

SOC 369: Environmental Sociology

Spring 2019

3 Credit Hours

MW 11:20am-12:40pm, MSB 106

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10-11am (and by appointment)

Course Description and Goals

In this course we will be exploring the ways in which society and the natural environment interact and shape each other. We will engage with the major debates in the field of environmental sociology in order to understand the challenges and options human societies face as we head further into global environmental crisis. We will investigate from a sociological perspective a number of currently recognized environmental problems and issues. These issues will be discussed in the context of the United States as well as in an international comparative context in order to better understand the sources and consequences of environmental problems.

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Be familiar with various sociological approaches for understanding environmental issues.
2. Understand the social, political, and economic forces that cause environmental problems and shape their consequences.
3. Be able to articulate your own position on environmental issues and policies using sociological concepts, theories, and evidence.

Required Texts*

Gould, Kenneth and Tammy Lewis. 2015 (2nd edition). *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-932592-4

*All additional assigned readings will be available on Canvas (<http://canvas.uah.edu>).

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade)

You are expected to attend all classes. This is a basic responsibility that you have taken on by enrolling in this course. To succeed in this course, you must come to every class prepared to discuss the assigned readings with your classmates and participate in in-class exercises.

Attendance and participation will account for 10% of your overall grade.

Note: I will allow two free absences for each student without any excuse necessary. Use your free absences wisely because no other absences will be excused (exceptions to this rule will only be made for extremely severe circumstances that are documented through the Dean of Students' office). Students who come to class unprepared, arrive late, leave early, or use a phone or other distracting device during class will receive half-credit for attendance and participation.

University authorized absences will always be excused and do not count against your two free absences

Exams (75% of final grade)

Three exams are scheduled for this course. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. Exams may include essay, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and multiple choice questions.

Visual Sociology Project (15% of final grade)

Each student will create a photo essay documenting representations of environmental sociology concepts in everyday life. The photo essay will include an approximately two-page paper that clearly links the photos to course content as well as a set of **eight to ten** original photographs on a theme of your choice related to environmental sociology. Each student will have 5-10 minutes to present their photo essay at the end of the semester. Further details on this assignment will be provided.

Course Policies

Policy on Makeup Exams

I will only allow students to make up a missed exam under extreme circumstances (i.e., a death in the immediate family, an illness or accident requiring medical attention, an automobile accident on the way to class, a court appearance, or an official UAH authorized absence). Without exception, official documentation verifying the cause of the missed exam must be presented in writing prior to or within 24 hours of the scheduled exam. If events do not warrant a make-up exam, a grade of 0 will be recorded for the exam. Makeup exams must be scheduled with and proctored by UAH Testing Services.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and otherwise academically dishonorable acts will not be tolerated. Students caught engaging in any of these behaviors will receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam and may be reported to the Dean of Students. The use of a phone during an exam will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and treated accordingly. *UAH is committed to the fundamental values of preserving academic honesty as defined in the Student Handbook (7.1). The instructor reserves the right to utilize electronic means to help prevent plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all assignments are subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents.*

Disability Statement

The University of Alabama in Huntsville will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Students should identify themselves to the Disability Support Services Office ([256.824.1997](tel:256.824.1997) or Madison Hall, Room 131) and their instructor as soon as possible to coordinate accommodations.

Learning Environment

Please be respectful and courteous to your instructor and fellow students. I consider web-browsing, text-messaging, talking, sleeping, and reading the newspaper or other non-class materials disruptive activities. Please avoid these during class time or you may be asked to leave the room. In addition, please do not arrive late or leave early. If you will be coming to class late or leaving early on a certain day due to special circumstances, please let me know beforehand. *Any unauthorized usage of cell phones or other electronic devices during an exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam.*

Grading

Percent of Final Grade

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Exam #1: 25%
Exam# 2: 25%
Exam #3: 25%
Visual Sociology Project: 15%

Final Letter Grades

89.5-100% = A
79.5-89.4% = B
69.5-79.4% = C
59.5-69.4% = D
0-59.4% = F

Course Calendar

Note: I reserve the right to alter the course schedule if necessary.

Topic	Dates	Readings and Exams
Introduction to Environmental Sociology	M 1/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No readings
	W 1/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gould and Lewis, Introduction (Gould and Lewis)• Kolbert (2017)
What is the environment?	M 1/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gould and Lewis, Ch. 1 (Capek)• Angelo and Jerolmack (2012)
Environmental Movement	W 1/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gould and Lewis, Ch. 16 (Brulle)
	M 1/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>NO CLASS (MLK DAY)</i>
	W 1/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Szasz (2007) Introduction and Ch.7
Environmental Attitudes and Behaviors	M 1/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• McCright and Xiao (2014)
	W 1/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heberlein (2012) Ch. 4
	M 2/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marquart-Pyatt et al. (2011)• Gould and Lewis, Ch.15 (Norgaard)
	W 2/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam review
	M 2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exam #1

Introduction to Theoretical Perspectives	W 2/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch. 2 (Barbosa)
Human Ecology; Population and the Environment	M 2/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catton (1976)
	W 2/20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch. 8 (Bates)
	M 2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Film- Mother: Caring for 7 Billion</i>
Political Economy Theories; Eco-Marxist Theory; Treadmill of Production	W 2/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Chs. 4 (Schnaiberg) and 7 (Gould)
	M 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster et al. (2010) Ch. 2 Austin and Clark (2011)
	W 3/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Film: The Last Mountain</i>
Ecological Modernization, Risk Society, and Technological Fixes	M 3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch. 6 (York) York (2006)
	W 3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam review
	M 3/18	<i>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</i>
	W 3/20	<i>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</i>
	M 3/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam #2
The Double Diversion	W 3/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freudenburg (2005)
Environmental Inequality and Justice	M 4/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch.10 (Mascharenas)
	W 4/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mohai and Saha (2015)
“Natural” Disasters	M 4/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch. 14 (Youngman)
	W 4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freudenburg et al. (2008)
Sustainability	M 4/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gould and Lewis, Ch.20 (Gould and Lewis) Gould and Lewis, Ch. 9 (Bell)
	W 4/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam review
	M 4/22	<i>Exam #3</i>
Final Exam Period	Monday, April 29 th , 3:00-5:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Presentations</i> <i>Visual Sociology Project Due (via Canvas)</i>