

## SOC301A: Environmental Sociology

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Class Times and Location: AH 318; TR 12:40-2:10

Office Hours: T Th 2:30-4:00

This course is designed to introduce students to the exciting field of environmental sociology. We will discuss some of the major topics in this cutting-edge subfield, including the global-historical context of environmental issues; consumption and disposal; agribusinesses and the American food system; environmental justice and social movements; American attitudes toward climate change and other issues; and environmental issues in global perspective.

### Assessment

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Research Paper	20%
Presentation	15%
Short Assignments	15%
<u>Project Journal</u>	5%
Total	100%

### Description of Graded Work

**Exams** will test understanding of key concepts; ask you to synthesize the material they've learned over the course of the semester; and extend their understanding to new situations. While each exam will focus on material covered during that unit, I will expect you to be able to draw on material from earlier units.

### Research Paper, Presentation, and Project Journal

The research paper (5-7 pp) invites you to follow your interests to explore a topic of your choosing within environmental sociology, particularly as it relates to a piece of legislation. For some of you, this paper may serve as a departure point for thinking about your senior thesis in sociology. Your presentation will make a case for why this piece of legislation should or should not be passed, or, if it has already been passed, whether it was beneficial. (Please see the assignment sheet for more details about both of these assignments.) Note that you will give your presentation sometime during the last two weeks of class.

To support you in developing these assignments, and to make the most of this experience, I will ask you to keep a weekly journal and will either assign short entries or ask you to describe your progress in your thinking as you develop your project and presentation. **Please bring the journal to class**, as I will also ask you to do some in-class writing about your project and share your progress with your

colleagues. (Your journal may take the form of a hard-copy notebook or a Word document, whatever you prefer.)

### **Short Assignments**

The “short assignments” category has three components: (1) three short papers worth 3 percent each; (2) peer review letters also worth 3 percent (taken together); and (3) the remaining 1 percent is credit for adequate presentation of your paper to the class when called on. Short assignments give you practice engaging deeply with a specific issue in environmental sociology or expand our discussion beyond course texts. The grades are  $\surd$ ,  $\surd^-$ , or 0. Short assignment 1 asks you to contribute to a debate about assigning a monetary value to nature. Short assignment 2 invites you to analyze how the environment is represented in advertising. (Please see the assignment sheet for details.) The third assignment asks you to prepare feedback for your colleagues on a draft of their research papers.

The fourth assignment is a three-paragraph paper in which I ask you to summarize, reflect on, and draw connections with course material for an environmental sociology issue in the news. Readings can be found in the “Environment in the News” folder on Moodle, and I ask you to choose an article that has not already been discussed by another student. The longest paragraph will be the first, in which you summarize the main ideas of the article, conveying the points that should be remembered for an exam. In the second paragraph, you should draw a connection to something we’ve discussed – or will discuss – in class, and explain what is sociological about this issue. Finally, in the third paragraph, you should reflect on this news item. (For instance, what does it mean for you, your family, your community at home, or the DePauw community?)

I ask you in a very short presentation (less than 5 minutes) to summarize the article and share with your colleagues what you think is significant about it. The presentation for Assignment 3 is an informal one; think of it as sharing information with friends. Please see the schedule on Moodle for when you should prepare your paper and presentation.

### **Course Materials**

Gould, Kenneth A. and Tammy L. Lewis. 2014. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Mooallem, Jon. 2014. *Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About Looking at People Looking at Animals in America*. Penguin.

-Other readings are available on Moodle (M) or as an e-book from our library, as indicated on the Schedule of Readings and Assignments.

**\*\*Late work and make-up exams will be accepted only in the case of serious, documented illness or family emergencies.**

### **Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to DePauw's code of academic integrity. Please see a list of examples of academic dishonesty at: [www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/](http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/academic/policies/integrity/)

### **DePauw Disability Statement**

*It is the policy and practice of DePauw University to provide reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please contact Student Disability Services. Allow one week advance notice to ensure enough time for reasonable accommodations to be made. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be provided on a timely basis. Accommodations are not retroactive. Students who have questions about Student Disability Services or who have, or think they may have, a disability (psychiatric, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, medical, etc.) are invited to contact Student Disability Services for a confidential discussion in Union Building Suite 200 or by phone at 658-6267.*

### **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

#### ***Weeks 1-2 Theory in Environmental Sociology***

##### **Week 1: Introduction (8/25)**

##### **Week 2: (8/30-9/1) *Theory in Environmental Sociology***

**T:** Gould and Lewis, Chapters 1 and 2: "The Social Construction of Nature: Of Computers, Butterflies, Dogs, and Trucks" and "Theories in Environmental Sociology" [skip pp 45-48}

**Th:** Owen, David. 2012. "The Conundrum," Chapter 1 in *The Conundrum: How Scientific Innovation, Increased Efficiency, and Good Intentions Can Make Our Energy and Climate Problems Worse*. Penguin

-The Economist, "Pricing the Priceless;" and

-NPR, "The Environmental Cost of Growing Food" [Moodle]

**Short Assignment 1: *Is There A Market Solution to Environmental Problems?***

##### **Week 3: (9/6-9/8) *Environment and the Media***

**T:** Andersen, Robin. 2000. "Selling 'Mother Earth': Advertising and the Myth of the Natural. In Richard Hofrichter (Ed.), *Reclaiming the Environmental Debate: The Politics of Health in a Toxic Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, pp. 201-217. (moodle)  
Bell and Ashwood, "Environmental Advertising" pp 67-69 in *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology (Moodle)*

##### **Short Assignment2:: *Naturework in Advertising***

**Th:** *The Economist*, "Fields of Tears" (M)

*In-class Screening: Cesar Chavez [140 minutes – you can leave at the end of class if you need to!]*

### **Weeks 4-5 The Food System**

#### **Week 4:, (9/13-9/15) Migrant workers and the food system**

T: Seth Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies*: Chapter 3 “Segregation on the Farm: Ethnic Hierarchies at Work” [library e-book; you’ll need to print]

**Due: One paragraph describing your topic**

**Th:** Holmes, Chapter 4 “How the Poor Suffer:” Embodying the Violence Continuum, [Available as an e-book from our library. You will need to print the assigned pages.

