Class Location: Callaway 205  
Class Time: Mon & Wed 12:30-1:50  
Instructor: Winston Tripp  
Office: Pafford 205-A  
Email: Email through CourseDen  
Office Hours: M & W 2:00-3:30; Tu & Thurs 9:00-11:30

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**Overview**

This course is designed to introduce you to the sub-field of Environmental Sociology. In this course you will be expected to engage the material and think critically about the ideas presented by the scholars in this area. Environmental Sociology is a broad area that covers a wide range of issues related to the interaction of society and the environment, and we will be focusing on both gaining a breadth of understanding of these diverse areas as well as developing depth in comprehension for each topic covered.

**Required Texts:**

An Invitation to Environmental Sociology (4th Edition), by Michael Bell (ISBN#: 978-1-4129-9053-0)

Ecology against Capitalism, by John Bellamy Foster (ISBN#: 1-58367-056-4)


**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student should be able to accurately and effectively explain in writing:

- Identify and accurately apply at least three theoretical perspectives commonly used in environmental sociology.
- Identify and accurately explain at least three issues or problems that are important in the interaction of society and the environment.
- Describe and explain federal and state environmental policy and major acts of legislation.
- Propose at least three solutions to environmental problems and be able to support your argument with existing research.
- Be able to explain how the interaction of society and the environment affects you personally and present your position on environmental issues to peers based on relevant research.
Additionally, the student will be expected to:

- Be able to correctly cite sources in a research essay using an approved format.
- Write clearly and concisely with minimal spelling, grammar, sentence structure or other compositional errors.
- Support his or her argument with specific research and logic rather than opinions.
- Be able to write a formal research essay that accurately analyzes and develops an argument on the assigned topic.

**Course Evaluation**

Your grade for the class will be composed of three exams and one paper. Late papers will have 5% deducted from the final grade for each day that they are late. Late exams will not be administered without an acceptable reason and with prior arrangement. Grades will be assigned as follows.

90-100% = A  
80-89.9% = B  
70-79.9% = C  
60-69.9% = D

**Grading Structure (total possible percentage points for the course)**

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<tr>
<td>Exams(3)</td>
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<td>75% (25% each)</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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**Exams (25% each)**

There will be three exams during the semester. Each may be composed of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The questions will be drawn from the assigned readings as well as material covered exclusively in class.

**Papers (25% each)**

You will write a formal research paper during the semester. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your mastery of the readings assigned for that section of the class. Each must be correctly cited, include a references/works cited page, and be at least 2000 words in length. Although this is not a writing class, the quality of your writing has a direct bearing on the clarity of the presentation of your ideas. Papers will be turned in to me electronically through CourseDen. I will check for plagiarism. Make sure you cite your sources correctly (consult the style manual for help in this area).

**Technological Requirements**

CourseDen will be used extensively for this course. It is your responsibility to secure reliable access to a computer with an internet connection so that you are able to utilize CourseDen. If you have problems with the CourseDen system you should contact the Distance Learning center or ITS. Make sure you plan ahead, because unless I am explicitly notified by the Distance Learning Center that CourseDen has an experienced an outage, there will be no extensions given on assignments if you were not able to get CourseDen to function correctly.
Attendance
Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected. You are also expected to be in the class on time for the entire duration of the class. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early I expect you to let me know beforehand, to sit by the door, and to be as quiet as possible in order to avoid disturbing others. You are responsible for all content disseminated in class, including discussions, films, lectures, handouts, and in-class assignments. If you must miss a class, it is up to you to obtain any notes or materials from your classmates.

Email Policy
The best way to contact me is through my CourseDen email. I will make every effort to respond with you within 24 hours, during normal business hours (M-F, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M). However, do not expect to email me with a question the night before an exam or a paper is due and have a response before the deadline. I use the CourseDen system for the course so that I am better able to manage my courses, so I will only respond to emails sent through CourseDen. Papers sent as an email attachment to any email address will not be accepted. Email is considered official correspondence at UWG and, as such, must be written in a professional manner. You are expected to include a subject line, a proper salutation, and valediction, as well as use proper punctuation.

Office Hours
In addition to the office hours listed above, other hours are available by appointment. In order to ensure that you are not waiting on other students for a time to meet with me during my office hours, I strongly encourage you to schedule a block of time with me via email or by using Google calendar (the link is provided on your CourseDen homepage for the class).

Policy on Student Responsibilities and Classroom Conduct
1. Students are responsible for attending all classes and arriving to class on time, taking notes, and obtaining other materials provided by the instructor, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the instructor.

2. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.

3. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades. Grades are continually posted and updated on CourseDen. Any errors need to be brought to the instructor’s attention within two weeks of being posted.

4. Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate missing multiple classes due to events such as chronic illnesses, travel related to team sports, or other university activities. The instructor will determine the minimal attendance and participation required in order to meet course responsibilities.
5. Behaviors that disrupt other students’ learning are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class; cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class).

6. Students are expected to respect others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Personal attacks or harassing behavior is NOT acceptable. Students are expected to be able to engage the topics and material for the course whether they agree with the author or not.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through thru their efforts. In this course, it is considered dishonest to utilize any helps when taking exams, plagiarizing, and fabricating information. This list is not inclusive. Remember that it is you responsibility to ensure that you are not plagiarizing from another student or other author. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive a zero for the work, and potentially the course depending on the severity of the incident, and they will be reported to the University’s Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanctions. It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand this policy, which is available online at [http://www.westga.edu/soccrim/index_4657.php](http://www.westga.edu/soccrim/index_4657.php).

**Accommodation Statement**

Students who seek accommodations related to documented disabilities should first contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Student Development Center (123 Row Hall, Phone: 678-839-6428). The coordinators in Disability Services will communicate with me to make accommodations based on your needs.

**Tentative Schedule**

The tentative schedule for the course is available on CourseDen. It is the student’s responsibility to refer to this frequently and be aware of any changes that may be necessary.

**Important Dates**

Make sure to take note of the following dates:

1/21 No Class (MLK Day)
2/6 Exam #1
3/13 Exam #2
3/18-3/22 Spring Break
4/5 Paper Due
4/24 Exam #3 (11:00 A.M.)