

Sociology 3480-090

Environmental Sociology

ONLINE, Fall 2014, class number 16868,
3 credits, no prerequisites

Syllabus and Course Outline

Instructor: Amanda Bertana, M.A.

Class Meetings: ONLINE

Office Hours: by email and by appointment

Office: BSS-332

Email: amanda.bertana@soc.utah.edu



Required Texts:

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

Cole, Luke and Sheila Foster. 2001. *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*, NY: New York University Press. ISBN: 0814715370 #

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

Ryan, John C. and Alan Thein Durning. 1997. *Stuff: The Secret Life of Everyday Things*, Northwest Environment Watch. ISBN: 1886093040*

You may want to purchase your own copy of these five books, especially since all assignments 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 supplemental readings will be provided on Canvas.

Course Summary:

This course is designed to introduce you to the subdiscipline of environmental sociology. Throughout the semester we will explore the interactions between society and the natural environment. More specifically, we will discuss factors in human society that have caused degradation of ecological systems, and the measures taken to repair and/or prevent further degradation. Since environmental sociology is multidisciplinary we will draw upon a variety of readings from other disciplines including economics, anthropology, history, and ecology.

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

** You are expected to read approximately 50-100 pages a week*

Course Objectives:

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

- Identify core concepts, theories, and perspectives in the study of environmental sociology
- 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 environmental movements seeking environmental justice
- Critically understand and analyze the complexities between human society and the natural environment

Evaluation Methods and Criteria:

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

Weekly Quizzes

Discussion posts to the readings

2 short papers

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

Notes regarding online classes:

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 so late assignments cannot be submitted.

***NOTE:** All assignments must be submitted via Canvas, PLEASE DO NOT submit assignments as attachments. Online Classroom equivalency: Discussion threads and e-mails 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. When discussing these topics students should be respectful of race, color, creed, religion, gender, disability, sexuality, etc. Discriminatory language will not be tolerated, and handled according to the Student Code. Online course communications are part of the classroom, therefore 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:

“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 Environmental Sociology

Week 1: Week of August 25: What is Sociology? What is the Environment? What is Environmental Sociology?

Week 2: September 1: Ecological Modernization Theory

Week 3: September 8: Treadmill of Production Theory

Week 4: September 15: 2 key concepts in Environmental Sociology: The Kuznets Curve and the Jevons Paradox

Week 5: September 22: The Metabolic Rift

Week 6: September 29: Structural Human Ecology

Week 7: October 6: Water Scarcity

Week 8: Week of October 13: FALL BREAK!!!!

Week 9: Week of October 20: Ecologically Unequal Exchange

Week 10: Week of October 27: Global Climate Change

Week 11: Week of November 3: International Cooperation

Week 12: Week of November 10: The Urban Environment

Week 13: Week of November 17: Consumption

Week 14: Week of November 24: Environmental Racism and Sacrifice Zones

Week 15: Week of December 1: Human Agency and Environmental Social Movements

Week 16: Week of December 8: 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.**