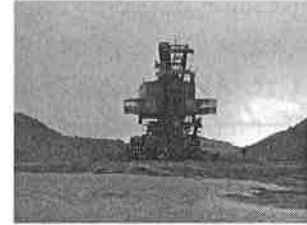


SOCIOLOGY 4620
Sociology of the Environment & Natural Resources
Spring 2016

Professor:	Courtney Flint	Class Time:	TR 1:30-2:45 pm
Dr. Flint's Office:	216D Old Main	Classroom:	Old Main 201
Dr. Flint's E-mail:	courtney.flint@usu.edu	Phone:	435-797-8635
Dr. Flint's Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00 to 12:30 pm (or by appointment)		
TA: Matt Booth	mattbooth2016@gmail.com ; TA Office Hours M 2-3pm & W 1:30-2:30pm		



Course Description:

This course is about the “people part” of the environment and the management of natural resources. We cover local to global environmental issues and explore “who gets what” in terms of environmental “goods” and “bads”. We will go beyond the study of social-environmental problems to also explore diverse examples of environmental solutions. The course looks at issues from different points of view and polishes students’ reading, writing, and overall communication skills.

Course Objectives:

This course is a Depth Social Science (DSS) course. The University Studies Objectives apply to this course, including:

- Understand processes of acquiring knowledge and information;
- Reason logically, critically, creatively, and independently, and be able to address problems in a broad context;
- Recognize different ways of thinking, creating, and communicating through a variety of media;
- Understand diversity in value systems and cultures in an interdependent world; and develop a capacity for self-assessment and lifelong learning.

Additional objectives for this course include:

- Synthesize information and summarize succinctly through written and verbal expression to clearly capture and communicate the essence of ideas
- Respectfully express personal opinions, listen to those of others, and work collaboratively
- Understand core concepts, theories, methods and examples of the study of environmental and natural resource sociology, including:
 - Theories of social-environment relationships and applications around the world
 - How ideas of nature are socially shaped and influence landscapes and change
 - Community-natural resource interactions and implications for well-being
 - Various methodologies for understanding social-environmental relationships
 - Environmental inequalities and strategies for improving well-being
 - Role of science and other knowledge in risk and environmental communication
- Collect, analyze and report findings from various types of socio-environmental data
- Interpret contemporary events using concepts from environmental and natural resource sociology

Course Structure & Expectations:

This course is reading, writing, and discussion intensive!!! Keeping up with readings and coming to class prepared to discuss readings will increase opportunities for success and enjoyment in the class. If you are coming to class, participating in discussions and activities, and completing assignments and still having difficulty, please come see me so we can work together to find a good strategy for success.

Assignments/Graded Components of Course: The following constitute graded student obligations:

• Class Participation (best 10 of 12 random activities in class @ 5 points each)	50pts (~ 9%)
• Contemporary Issues Journal due 2 times during the semester (20 points each)	40pts (~ 7%)
• Reading Response Papers (best 8 out of 10, @ 15 points each)	120pts (~22%)
• Online Discussions (best 5 out of 6 @ 15 points each)	75pts (~14%)
• Data Assignments (3 @ 40 points each)	120pts (~22%)
• Written Assignments (2 @ 50 points each)	100pts (~18%)
• Final Take Home Assignment (1 @ 50 points)	50pts (~ 9%)
Total	555 points

Grading Scale: Your final grade for the course will be based on your overall performance out of the above total amount of points using the following rubric: 97%-100% = A+; 93-96.9% = A; 90-92.9% = A-; 87-89.9% = B+; 83-86.9% = B; 80-82.9% = B-, 77-79.9% = C+; 73-76.9% = C; 70-72.9% = C-; 67-69.9% = D+; 63-66.9% = D; 60-62.9% = D-; below 60% = F.

If you miss points due to an EXCUSED absence (except for class participation) you will be allowed an opportunity to make up the points in negotiation with Dr. Flint if she is notified promptly about the situation. Class participation points from days with EXCUSED absences (those with clear documentation) will not be included in your overall grade calculation.

