

SOCY 2077: Environment and Society

Monday – Friday (12:45 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.)

GUGG 205

Instructor: Christine Bevc
Office: IBS 7 (Natural Hazards Library), Corner of 13th and Grandview Ave.
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday – 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (after class) or by appointment
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WebCT: <https://webct.colorado.edu/>

Course Description: This course examines the interaction and influence between the environment and society. It covers a variety of topics including the environmental movement, environmental concern, consumption, environmental justice, globalization, energy, hazards and disasters, and sustainability. This course serves as an introduction to the study of environmental sociology.

Objectives: The objectives of this course are 1) to become familiar with environmental issues and problems, 2) to gain an understanding of the underlying social factors, 3) to better appreciate the interactive relationship between society and the environment, and 4) to develop your reading, writing, critical thinking, and research skills.

Course Materials: There are 2 required books for this course. Additional readings will be available on WebCT.

- Bell, Michael Mayfield. 2004. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology, 2nd Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.
- Kline, Benjamin. 2000. *First Along the River, 2nd Edition*. Lanham, MD: Acada Books.

Course Requirements and Grading: The requirements for this course include attending and participating in class, reading the assigned daily readings before class, writing short essays (1-2 pages), and completing a group research project. The grading for this course will be done based on a point system. The following table shows what you will be graded on and how many points may be earned for each course element. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Grades will be posted on WebCT

| Course Element | Point Breakdown | Points | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Participation and Attendance | 1 pt for each day (24 days), plus 6 points for participation | 30 points | 14.6% |
| Short Essay Assignments (4 total) | 10 pts for each assignment | 40 points | 19.5% |
| Group Research Project | 45 pts total for progressive assignments (3 total) 20 pts for group presentation 20 pts from group and class grading 50 pts for final paper | 135 points | 65.9% |
| Total possible points: | | 205 points | 100% |

NOTE: On late work, 3 points will be deducted for each day work is received after the time it is due. Only under extreme circumstances will exceptions be made.

Formatting of Assignments: Guidelines for formatting papers will be discussed in class and available on WebCT. All written assignments, including essays and final papers, must follow these guidelines. Points will be deducted for not using these formatting guidelines.

VERY IMPORTANT: Additional information related to the syllabus and this course is posted on WebCT. If you have any questions, concerns or difficulties with this course and/or syllabus at any time, do not hesitate to talk to me after class, in office hours, via e-mail, or make an appointment!

Disability Statement: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to the instructor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)

A Note on Academic Honesty & Plagiarism: The development of the Internet has provided students with historically unparalleled opportunities for conducting research swiftly and comprehensively. The availability of these materials does not, however, release the student from appropriately citing sources where appropriate; or applying standard rules associated with avoiding plagiarism. Specifically, the instructor will be expecting to review papers written by students drawing ideas and information from various sources (cited appropriately), presented generally in the student's words after careful analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. An assembly of huge blocks of other individuals' existing material, even when cited, does not constitute an appropriate representation of this expectation. Uncited, plagiarized material shall be treated as academically dishonest, and the paper will be assigned an 'F' as a result. If the student is confused as to what constitutes plagiarism, he/she should review the CU Honor Code on this topic, or see the instructor. Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> or <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>. Papers submitted by any student, written in part or in whole by someone other than that student, shall be considered to constitute fraud under the University Honor Code, and result in the assignment of an 'F' for the entire course.

Course Schedule: Below is a schedule of the topics, readings, and assignments for this course. The schedule will also be posted on the class calendar in WebCT. Readings assigned are due on the day they are listed. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Emailed assignments must be received before 12:45 p.m. on the day they are due.

