

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 4260: 001

SPRING 2018

Instructor:	Jennifer Knudsen
E-mail:	Use course message system , otherwise use Jennifer.Knudsen@unt.edu
Class Time:	M/W/F 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM
Classroom:	Matt 311
Office:	Sycamore 288U
Office Hours:	M/W from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM CST/CDT (or by appointment)

REQUIRED TEXT

Bell, M.M. and Ashwood, L.L. 2004. *An Introduction to Environmental Sociology*. Sage: Thousand Oaks, CA.

**Other readings to be assigned in class

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Environmental Sociology is a branch of sociology that focuses on human society and its interaction with and use of the environment. Within this course we will primarily focus on the United States but will also study other countries and global issues. This course will introduce the student to societal, community, and individual interactions with the environment and how culture shapes these interactions. These interactions create a link between society and the environment that are not always clear. This course will attempt to make these links clear. In the text, Bell and Ashwood (2004), state that *Environmental sociology is the study of community in the largest sense* (p. 3). As Sociology is the study of human society and Ecology is the study of the interactions of organisms within an environment, Environmental Sociology is a study of both ecology and society.

Learning Objectives:

1. Increase the student's awareness and understanding of the society in which we live, the social phenomena which we observe, and the world in which we live;
2. Clarify the terms environment and ecology
3. Introduce students to the field of, theories, and methods employed in sociology, particularly environmental sociology,
4. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures particularly in regard to environmental sociology;
5. View social phenomena and those interactions with the environment specifically from a sociological perspective;
6. Understand the environmental justice movement and its purpose
7. Employ a comparative perspective on human societies and the environment

COURSE POLICIES

Three factors are considered vital to your success in this course: 1) completing the reading before the designated class, 2) engaging in class discussions, 3) completing assignments (papers and project), and 4) completing exams. Please note that you may not be reminded of work that you have missed. It is your responsibility.

COURSE INFORMATION

With the exception of weekends and holidays, I check my course email regularly and respond as quickly as possible. There are a number of ways in which you may interact with me and other members of the class: 1) course's "message" system, 2) the Eagle Connect emailing system, and 3) Before Class. IN regard to online correspondence, I prefer to be contacted via the Course Messaging System. You may use the UNT email, Eagle Connect. If you do use Eagle Connect, please be sure to use my faculty email (above) and put the course heading in the subject section. ***This helps me help you***, allowing for faster response times.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 15, 2017	MLK Day (no classes; University closed)
January 16, 2017	First Class Day
March 12-16, 2017	Spring Break (no classes)
May 3, 2017	Last Class Day
May 4, 2017	Reading Day (no classes)
May 5-11, 2017	Finals

GRADES AND GRADING STRUCTURE

The final grade for this class will be based on your performance on 1) Two Exams, 2) Fifteen Weekly Discussions, 3) Two Analysis Papers, and an 4) End-of-Semester Project.

Exams: There are two exams for this course, the midterm and final. The midterm is worth up-to 150 points and the Final is worth up-to 200 points. Exams will include multiple choice, short answer, and a short essay. **Late exam policy:** The midterm can be taken late at a 50% late penalty (half-credit). If official documentation is provided in regard to an illness, family emergency, or required UNT sponsored event up-to full credit **may** be earned on the late exam. NOTE: The final cannot be taken later than the end of finals week for any reason and should be taken during the scheduled time, May 5th at 10:30 am. Late finals will be graded at a 50% late penalty. The instructor should be notified **as soon as** the student is aware of any exam schedule conflict (ex: sporting event, university related event, etc.) to avoid a late penalty.

Discussion/Participation: Weekly discussion is mandatory and full engagement is critical to your and the course's success. **Discussions will be used in lieu of taking attendance.** The quality of this participation is very important. Your participation will be measured in terms of quality, regularity, and completeness of your discussion. Your discussions should be interactive and engaging. You should ask questions of your fellow students, make comments, and/or even ask them for clarification on various aspects of their understanding of the reading. These discussions are worth a total of 150 points, 10 points each, toward your final grade. Discussions cannot be completed late. **More details will follow.**

Analysis Papers: There will be two analysis papers, 50 points each, due during the course of the semester. These papers are a chance for you to find an article (newspaper, research, blog, etc.) of your choosing and write an analysis of the article applying the material learned in class. Papers will be due Friday at 11:59 p.m. via Blackboard. There will be a 5 point deduction for every day a paper is late. **More details will follow.**

End-of-Semester Project: There will be an end of semester project in which you will be required to conduct and present a case study of a community and a related environmental issue within that community. This project will include a written portion and a short presentation to the class. Late projects will not be accepted. **More details will follow.**

GRADING POINT SYSTEM

GRADING SOURCE	POINTS
Midterm	150
Final	200
Discussion/Participation (15)	150
Analysis Papers (2)	100
End of Semester Project	100
Total Points	700

