



Sociology 3486:

Global Environmental Crisis

Spring 2014, Section 001, class number
17347, 3 credits, no prerequisites

Syllabus and Course Outline

Instructor: Amanda Bertana, M.A.

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday
9:10-10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Thursday 11:00 a.m.-1:30
p.m. and by appointment

Office: BSS-332

Email: amanda.bertana@soc.utah.edu

Required Texts:

Noorgard, Kari. 2011. *Living in Denial: Climate Change, Emotions, and Everyday Life*. Publisher: MIT Press.
ISBN: 9780262515856

Klare, Michael. 2012. *The Race for What's Left: The Global Scramble for the World's Last Resources*. Publisher: Holt,
Henry & Company, Inc. ISBN: 9780805091267

All other course material will be made available on Canvas

Course Summary:

This course will explore current global environmental crises through a social justice framework. We will read from a wide array of sociological literature including world-systems theory, social movement theory, and world polity to explain the roots of global environmental crises and possible solutions. We will spend the first part of the semester intertwining environmental and social crises shaped by the colonial practice of natural resource extraction. We will then explore some of the current environmental crises, the possible social problems which can arise as a result of these crises, and finally the restoration and environmental protection needed for the well-being of future generations.

Course Goals:

This course is designed to bring awareness about current environmental concerns and social struggles around the world. The readings, lectures, movies and discussions are designed to connect theory with social reality. Through reading summaries and discussions students will develop skills in analytical reading and writing.

Course Objectives:

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

- Understand the trajectory of economic development, and how it relates to environmental crises in different regions of the world
- Critically view and analyze environmental problems associated with contemporary society
- Understand changes in the natural environment through a sociological perspective
- Explore the origins and impacts of international cooperation in addressing global environmental concerns through a political sociological perspective
- Critically understand and analyze the complexities between the natural environment and human society in different regions of the world

Evaluation Methods and Criteria:

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

Reading Summaries 75 points (5@15 points)

Attendance/Participation 25 points

In class Group Presentation 75 points

Final Research Paper 100 points

Total 275 points

Grading Scale:

A+ 98-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69
A 94-97	B 84-86	C 74-76	D 64-66
A- 90-93	B- 80-83	C- 70-73	D- 60-63 F <60

Academic Conduct

In addition to these requirements, students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom as stipulated in the Student Code, which can be found here: <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>. 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 and know that they are responsible for its content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty members' responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

I expect that all work you produce over the course of the semester will be your own. If you plagiarize any material from outside sources for your written work in the class, **IT WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE OF THE ENTIRE COURSE**. There are no exceptions to this, and no second chances. When in doubt, ask.

ADA NOTICE:

"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.oeo.utah.edu/ada/guide/faculty/>

Schedule for Global Environmental Crises

Framework for Current Environmental Situation

Week 1: Topic: Tragedy of the Commons

Tuesday January 7 **Intro to class**

Thursday January 9

Week 2: Tragedy of the Commons cont. and The Creation of the Third World

Theoretical framework

Tuesday January 14

Thursday January 16

Week 3: The Creation of the Third World

Natural Resource Extraction

Tuesday January 21

Thursday January 23

The State of the Environment

Week 4: Water Poverty

What does it mean and what is our current situation?

Tuesday January 28

Thursday January 30

Week 5: Water Poverty
Consequences of water scarcity
Tuesday February 4
Thursday February 6

Week 6: Land Scarcity
“Land Grabbing”
Tuesday February 11
Thursday February 13

Week 7: Energy Scarcity
Tuesday February 18
Thursday February 20

Week 8: Energy Scarcity
Development of new energies
Tuesday February 25
Thursday February 27

Week 9: Climate Change
Tuesday March 4
Thursday March 6

Week 10: SPRING BREAK!
What the Future Holds
Week 11: Climate Change Denial
Tuesday March 18
Thursday March 20

Week 12: Climate Change Denial cont.
Tuesday March 25
Thursday March 27 **Gone for conference**

Week 13: Environmental Refugees
Tuesday April 1
Thursday April 3

Week 14: World Society
Adoption of environmental policies
Tuesday April 8
Thursday April 10

Week 15: World Polity Cont. and Global Movements
International Cooperation
Tuesday April 15
Thursday April 17

Week 16: Global Movements Cont.
Tuesday April 22

**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.