Environmental Sociology
Eastern Illinois University
Soc 3820-001 Fall 2012

Class: MW 2:00 - 3:15 **Room:** 3103 Blair Hall
Professor: Darren Hendrickson, Ph.D. **Office:** 3122 Blair Hall
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Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30, Th 12:00-2:00, or by appointment

"Ultimately, it is certain patterns of human behavior that lead to environmental degradation and other patterns that result in sustainable development."
- William Clark

Required Texts/Readings:

- Michael Mayerfeld Bell. 2012. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology.* 4th ed. Pine Forge Press: Thousand Oaks, CA.
- Select Articles Available on the Course WebCT Page

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce you to the field of environmental sociology. The primary focus of environmental sociology is on the interrelations between the natural environment, social organization, and social behavior. Thus, this course will be directed at investigating the social and cultural aspects of environmental problems which include an analysis of such things as: how political and economic institutions influence our views about the environment, the role of collective social behavior in creating and solving environmental problems, how the issues of social inequality and power figure in environmental issues, and the emergence of various environmental movements. Of course, environmental issues have been addressed by a wide range of academic fields, however, keep in mind that we will examine these issues from the sociological perspective.

The specific objectives for this course are as follows:

- Develop an understanding of the contributions that sociology makes to knowledge about the natural environment and environmental problems.
- Develop an understanding of the social and cultural causes of our environmental problems including: consumption, materialism, population, and political factors.
- Explore the social dynamics of both the U.S. environmental movement and the emerging global environmental movement.
- Address the issue of environmental racism and the related movement for environmental justice.
- Investigate the current efforts to solve environmental problems and organize an environmentally sustainable society.

These objectives will be met through lectures, class discussions, readings, videos, writing assignments, and examinations.

Readings:

The reading assignments for each week are indicated below in the syllabus. You are expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of the respective class session so you will be prepared for lecture and discussion. In class we will deal with additional, and occasionally different, material than is found in the corresponding readings. Nonetheless, class lectures and discussion are designed to build off of and complement assigned readings.

Course Requirements:

(1). *Examinations.* There will be a total of three examinations in this course. Two of the exams are scheduled during the semester and will take place during regular class time (see schedule below). The third exam will be administered during finals week on Wednesday, December 12th from 2:45-4:45.

(2). *Video Reviews.* In this course we are going to watch a number of different videos to illustrate the concepts and ideas that we are addressing. As a result, I am requiring you to write *four* video reviews during this course. These video reviews require you to discuss, in writing, how the information presented in the video connects with other course material (i.e. readings & lectures). So, it is important that in writing your video reviews you *explicitly* connect the material in the video with other relevant course content. Approximately 8 to 10 videos will be shown throughout the semester so you may choose the *four* you want to review. This is not a "best of" assignment, you may only turn in four video reviews. The specific instructions are as follows:

- Your video review should not simply be a summary of what you watched, you are required to discuss how material presented in the video specifically connects to the material we are covering, or have covered, in the course. In other words, explicitly explore and discuss the links between the content of the video and other course materials (i.e. readings & lectures).
- Video reviews are to be typed, double spaced, and no more then two pages. Be sure to include the video title at the beginning of the review.
- *Video reviews are due the class period after the film is shown. Late video reviews will <u>not</u> be accepted.*

(3). *Environmental Problem Research Paper.* In this course you are required to write a research paper in which you will address such factors as the scope, causes, consequences, and proposed solutions for a specific environmental problem of your choice. While we will be discussing and reading about a wide range of environmental problems during the semester (e.g. resource scarcity, global climate change, environmental racism) because of time constraints we will not always be able to explore every environmental problem in great detail. Subsequently, one of the primary objectives of this research paper is to provide you an opportunity to begin developing an in-depth sociological knowledge of a specific environmental problem. Specific instructions for the research paper will be distributed at a later date.

(4). *Participation.* Students are expected to both raise and answer questions and remain active participants in this course. In this course I will pose many questions for discussion and everyone is expected to contribute to that discussion – this is learning.

Grading Scale:	***Basis for Final Grade:***
100%-90%.....A	Exam #1.....22%
89%-80%.....B	Exam #2.....22%
79%-70%.....C	Exam #3.....22%
69%-60%.....D	Video Reviews.....12%
59%-0%.....F	Research Paper.....22%
	Total.....100%

WebCT:

Exam and assignment grades will be available through WebCT. Furthermore, a copy of the course syllabus, research articles that you are required to read, other important course documents, and course announcements will also be posted on the WebCT course page. Detailed information about accessing WebCT is available at the following site: http://www.eiu.edu/online/student/

Course Schedule:

Aug. 20 - Aug. 22
General Introduction to the Course
Sociological Study of the Natural Environment
Chapter 1: Environmental Problems and Society

Aug. 27 - Aug. 29
Sociological Theory & The Environment
Frameworks for Understanding Environmental Problems
Consumption, Materialism, and the Environment
Chapter 1: Environmental Problems and Society (cont'd)
Chapter 2: Consumption & Materialism
Frey, R. Scott. 2001. "Environmental Problems." Pp. 4-25 in *The Environment and Society Reader,* edited by R. S. Frey. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Social Causes of Environmental Problems

Sept. 5
Consumption, Materialism, and the Environment (cont'd)
Chapter 2: Consumption & Materialism (cont'd)
Good, Jennifer. 2007. "Shop 'til We Drop? Television, Materialism and Attitudes About the Natural Environment." *Mass Communication and Society* 10: 365-383.

