *Nature Climate Change* 2:441-443.

Week 11: Week of November 4: International Cooperation

- Meyer, Frank, Hironaka, Schofer, and Tuma. 1997. "The Structuring of a World Environmental Regime, 1870-1990." *International Organization* 51(4):623-651.
- Schofer and Hironaka. 2005. "The Effects of World Society on Environmental Protection Outcomes." *Social Forces* 84(1):25-47.
- **Roberts, J. Timmons and Bradley Parks. 2007. A Climate of Injustice.** Chapters 6 & 7

Week 12: Week of November 11: The Urban Environment

- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapter 13

- Molotch, Harvey. 1976. "The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place." *American Journal of Sociology* 82(2):309-332.
- Rudel, Thomas K. 2009. "How Do People Transform Landscapes? A Sociological Perspective on Urban Sprawl and Tropical Deforestation." *American Journal of Sociology* 115(1):129-154.

Quiz 4:

Week 13: Week of November 18: Consumption

Week 14: Week of November 25: Environmental Injustice and Sacrifice Zones

- Downey, Liam and Brian Hawkins. 2008. "Race, Income, and Environmental Inequality in the United States." *Sociological Perspectives*: 51(4): 759-781.
- Hooks, Greg and Chad Smith. 2004. "The Treadmill of Destruction: National Sacrifice Areas and Native Americans." *American Sociological Review* 69(4): 558-575.
- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapter 10
- Malin, Stephanie A. and Peggy Petrzalka. 2010. "Left in the Dust: Uranium's Legacy and Victims of Mill Tailings Exposure in Monticello, Utah." *Society and Natural Resources* 23:1187-1200.
- **Pellow, David Naguib. 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics* Chapters 1-3**

Monday: Essay questions for exam 1 posted; Exam 1 due:.

Week 15: Week of December 2: Human Agency and Environmental Social Movements

- Givens, Jennifer E. and Andrew K. Jorgenson. 2013. "Individual Environmental Concern in the World Polity: A Multilevel Analysis." *Social Science Research* 42:418-431.
- **Pellow, David Naguib. 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics* Chapters 4-7**
- Gould and Lewis. 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* Chapters 15 & 17

Week 16: Week of December 9: Deep Ecology and Bioregionalism

**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 Canvas.