Contemporary Issue (CI) Assignments help to make sure the course material connects to the “real world”. Throughout the semester, watch the news for issues that connect to our class material. You will need at least 6 entries by the end of the semester (3 entries by 1st check, additional 3 entries by 2nd check). For each entry, include source info, a brief 1-2 sentence description, and a paragraph describing connections to concepts and examples from course material (lecture or readings). Instructions for submission will be made available in class.

Reading Response Papers will help you understand the course material and prepare for class. Your best 8 out of 9 scores will count toward your final grade. NOTE: It is not acceptable to merely summarize the reading – that is not one of the options. These papers can be submitted via Canvas or on paper. These **ONE-PAGE** papers can take any of the following forms:

- A **visual** incorporating key concepts from the reading(s) **with written annotations** for explanation.
- Discuss as a **small group** the important aspects of the reading(s) including reactions. Turn in a full description of the group discussion about key concepts in the reading, citing clear examples from the reading. **Each person in the group must turn in a separate reading response.**
- Write up **five** questions representing key concepts from the reading. Choose **two** questions and answer them in **3-5 sentences** including **why** this question captures a key element of the chapter.
- Find a related reading to extend the assigned reading ideas and write up your reactions to core ideas from **both** readings showing understanding of concepts as well as your own opinions.

Online Discussions will help develop communication skills, ensure you are getting the essential points of readings and exchanging reactions with others in class. These discussions will be in Canvas. You are expected to make at least one original post and respond to at least two posts from other students. Online discussion input should be civil and convey understanding of the reading material.

Data Assignments - Three assignments will involve collecting or working with data to better understand social science research. Assignment details will be made available in class and on canvas. These papers may be submitted via Canvas or on paper.

Written Assignments will be due twice during the semester and will be a way for you to bring together ideas and examples from sections of course material and your own observations. These assignments are limited to ***no more than THREE typed, double spaced pages (1inch margins)***. Details will be provided in class at least one week before the due date. **NO late papers accepted except in documented circumstances.** These papers must be submitted via Canvas.

Final Take Home Assignment – The final (available by April 19 and due online at our scheduled final exam time on May 5) will require you to explain terms and concepts from the semester using examples from various sources accumulated over the course of the semester. If you take good notes, stay organized, and come to class this should be quite straightforward.

Course Policies

USU promotes the free expression of ideas and endeavors to maintain a classroom environment that promotes learning. Students will be expected to treat each other with courtesy. Respect for differing viewpoints and opinions is both expected and required.

Cell phones should be turned off or to do not disturb mode during class. Phone calls and text messaging are not allowed except for serious emergencies. Laptops or tablets may only be used for class-related work (taking notes or class activities). Please avoid the temptation to lose focus via technology.

Please make every effort to arrive on time to class! If there is a reason you must be late or leave early, please discuss this with me and do so with as little disruption as possible. While keeping up with news in newspapers and social interaction among friends are encouraged in general life, please refrain from these activities during class time.

Attendance will not be tracked. We will, however, have regular, random, unannounced activities in class for points. Unless excused by official documentation, these activities cannot be made up.

In case of potential discrepancy in grades, keep all graded work throughout the semester. If you do not agree with a grade, you may submit a *written* grade appeal to me within *one week* of receiving the grade. Appeals received after one week will not be considered unless there are serious extenuating circumstances. Written appeals should include a rationale and explanation of why you believe your grade should be changed. We will then set a time to meet to discuss your appeal. Any circumstances preventing completion of the course should be communicated *prior* to the end of the semester.

According to University Student Code, the professor reserves the right to dismiss anyone who is disruptive to class process and does not abide by the above policy. Additionally, university regulations regarding academic integrity will be enforced for any violations related to cheating, falsification, or plagiarism (see <http://www.usu.edu/studentservices/studentcode/article6.cfm> for further information).

