

Instructor: Dr. Mike Haffey **Office and phone: 11A Ketchum Hall; 303.492.8838**
Office Hours: Thurs. 1-2 p.m. **email: mhaffey@colorado.edu**

Welcome to a new and vital sociology course - Global Human Ecology. The objective of this course is to encourage in you new, ecological literacy skills. Knowing "what's hitched to what, and how" is critical to the development of a more sustainable future for us all. I have chosen the topic of **water** to explore the relationship between social and natural systems, economy and ecology, human communities and place. Water is central to human affairs and serves as a useful mechanism by which to examine the dynamic interplay between the social and natural world. 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 critical reasoning skills (the ability to determine the truthfulness and validity of statements about social life and the role of water). It is my hope that such a "hydrosociology" will encourage us to become more attuned to these many linkages and interchanges, and more clearly grasp the social dimensions of our global human ecology.

As pioneers in the sociology of water, we have the unique opportunity to analyze social life and ecosystems, human practices and finite resources, in light of each other. So I invite you down this watery path (a slippery slope?) where socio-economics and hydrologic cycles collide. Race, class, gender, region, religion, are all central elements to issues of: dam construction, bottled water, instream flow, desalination efforts, floods, droughts, the privatization of water, water wars, and of course, global climatic disruption (a crises mediated by water). Through our treatment of current, substantive, water issues we will also address related matters of ecological design, appropriate scale, limits to growth, food and water security, national sovereignty, and social conflict.

However, it is my belief, that any effort to understand the global necessitates an understanding of the local. Global water issues are reflected and manifest locally. These are not just issues happening to someone else, in some other place. These issues impact each of us, everywhere, always. A working understanding of our own watershed and water-use, must coincide with any broader, global treatments. So, just where does your water come from? What issues confront your watershed? How are you affected?

The four required books for this course are available exclusively at **Left Hand Books** located at 1200 Pearl Street. Left Hand Book Collective is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit, collectively-run bookstore, which has served Boulder since 1979. Their phone # is 303.443.8252 . These four texts are available "bundled" at a discount (\$85.08). 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

Water Wars Vandana Shiva Southend Press 2002

The World's Water 2006-2007 by Peter Gleick Island Press 2006

Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crises and the Coming Battle For the Right to Water
by Maude Barlow The New Press 2007

When the Rivers Run Dry: Water - The Defining Crises of the Twenty First Century
by Fred Pearce Beacon Press 2006

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 / co-facilitation(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 a exam, it is vital that you notify me prior to that exam.

* Class Engagement (25%): 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. Each student is expected to co-facilitate one of our class meetings. 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).