

Spring 2008  
Sociology 4007- 001  
Global Human Ecology  
T-R 2-3:15pm  
Humanities 1B90

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Office hours: T-R 3:30-4:30pm

Welcome to a new and vital sociology course - Global Human Ecology.

The objective of this course is to develop in students a sociological perspective on issues like overpopulation, hunger, pollution, climate change, resource depletion and the impacts of technology and policy as well as strategies for social change.

This timely course, part of our department's environmental sociology program, will encourage each of you to develop / fine tune your ecological literacy skills (the ability to ask "what then?") and work toward a new understanding of the relationship between social and natural systems, economy and ecology, human communities and place. Through our treatment of current, substantive, global issues we will also address related matters of ecological design, appropriate scale, limits to growth, food and water security, national sovereignty, and the global intersections of race, class and gender.

Knowing "what's hitched to what, and how" is critical to the development of a more sustainable future for us all. The interrelationships and interconnections between the social and natural world are inherently complex and necessitate careful examination. It is my hope that we become more attuned to these many linkages and interchanges, and begin to clearly see the social causes and consequences of several critical global concerns.

**The seven required books** for this course are available exclusively at **Left Hand Books**, 1200 Pearl St. (lower level); 303.443.8252. They are available "bundled" at a discount. Since these books will serve as the basis for our classroom discussions, it is vital that you possess them, make a strong commitment to reading them, and bring them to class with you. Share books if you like.

### Required Texts

- **The World's Water 2006-2007: The Biannual Report on Freshwater Resources**
- **State of the World (2008) Innovations for a Sustainable Economy**
- **Vital Signs 2008 - Worldwatch Institute (will be available Feb. 08)**
- **The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community** by David Korten
- **and three little books by Vandanna Shiva: 1) Stolen Harvest 2) Water Wars 3) Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed**

### Exams and Grading:

I expect lively and thoughtful participation by all members of this class. I expect you to read the appropriate material for each class meeting and come ready to talk, share, apply, refine, and/or challenge the topic at hand. I favor frequent and informed participation. I **strongly encourage you to make every effort to become a "regular member" of this class. Please bring your book(s) to each class meeting.** Your grade for this course will be based on the following criteria: class engagement (25%)\*, two exams (25% ea. / 50 %); and a small group project / presentation (25 %). In determining final grades I do use the "+, -" system." if you are going to miss an exam, it is vital that you notify me prior to that exam.

\* Class Engagement (20%): Your regular attendance and active participation in class discussions and activities is an essential component of this class. You are expected to engage in civil discourse on issues and readings relevant to each session. Beyond two absences, your grade for engagement will be reduced by one-half letter grade for each subsequent absence, except in the case of high holiday observance, family emergency or medical emergency.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide me notification from Disability Services and discuss specific needs with me, preferably during the first two weeks of class. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard Hall, room 322.)

**Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please inform me as to any classes you expect to miss due to a religious observance.

**Classroom Behavior Policy**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities.

**Student Honor Code**

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council(honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and nonacademic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

**Policy on Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550.