SOCIOLOGY 6963 (special topics) — Environmental Sociology  
(Fall Semester, 2014) Mondays, 3:00 to 6:00 PM, Beh Sci 315

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Summary and Objectives

This graduate-level seminar provides an overview of theoretical and empirical works in environmental sociology. After providing a brief introduction to the origins of the field, the seminar will cover substantive topics that are likely to be of interest for students in either of the two “areas” of the sociology PhD program. Significant attention will be given to current and emerging lines of inquiry in environmental sociology as well as multidisciplinary approaches to sustainability studies and integrated research on coupled human and natural systems.

Topic Covered Include (**this is a partial list!**):

- Origins of and reflections on the field
- Environmental justice and environmental inequality in the US
- Environment and development
- Political economy of global environmental change
- Sociology of risk
- Migration and the environment
- Population growth and the environment, IPAT, STIRPAT
- World society and the environment
- World-systems and the environment
- Ecologically unequal exchange
- Militarization, warfare, and the environment
- Environmental attitudes and environmental concern
- Climate denial
- Organizational approaches to environmental change and environmental governance
- Disproportionality
- Environment and health
- Coupled human and natural systems
- Integrated sustainability studies

Course Requirements and Grading

- Students are required to submit weekly critical summaries of the assigned readings (3 pages in length each). The weekly summaries are worth 35% of your final grade. The summaries are due via canvas email (as an attachment) 24 hours prior to the start of seminar each week (no exceptions!). Late papers will NOT be accepted.
- Students are also required to take turns in teams facilitating the weekly discussions. These facilitating exercises are worth 20% of your final grade. We will schedule these group facilitations for the entire semester on the first day of seminar.
- Attendance and general participation in seminar discussions is worth 15% of your final grade.
- Students are required to write and submit a term paper (15 pages maximum length, not including references) on a topic of relevance for the seminar. I am willing to be flexible on paper topics, but
they must somehow be relevant for the field of environmental sociology. Students are not allowed to use term papers from other seminars, MA thesis sections, or PhD dissertation sections for the term paper for this seminar. Additional specifics on the term papers will be provided on the first day of class. The term papers are worth 30% of your final grade.

**Course Policies and Student Responsibilities**

Students and faculty at the University of Utah are obligated to behave in accordance with the ordinances of the University. The Student Code (or Students’ Rights and Responsibilities) is located on the Web at: [http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html)

You are encouraged to review this document. All of the rights and responsibilities applicable to both the student and the faculty member will be observed during the semester.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is a serious offense. The following regarding academic integrity and plagiarism is taken from the University of Utah’s Student Code:

“Academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

a. “Cheating” involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student's examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one's work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.

b. Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.

c. “Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

The Student Code states that academic misconduct can be sanctioned in the following ways:

“Academic sanction” means a sanction imposed on a student for engaging in academic or professional misconduct. It may include, but is not limited to, requiring a student to retake an exam(s) or rewrite a paper(s), a grade reduction, a failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from a program or the University, or revocation of a student’s degree or certificate. It may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.
Faculty Responsibilities

As the instructor for the course, I will:
• Convene classes unless valid reason and notice given
• Perform and return evaluations in a timely manner
• Inform you of:
  1. General course content
  2. Course activities
  3. Course evaluation methods
  4. Course grading scale
  5. Course schedule of meetings, topics, and due dates.
• Ensure that the class environment is conducive to learning. This includes limiting student use of cell phones, reading newspapers during class, talking during class, arriving late and leaving early and other disruptive behavior.

Other faculty rights and responsibilities are further detailed online:
http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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 alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Assigned Readings

***All assigned readings are available as pdf files via canvas.***

TOPIC AND REQUIRED READING SCHEDULE — ***subject to change!!***

• August 25, Week 1 – Introductions

• September 8, Week 2 – Origins of and Reflections on the Field


- September 15, Week 3 – Early Environmental Justice Studies, Contemporary Environmental Inequality Research (US)


- September 22, Week 4 – Environment and Development Perspectives


- September 29, Week 5 – Environment and Development Empirical Approaches


- October 6, Week 6 – Sociology of Risk, Migration and Environment, IPAT, STIRPAT


- **October 20, Week 7 – World Society and the Environment, World-Systems and the Environment, FDI and the Environment**


- **November 3, Week 8 – Ecologically Unequal Exchange, Militarization and the Environment**


- **November 10, Week 9 – Environmental Values, Environmental Concern, Climate Denial**


- **November 17, Week 10 – Organizational Approaches, Disproportionality**


- **November 24, Week 11 – Environment & Health, Coupled Human and Natural Systems, Integrated Sustainability Approaches**


- **December 1, Week 12 – Emerging Areas of Inquiry (TBD)**

- **December 8, Week 13 – Wrap Up**

- **TERM PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 15 AT 5 PM, MST**