**Due: One paragraph describing a relevant piece of legislation**

#### **Week 5 (9/20-9/22) Food waste**

T: pp xi-xii, 2-39 (“Introduction, Chapter 1 “Waste from Farm to Fork,” **and** Chapter 2 “Does Food Waste Really Matter”) in Jonathan Bloom, *American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food* and pp. 1-18,48-49 (“Introduction”) in Raj Patel, *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System*. (M)

**Th: EXAM 1**

### **Weeks 6-8 Animals and Society**

#### **Week 6 (9/27-9/29)**

T: Jerolmack, Colin. 2009. “Primary groups and cosmopolitan ties: The rooftop pigeon flyers of New York City.” *Ethnography* 10(4), 435-457. [Please access this journal article through our library by typing the first words of the title into the main page search box.]

**Th:** Screening: *The Elephant in the Living Room [1 h 36min]* ;

Reading:

-“America Has a Tiger Problem, And No One’s Sure How to Solve It.”  
(Smithsonian.com) (M) AND

-Mooallem, Jon. 2014. *Wild Ones*, pp 1-49.

#### **Week 7: (10/4-10/6)**

T: Mooallem, pp 50-83; 93-102

**Th:** Sherman, Jennifer. Pp 30-54 in Chapter 1 “The Place I Found: An Introduction to Golden Valley” from *Those Who Work, Those Who Don’t: Poverty, Morality, and Family in Rural America*. (M)

**Due: Research Paper Draft 1**

#### **Week 8: (10/11-10/13)**

T: French, Thomas. 2010. *Zoo Story: Life in the Garden of Captives*. New York: Hachette, Chapters 1-2, pp 185-190. (M)

**Th:EXAM 2**

**\*\*\*FALL BREAK\*\*\*(10/18-10-20)**

***Weeks 9-11 Environmental Justice***

**Week 9: (10/25-10/27): Race, Gender, and the Environment**

T: Finney, Carol. 2014. "Introduction" in *Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press. (M); Roach, John. 2007. "African Slaves Brought First Rice Riches to US?" *National Geographic News*. (M)

Th: Shah, Bindi, 2011, Chapters 1 and 4 (to page 62) in *Laotian Daughters: Working Toward Community, Belonging, and Environmental Justice*. Available as an e-book from our library. You will need to print the assigned pages.

**Week 10: (11/1-11/3)**

T: Taylor, Dorceta E. "Internal Colonialism: Native American Communities in the West." Chapter 3, pp 47-68 in *Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility*. New York: NYU Press. (M); -Bell, Shannon. 2013. *Our Roots Run Deep As Ironweed: Appalachian Women and the Fight for Environmental Justice*. Introduction and Chapter 3. (M)

**Th:** Gould and Lewis, Chapters 10 and 11: "Environmental Inequality and Environmental Justice" and "The Sociology of Environmental Health"

**Week 11 (11/8-11/10)**

**Sunday 11/6 by 5 p.m. due to Moodle: Research Paper Draft 2**

T: **\*\*\*peer review letters due\*\*\***

Th: Bullard, Robert. 1993. "Anatomy of Environmental Racism and the Environmental Justice Movement," pp. 15-39 in *Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices from the Grassroots*, edited by R. Bullard. Boston: South End.

**Week 12: (11/15-11/17) Environmental Social Movements and Population**

T: Gould and Lewis, Chapters 16 and 18: "US Environmental Movements" and "Environmental Movements in the Global South"

Th Weisman, Alan. 2013. Countdown, pp 1-32; 38-43 (M) and Crist and Cafaro, (Eds.). 2012. *Life on the Brink: Environmentalists Confront Overpopulation*, Chapter 13 "Nulliparity and A Cruel Hoax Revisited" (M)

Video: Six Billion and Beyond [16 minutes]

**Week 13 (11/22-11/24)**

**T: EXAM 3**

Th: No class (Thanksgiving)

**Weeks 14-15 Environmental Sociology and Legislation**  
**Tuesday 11/29: Research paper due!**

**Th: Presentations due!**

**Week 15 Presentations and Final Reflections (12/6-12/8)**

**Synopsis of Due Dates and Work for the Course**

**I. Starting Week 2, the following are due every week**

1. assigned reading
2. a paragraph (minimum) entry in your project journal, due by beginning of class on Thursday. I might collect these occasionally, but not regularly; however, be prepared to share with us in class the progress in your thinking.

**II. Please check the schedule on Moodle for when Short Assignment 4 is due for you.**

**III. Below are the dates of assigned work you'll submit for feedback and/or a grade:**

Week 2

9/1 Th Short Assignment 1

Week 3

9/8 Th Short Assignment 2

Week 4

9/13 T One paragraph describing your topic

9/15 Th One paragraph describing a relevant piece of legislation

Week 5

9/22 Th Exam 1

Week 7

10/6 Th Research Paper Draft 1 due

Week 8

10/13 Th Exam 2

Week 11

\*\*\*Sunday, 11/6 by 5 pm to Moodle: Research Paper Draft 2 due

11/8 T Short Assignment 3 peer review letters

Week 13

11/22 T Exam 3

Week 14

11/29 T Research paper (final) due

12/1 Th Presentation due