GRADING SCALE

GRADE	POINTS REQUIRED
A	630-700
B	560-629
C	490-559
D	420-489
F	0-419

COURSE TOPICS, READING AND QUIZ/EXAM SCHEDULE

Week	Month	Day	Topics	Assigned Readings	Discussion, Assignment, & Exam Schedule
1	Jan	16	Introduction to Environmental Sociology	Chapter 1 (1-29)	Discussion 1
2	Jan	22	Environmental Problems	Chapter 1 (30-45)	Discussion 2
3	Jan	29	Historical Societies and the Environment	Chapter 8	Discussion 3
4	Feb	5	Consumption and Environmental Interaction	Chapter 2	Discussion 4
5	Feb	12	Technology and Environmental Interaction	Chapter 4	Discussion 5
6	Feb	19	Social Institutions	Chapter 3 & 7(206-210)	Discussion 6, Analysis Paper 1
7	Feb	26	Social Institutions and Groups	Chapter 7 & 12	Discussion 7
8	Mar	5	Midterm Review		Discussion 8
					Midterm (Mar. 9)
	Mar	12	SPRING BREAK		
9	Mar	19	Groups and Populations	Chapter 5	Discussion 9
10	Mar	26	Groups and Populations	Chapter 9	Discussion 10
11	Mar	2	Environmental Justice	Chapter 6	Discussion 11
12	Apr	9	Environmental Justice/ Sustainability	Chapter 10	Discussion 12, Analysis Paper 2
13	Apr	16	Sustainability	Chapter 11	Discussion 13
14	Apr	23	Sustainability	Chapter 13	Discussion 14, Projects
15	Apr	30	Presentations/Final Review		Discussion 15
	May	5	FINALS		Final Exam (May. 5, 10:30 a.m.)

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

I encourage in and out of classroom input. I am available for consultation (by appointment only) and welcome the opportunity to assist you. To arrange for an appointment and for purposes of this course, please use the Blackboard Learn course messaging system. With the exception of weekends, I vigilantly check my email and usually respond within 24 hours. Ask questions. If there is something that you do not understand, then ask. If you do not ask, I will have to assume that you understand everything that is going on. Do not fall behind in class. Make sure you keep up with readings and notes. If you begin to experience academic difficulty, be sure you consult with me. Do not wait until late in the semester and expect me to be able to be very sympathetic. I value your input, your ideas, and your contributions, and will do my best to encourage them by working with you to create a climate that is conducive to your participation. I am sure that all of you will have something to contribute at one time or other. Please do so. I will treat your contributions with respect and expect you to do the same for your classmates. Finally, I reserve the right to change or make adjustments to this syllabus as I see fit.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) will not be tolerated at any time. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the University of North Texas, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of Sociology. You will find the complete provisions of the code in the student handbook. Please note that I take academic dishonesty very seriously and the consequences will be very harsh.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking another's ideas, words, writings, or research findings and not giving them proper credit through quotations or citations. Even when we are paraphrasing another's ideas, we must give them credit. To do otherwise is to allow the reader to think these ideas and words are your own when they are not. This act is considered theft of intellectual property. Plagiarism is considered one of the most serious transgressions that can be committed in the educational community.

In the case of plagiarism, there are several options available to an instructor, including verbal and/or written reprimand, assignment of a lower grade with an explanation from the instructor, expulsion from the course with the assignment of a passing grade (WP), expulsion from the course with the assignment of a failing grade (WF), and/or expulsion from the university.

Therefore, all written work should be properly cited when:

1. Describing the ideas of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
2. Describing the research of another (even if it is not a direct quotation),
3. Using the words, phrases, paragraphs, or pages of another, and/or
4. Quoting the words of another.

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS AND HOLIDAYS

If there are reasons that will cause you to “miss” class sessions for religious reasons, etc., sometime during the semester, you must notify me - in advance - in writing by no later than 5:00 PM, Friday, of the first week of classes.

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please refer to the UNT Faculty Handbook or your department regarding the Add/Drop Policy.

F-1 STUDENTS TAKING DISTANCE EDUCATION COURSES

U.S. Federal Regulation: For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website at:

<http://www.oea.gov/index.php/links/electronic-code-of-federal-regulations>

The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at:

"Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (i) (G)" and can be found buried within this document:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title8-vol1/xml/CFR-2012-title8-vol1-sec214-2.xml>

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS COMPLIANCE

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on- campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda> . You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Links to all of these services can be found on the [Academic Support tab](#) within Blackboard Learn:

- Academic Resource Center: buy textbooks and supplies, access academic catalogs and programs, register for classes, and more.
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: provides Code of Student Conduct along with other useful links.
- Office of Disability Accommodation: ODA exist to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability and to help students reach a higher level of independence.
- Counseling and Testing Services: CTS provides counseling services to the UNT community as well as testing services; such as admissions testing, computer-based testing, career testing and other tests.
- UNT Libraries: online library services
- Online Tutoring: chat in real time, mark up your paper using drawing tools and edit the text of your paper with the tutor's help.
- The Learning Center Support Programs: various program links provided to enhance the student experience.
- Supplemental Instruction: program for every student, not just for students that are struggling.
- UNT Writing Lab: offers free writing tutoring to all UNT students, undergraduate and graduate.
- Math Tutor Lab: located in GAB, room 440.
- Succeed at UNT: how to be "a successful student" information.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSISTANCE

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

- UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>
- Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>
Browser requirements: <http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794>
- Headset/Microphone (if required for synchronous chats) Word Processor
- [Other related hardware or software necessary for the course]

Minimum Technical Skills Needed:

Examples include:

1. Using the learning management system,
2. Using email with attachments,
3. Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats,
4. Copying and pasting,
5. Downloading and installing software, and
6. Using spreadsheet programs.

STUDENT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The University of North Texas [UIT Student Helpdesk](#) provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Our hours are:

Monday-Thursday 8am-midnight

Friday 8am-8pm

Saturday 9am-5p

Sunday 8am-midnight

VOLUNTARY PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY TEMPLATE (VPAT) Blackboard Learn Release 9.1

The [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#)®, or VPAT® documents Blackboard Learn 9.1's conformance with the accessibility standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. '794 d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105 - 220), August 7, 1998.