Required Book (All other readings will be provided via Canvas or in class):

King, L. and D. McCarthy Auriffelle. 2013. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action* 3rd Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield. (Referred to in schedule as “ESA2A”).

PLEASE BE SURE YOU GET THE 3rd EDITION OF THE BOOK AS CHAPTERS ARE LARGELY DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS EDITIONS!

Course Schedule (*Subject to change, but assignments would only be due later, not earlier*)

DATE	READING/TOPIC	WHAT'S DUE?
Jan 12 Tues	Course Intro – What is Environmental and Natural Resource Sociology?	
Jan 14 Thurs	Social Dimensions of Environmental Issues	Read ESA2A p1-23 Survey Due Jan15 8am
Jan 19 Tues	Human-Nature Relationships Environmental Attitudes & Behaviors	Read Louv pp 1-14 and and Amos 2015 Online Discussion 1
Jan 21 Thurs	Political Economy Theories – Treadmill of Production/Jevon's Paradox	Read ESA2A Ch 2 Reading Response 1
Jan 26 Tues	Political Economy Theories – Ecological Modernization Theory	Read ESA2A Ch 4 Online Discussion 2
Jan 28 Thurs	Sustainability – Ecological Footprints - Wellbeing	Read ESA2A Ch 5 and Reading Response 2
Feb 2 Tues	Data Activity 1 – Sustainability Indicators - in Ag Sci Computer Lab	Read Verschuuren et al '14 Meet in Computer Lab
Feb 4 Thurs	Intro to Social Construction of Nature & Place	Data Assignment 1
Feb 9 Tues	Wilderness & Wolves	Read ESA2A Ch 9 Online Discussion 3
Feb 11 Thurs	Gender & the Environment	Read Wesely-Gaarder 2004 Reading Response 3
Feb 16** Tues	No Class – Monday Schedule	
Feb 18 Thurs	Science, Society and Social Movements: Climate Change	Read ESA2A Ch 10 Reading Response 4
Feb 23 Tues	Social Science Research Methods	Contemporary Issues 1
Feb 25 Thurs	Intro to Community & Natural Resources	Written Assignment 1
Mar 1 Tues	Communities & Natural Resources – Dependency/Boom-Bust	Read Krannich et al 2014 Reading Response 5
Mar 3 Thurs	Communities & Natural Resources - Experiencing Change & Choices	Read ESA2A Ch 11 and Gilman 2015 Online Discussion 4
Mar 8 & 10	No Class – Spring Break	
Mar 15 Tues	Data Activity 2 – Community Census Data – in Ag Sci Computer Lab	Meet in Computer Lab
Mar 17 Thurs	Introduction to Environmental Justice	Data Assignment 2 Read Mohai & Saha 2015
Mar 22 Tues	Food Security	Read ESA2A Ch 6 Reading Response 6
Mar 24 Thurs	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	Read Flint et al. 2011 Reading Response 7
Mar 29 Tues	Public-Private Environmental Issues & the Role of the State	Read ESA2A Ch 7 Online Discussion 5
Mar 31 Thurs	Sociology of Disaster	Written Assignment 2
April 5 Tues	Global Environmental Justice	Read ESA2A Ch 14 Reading Response 8
April 7 Thurs	Global Social-Environmental Movements	Read ESA2A Ch 29 Reading Response 9
April 12 Tues	Individualization	Read ESA2A Ch 20 Online Discussion 6
April 14 Thurs	Individual Action Data Activity 3 – Surveys/Interviews	Read ESA2A Ch 21 Reading Response 10
April 19 Tues	Data Activity 3 – Analysis for Reporting Results	Meet in Computer Lab
April 21 Thurs	Local Environmental Action	Data Assignment 3
April 26 Tues	Global-Local Linkages & Wicked Problems	Contemporary Issues 2
April 28 Thurs	Semester Wrap-Up	
May 5 Thurs	Take-Home Final Exam Due by 3:20pm	Submit Online