| Date | Topic | Reading(s) | Assignments Due |
|-----------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 11 July | Course Overview* and Introduction | Bell, Ch. 1 (5-26) – Start reading | |
| 12 July | Social Construction of Nature and the Environment | Bell, Ch. 8 (173-195) | |
| 13 July | Rise of Environmentalism (Prehistory – 1930) | Kline, Ch. 5 (51-69) | |
| 14 July | Golden Years of Environmentalism (1940s – 1970s) | Kline, Ch. 7 (84-100) Bell, Ch. 1 (5-26) | |
| 17 July | Contemporary Environmentalism (1980s – 1990s) | Kline, Ch. 9, 10 (116-158) | Topic |
| 18 July | Population and Development | Bell, Ch. 4 (78-104) | Essay 1 |
| 19 July | Environmental Attitudes and Behavior | * Ignatow (441-462) | |
| 20 July | Consumption and Materialism | Bell, Ch. 2 (29-43) | |
| 21 July | Money and Machines | Bell, Ch. 3 (51-73) | Essay 2 |
| 24 July | Energy and the Environment | * Humphrey et al. Ch. 5 (136-174) | Bibliography |
| 25 July | Natural Resources | * Field, Luloff, and Krannich (213-227) | |
| 26 July | Hunger and the Food Supply | * Humphrey et al. Ch. 4 (107-135) | |
| 27 July | Body and Health | Bell, Ch. 5 (105-123) | |
| 28 July | Race, Class, and Environmental Quality | * Bullard, Ch. 1, 6 (1-20, 113-36) | |
| 31 July | Rationality of Risk | Bell, Ch. 9 (197-208) | Lit Review and Outline |
| 1 August | Hazards and Disasters: Overview | Bell, Ch. 9 (208-219) | |
| 2 August | Hazards and Disasters: A New Species of Trouble | * Erickson, Ch. 4 (139-157) | |
| 3 August | Globalization, Vulnerability, and Climate Change | * Park and Roberts (337-355) | Essay 3 |
| 4 August | Sustainable Development | *Humphrey et al. Ch. 7 (220-264) | <i>Rough Draft</i> |
| 7 August | The Debate over the Death of Environmentalism | * Shellenberger and Nordhaus (12-15) | |
| 8 August | Reorganizing Society | Bell, Ch. 10 (223-249) | Essay 4 |
| 9 August | Social Learning and the Environment | *Milbrath Ch. 17, 18 (341-351, 352-380) | |
| 10 August | Using Environmental Sociology | * Payne and Cluett (525-552) | Final Presentation (gmail) |
| 11 August | In-Class Project Presentations | | Final Paper |

* Presentations and readings will be available on WebCT.

Group Research Project: This project is designed to provide you an opportunity to explore a specific environmental issue of your choice. You will be working in groups of 3 or 4 to complete the project. You will pick your groups the second day of class. Progressive assignments will help you work towards your final grade on the project. You will receive additional information about the group project in class the first week. You should start reading Bell - Chapter 1, pages 5-26 – to help you decide on a topic.

Sources of Supplemental or Additional Readings:

- Bullard, Robert D. 2000. *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Erickson, Kai. 1994. *A New Species of Trouble*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Field, Donald R., A.E. Luloff, and Richard S. Krannich. 2002. "Revisiting the Origins and Distinctions Between Natural Resource Sociology and Environmental Sociology." *Society and Natural Resources*, 15(2):213-227.
- Humphrey, Craig R., Tammy L. Lewis, and Fredrick H. Buttel. 2002. *Environment, Energy, and Society: A New Synthesis*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
- Ignatow, Gabriel. 2006. "Cultural Models of Nature and Society." *Environment and Behavior*, 38(4): 441-461.
- Milbrath, Lester W. 1989. *Envisioning a Sustainable Society: Learning Our Way Out*. New York: State University of New York Press.
- Parks, Bradley C. and J. Timmons Roberts. 2006. "Globalization, Vulnerability to Climate Change, and Perceived Injustice." *Society and Natural Resources*, 19:337-355.
- Payne, Barbara A. and Christopher Cluett. 2002. "Environmental Sociology in Nonacademic Settings." pp. 525-552 in Riley E. Dunlap and William Michelson (eds). *Handbook of Environmental Sociology*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
- Shellenberger, Michael and Ted Nordhaus. 2004. *The Death of Environmentalism*. Available at www.thebreakthrough.org.

Final Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. A current version of the syllabus will be posted on WebCT.