Sept. 10 - Sept. 12
Consumption, Materialism, and the Environment (cont'd)
Economics, Technology, and the Environment
Chapter 2: Consumption & Materialism (cont'd)
Chapter 3: Money & Machines

Sept. 17 - Sept. 19
Economics, Technology, and the Environment (cont'd)
Chapter 3: Money & Machines (cont'd)

Exam #1 – Wednesday, September 19th

Sept. 24 - Sept. 26	Population, Development, and the Environment Chapter 4: Population & Development
Oct. 1 - Oct. 3	Population, Development, and the Environment (cont'd) Chapter 4: Population & Development
	Social Responses to Environmental Problems
Oct. 8 - Oct. 10	Environmental Domination as an Ideology Chapter 6: The Ideology of Environmental Domination
Oct. 15 - Oct. 17	Environmental Domination as an Ideology (cont'd) Environmental Concern Chapter 6: The Ideology of Environmental Domination (cont'd) Chapter 7: Ideology of Environmental Concern Marquart-Pyatt, Sandra T. 2008. "Are There Similar Sources of Environmental Concern? Comparing Industrialized Countries." *Social Science Quarterly* 89: 1312-1335.
Oct. 22 - Oct. 24	Environmental Concern (cont'd) Chapter 7: Ideology of Environmental Concern
	Exam #2 – Wednesday, October 24th
Oct. 29 - Oct. 31	Environmental Movements: U.S. & Global Schlosberg, David and Sara Rinfret. 2008. "Ecological Modernisation, American Style." *Environmental Politics* 17: 254-275.
Nov. 5 - Nov. 7	Environmental Movements: U.S. & Global (cont'd) Environmental Racism, Environmental Justice, & Environmental Health Chapter 5: Body and Health
Nov. 12 - Nov. 14	Environmental Racism, Environmental Justice, & Environmental Health Chapter 5: Body and Health (cont'd) Bullard, Robert D. 2001. "Anatomy of Environmental Racism and the Environmental Justice Movement." Pp. 97-105 in *The Environment and Society Reader,* edited by R. S. Frey. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
Nov. 19 - Nov. 23	☺☺☺ ***Thanksgiving Break*** ☺☺☺
Nov. 26 - Nov. 28	Environmental Racism, Environmental Justice, & Environmental Health Sustainable and Equitable Environmental Future Chapter 5: Body and Health (cont'd) Chapter 10: Mobilizing the Ecological Society Chapter 11: Governing the Ecological Society

Dec. 3 - Dec. 5	Sustainable and Equitable Environmental Future (cont'd) Chapter 10: Mobilizing the Ecological Society (cont'd) Chapter 11: Governing the Ecological Society (cont'd)

Exam #3 – Wednesday, Dec. 12 – 2:45-4:45

Policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis, but it will not be used as part of your final grade determination. Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. Much of the material presented during class time will be included on the examinations. You are responsible for any course material that you miss if you are not in class, regardless of the reason for your absence. Most certainly your grade will suffer if you miss a number of classes.

Late/Missed Assignments & Exams: Assignments are to be turned in on time and examinations are to be taken when scheduled. If, for some reason, you are going to miss an examination or an assignment due date, you must notify me in advance. If you fail to notify me in advance that you are going to miss an examination, you will not be able to make-up that exam. Make-up exams will only be given with a legitimate excuse (e.g. medical reason, family emergency.) and may be somewhat different than the original exam. Late video reviews will *not* be accepted and late research papers will be penalized the equivalent of one letter grade for every day they are late. Plan ahead to ensure that you are able to meet the due dates for this course.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Not allowed. If you are found cheating or plagiarizing you will receive a zero for that assignment, exam, or quiz and you will be immediately reported to the Office of Student Standards. See the University policy regarding academic integrity for details about plagiarism.

Tape/Video Recorders: The use of tape recorders, or other recording devices, during class is not allowed. Exceptions will be made only under special circumstances.

Cell Phones/Text Messaging: I understand that many of you like to stay connected and many important people are constantly trying to get a hold of you, but if you have a cell phone please turn off or disable the ringer before coming to class. Furthermore, text messaging during class is not permitted or tolerated.

Special Needs: Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) to address any necessary academic accommodations. Adaptations of methods, materials, or testing can be made to provide for your equitable participation in class as long as I am aware of your needs before tests and assignments.

Medical Emergencies Statement: For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement: In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement: In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until

allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students of the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Note: All material in this course syllabus, including exam and assignment due-dates, may be subject to change.