**OVERVIEW:** This course provides an overview of Environmental Sociological research. Emerging in the early 1970s, Environmental Sociology represents a relatively new area of inquiry, with its focus an extension of earlier Sociology through inclusion of the physical context as related to social factors.

From its formative years, Environmental Sociology has drawn heavily from Human Ecology, Urban Sociology, Rural Sociology, as well as work by Ecological and Cultural Anthropologists. Important linkages are also found with Urban Planning and Environmental Psychology.

Reflecting this multidisciplinarity, within Environmental Sociology the “environment” reflects both natural and built contexts. In both cases, researchers aim to examine how society effects the environment, as well as how the environment effects, and reflects, society. Topics of inquiry include public environmental opinion, environmentalism as a social movement, human-induced environmental decline, social response to natural disasters, and social dimensions of the built environment. Also reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of Environmental Sociology, our readings represent classic contributions and more recent academic research from a range of intellectual perspectives.

**SPECIFIC AIDS:** Following this course, students should be familiar with:

- several theoretical perspectives used within Environmental Sociology to examine interactions between societal and environmental contexts;
- specific examples of recent social science research on the social dimensions of environmental context, including public opinion, the social construction of environmental issues, and the social distribution of environmental hazards;
- many resources available to researchers examining society-environment interactions.

**READINGS:** The weekly readings represent journal articles and book excerpts offering a glimpse of both classic contributions and current research on each topic. The weekly readings are available as PDF files from [http://spot.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/EnvSocReadings.htm](http://spot.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/EnvSocReadings.htm)

**DISCUSSION LIST:** Please subscribe to the email discussion list used for this class. Please also use the list to distribute comments and information relevant to our topics of discussion! To send to the list, email: soc-socy5001@lists.colorado.edu. In addition, I will use the list to distribute ‘provocations’ (see below) on each Wednesday morning by 10:00 a.m.
EVALUATION: The grade for this course will be based upon:

\textit{Percentage of final score}

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Article Critiques &amp; “Provocations”</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>Summary Paper and Presentation (due Dec 10)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final “Comprehensive” Exam (during finals week)</td>
<td>30</td>
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**Weekly Article Critique / Provocations:**
Each student will be responsible for a \textit{brief} summary/critique of \textit{each} of the assigned readings, in addition to questions and/or comments on the week’s reading material (“provocations”). Please no more than 2 provocations per reading.

The summaries and “provocations” are to be submitted to Lori, via email, by Tuesday 4:00 p.m. the day prior to class meeting. Lori will compile the provocations and submit a condensed version to the class discussion list by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, the day of the class. It is hoped that this will help us focus on common critiques, concerns, questions during our Wednesday evening session.

**Class Participation:**
Intellectual discourse is central to the learning process and to this course. However, class participation is not based strictly on \textit{quantity}, but also \textit{quality}. Remember to ground your comments in the material we are reading, and to respect other points of view.

**Summary Paper and Class Presentation:**
On Wednesday, Nov 5, students will commit to a particular topic on which to focus more in-depth in a 12-15 page, double-spaced, summary paper. The paper should \textit{critically} review existing research and knowledge. Papers are due Wednesday, Dec 10, when students will also offer a short class presentation of the material.

**Final “Comprehensive” Exam:**
On a pre-arranged date during finals week, students will be given two questions, each to be answered within 5-7 pages, double-spaced. The questions will be handed out at 8:00 a.m., to be returned by 5:00 p.m. The format is designed to reflect what could be expected from a doctoral comprehensive examination.

\textit{Please come see me, call me, or send an E-mail, if you have any questions, concerns, or problems!}
# Detailed Schedule

## Week 1  Aug 27  Introduction and Overview

- Introductions;
- Review syllabus;
- Handout/discussion of relevant printed resources and electronic discussion lists.

## Week 2  Sep 3  Emergence of a Subdiscipline & Theoretical Foundations


Two central theoretical perspectives:


Other readings of potential interest:


There are also several introductory texts which may be of interest as a foundation for this course:


WEEK 3  SEPT 10  THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS, CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

**Conjoint Constitution**


**Ecological Marxism**


Political Ecology

World Systems Theory

Contemporary Challenges

Other readings potentially of interest ...


A collection of writings by Allan Schnaiberg and colleagues on the Treadmill of Production is available at: http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/people/schnaibergpapers.html


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**WEEK 4 SEP 17 SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Other readings of potential interest:


Davenport, Mae A. and Dorothy H. Anderson. 2005. “Getting from Sense of Place to Place-Based Management: An Interpretive Investigation of Place Meanings and Perceptions of Landscape Change.” Society and Natural Resources. 18:625-641.


Other readings of potential interest:


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<th>Title</th>
<th>Source</th>
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**Other readings of potential interest:**

Urban, Michael A. “Values and Ethical Beliefs Regarding Agricultural Drainage in Central Illinois, USA.” Society and Natural Resources. 18:173-189.


**Guest Speaker: Susie Strife, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Studies**


**Other readings of potential interest:**


**WEEK 8 OCT 15 ENVIRONMENTALISM – ORIGIN AND “DEATH OF” (?) A SOCIAL MOVEMENT?**


**Death of Environmentalism**


**Other readings of potential interest:**


**Week 9  OCT 22  ENVIRONMENTALISM AS SOCIAL MOVEMENT: SHAPING FACTORS**


- Klyza, Christopher 2006. “Local Environmental Groups and the Creation of Social Capital: Evidence from Vermont.” *Society and Natural Resources.* 19, 10, 905+


Other readings of potential interest on governance, politics, citizenship

WEEK 10 OCT 29 SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE

Paty Romero-Lankao, Sociologist and Research Scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research

WEEK 11 NOV 5 SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF NATURAL HAZARDS

Kathleen Tierney, Professor of Sociology and Directory, Natural Hazards Center, IBS


WEEK 12 NOV 12 ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITY


Downey, Liam, Summer Dubois, Brian Hawkins, and Michelle Walker. Forthcoming “Environmental Inequality in Metropolitan America.” Organization and Environment.
Other readings of potential interest:


Chess, Caron, Joanna Burger and Melanie Hughes McDermott. 2005. “Speaking Like a State: Environmental Justice and Fish Consumption Advisories.” Society and Natural Resources. 18:267-278.


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**WEEK 13 NOV 19 ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITY**


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**Other readings of potential interest:**


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<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>Dec 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Paper Presentations</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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