SOCI 4803: Environmental Sociology
Spring 2017

Class Location: Pafford 302
Class Time: Mon & Wed 8:00 - 9:15 A.M.
Instructor: Winston Tripp
Office: Pafford 205-A
Email: Email through CourseDen
Office Hours:
  Monday: 1:00-3:30 P.M.
  Tues & Thurs: 9:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
  Online: M-Th; 1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.

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 (5th Edition), by Michael Bell

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)

1. Exams (3) 75% (25% each)
2. Paper 20%
3. Experiential Learning Activity 5%

1. 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.

2. Paper (20%)
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. Specific instructions for the paper will be available two weeks before the due date. 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).

3. Experiential Learning Activity (5%)
This is a project designed to critically evaluate your own interactions with the environment. You will be asked to change your habits for a short time and then submit a short paper reflecting critically on the experience through the lens of relevant sociological theories. Specific instructions for the activity will be available two weeks before the due date.
Technological Requirements

CourseDen will be used extensively for this course. Your readings and supplemental materials will all be uploaded to CourseDen. 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 (855-933-8946). Make sure you plan ahead, because unless I am explicitly notified by the Distance Learning Center that CourseDen has experienced an outage, there will be no extensions given on assignments if you were not able to get CourseDen to function correctly. Internet problems are not acceptable excuses for turning your work in late.

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, and include proper punctuation. I will not respond to emails that do not follow this format.

Office Hours

My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you plan to come see me, I strongly suggest that you email me to make an appointment during this time to ensure that I am available when you come to my office. Once we schedule a time to meet make sure not to miss your appointment.

UWG Common Course Syllabi Link

Students are responsible for reviewing the information provided through the following link each semester: [http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)
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.

Tentative Schedule
The schedule is available on CourseDen and is tentative and subject to change at any time. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any changes that may be necessary.