GLOBAL HUMAN ECOLOGY

Sociology/ENVS 4007; Fall Semester, 2013
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:45
ECR 155

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00 in KTCH 310

OVERVIEW: In this course, we will examine global environmental issues from social science perspectives. Although Sociology provides our central disciplinary outlook, we also engage readings across a variety of other disciplines including Anthropology, Geography, and Ecology. Such a broad base is key given the multidimensionality of society-environment relationships.

Through the course of the semester, we’ll critically consider issues such as population dynamics (e.g. migration, morbidity/mortality and fertility) and their environmental drivers and impacts; the implications of climate change for natural resource-based livelihoods; and social inequalities in exposure to environmental hazards.

The general aim of the course is to critically examine perspectives on, and examples of, society-environment interrelationships.

SPECIFIC AIMS: Following this course, students should be familiar with:

♦ several interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives used to examine interactions between society and the environment;
♦ several examples of the ways in which socio-economic processes, such urbanization, impact the environment;
♦ several examples of the ways in which environmental context shapes social processes, such as human migration and fertility.

READINGS: We will work out of one reader, with additional material from a wide variety of other sources including academic journals, popular media outlets, policy and research organizations, and the Population Reference Bureau. The following book is available at the CU Bookstore and all additional readings and other course materials are available via the course website at learn.colorado.edu (Desire2Learn, D2L).


STRUCTURE: Overall, the material for this course is a combination of readings, multi-media, class lectures, discussion and guest speakers. Given that writing assignments are due regularly, reading material is kept between 40-80 pages weekly.

We will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) website on which you’ll find course readings other than from the Gould & Lewis reader, course assignments (with “DropBox”), and necessary multimedia links. NOTE: D2L apparently has fewer quirks when used with the internet browser Firefox (as opposed to Chrome, Explorer, etc). If you’re having trouble with D2L, try switching browsers.
Due to 2 work-related trips, Prof. Hunter will miss two class sessions but lecture materials, media links and assignments will be available via D2L in order that we can keep on schedule. She will dutifully report back to the class as each trip is related to our course material!

There are 5 components of course evaluation:

**Percentage of final score**
- Weekly Assignments: 30
- Midterm Exam: 15 → **Thursday, October 10th**, during class
- Final Exam: 25 → **Wednesday, Dec 18, 1:30-4:00 pm**
- Attendance/correct clicker points: 20
- Participation: 10

There are 12 weekly writing assignments in this class – each due at the start of a Thursday class period. Each assignment is 1-page long, single spaced with 1” margins on all sides. The writing assignments will ask you to critically engage and apply that week’s reading. The writing prompts will be posted by Monday evening of the week each assignment is due.

The weekly assignments will be managed via D2L’s “dropbox.” It is imperative that you keep copies of the confirmation email verifying your submission in the event of technical glitches. No credit will be given for papers lost in techno-space with no delivery confirmation.

We will use clickers in this class, so please be sure yours is registered with CU. **Clickers MUST be registered by the last day of class (Thursday, Dec 12th)** or **all participation/clicker points will be forfeited.**

Each class (except first meeting and midterm) will offer the opportunity for 3 points toward the 20% portion of your grade based on attendance and correct clicker points. One of these points is simply for attendance, the other 2 are based on the readings and will have correct answers. **Come prepared to each class and these are 3 easy points!**

In addition to the excused absences, students are allowed **1 class in attendance but with clicker issues.** Let Prof. Hunter know at the beginning of class that you’d like your “clicker miss” day – and for that day, you will receive all 3 clicker points.

Students are allowed 3 excused absences throughout the course of the semester, which (especially combined with the 1 clicker-miss day) is quite generous. An excused absence is one for which Professor Hunter is notified BEFORE class (email is fine, but must be BEFORE class begins at 3:30 pm. Students with an excused absence on a weekly assignment due date can turn the assignment in by 5:00 the following Monday. **No assignments (not even early ones) will be accepted for unexcused absences, and after 3 excused absences all subsequent missed classes will be unexcused.** There are no exceptions since this would be unfair to the rest of the students.

**Participation (10% of overall grade) is based on Prof. Hunter’s interpretation of your contributions to class discussion on a regular basis.**

Both the midterm and the final exam are open book and open notes – but computers cannot be used. As such, you may want to print out the readings for review and note-taking. The exams will entail several short answer questions asking you to synthesize and critically evaluate course material from a social science perspective.

**The final exam will take place on Wednesday, December 18th, 1:30-4:00 pm.** Any student *not* taking the final exam will fail the course. No exceptions. **Be sure to plan your travel accordingly!**
**Weekly Assignments:**

As apparent from the evaluation breakdown, the weekly writing assignments comprise, combined, the largest component of the course grade. The weekly assignments are due Thursdays for 12 of the semester’s weeks. The writings will require students to synthesize and think critically about the week’s readings. *Keeping up with these assignments and producing quality work is essential to receive a good grade in this course.*

Professor Hunter will make editorial and substantive comments on the weekly assignments, but the comments will not be tremendously detailed. The assignments will be graded on a 5 point scale, with 5 being the highest grade. A description of the grading scheme follows.

- 5 points: excellent, well written synthesis and critique;
- 3 points: good synthesis and critique; a few grammatical issues;
- 1 point: below average synthesis and critique; grammatical issues;
- 0 points: unexcused absence or assignment with very slim content and/or many grammatical problems.

**Misc:**

*Our classroom is a no-technology zone. All cell phones, computers, MP3 players and such must be stashed away for the entire class session.*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations please provide your letter by the third week of class) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/) and discuss your needs with your professor.

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please advise Prof. Hunter of any conflicts by the third week of class. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. Prof. Hunter will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise her of this preference early in the semester so that she may make appropriate changes to course records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

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All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the **academic integrity policy** of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html) and at [http://honorcode.colorado.edu](http://honorcode.colorado.edu)

*Please come see me in office hours or send an E-mail, if you have any questions, concerns, or problems!*

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

* Please note that the content is all subject to change as we get to know each other!
* Any adjustments will be announced in class and posted on D2L

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**Week 1:** “Welcome to Environmental Sociology” in D2L

Tues, Aug 27th  
*Introduction and review of syllabus*

Thurs, August 29th  
*The Sociological Perspective on Environmental Issues*


♦ Gould and Lewis, pages 2-8 (from “What is Environmental Sociology?”)

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**Week 2:** “Welcome to Environmental Sociology” in D2L

Tues, Sept 3  
*Environmental Sociology as a Subdiscipline*

♦ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. Portions of Chapter 1 “Exploring Environmental Sociology” pp. 1 – 19 (up to “Roots of Environmental Sociology”). [Entire chapter available on course website.](http://example.com)
**Thurs, Sept 5**  
*Theories in Environmental Sociology*

- Barbosa, Luiz C. “Theories in Environmental Sociology” in Gould and Lewis.
- Writing Assignment #1 due

**Week 3: “Theoretical Frameworks” in D2L**

**Tues, Sept 10th  *Human Ecology, Political Ecology***

- On Socio-Ecological Systems:
  - Watch (and take notes on) the 5-minute video on “Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being” by Tim Daw of the Stockholm Resilience Center. Link available through course website.
- In-class video and discussion: Bill Moyers, *Earth on the Edge* (excerpts)

**Thursday, Sept 12th  *Common Property Resources, Application of Theoretical Frameworks***

- In-class video and discussion: Bill Moyers, *Earth on the Edge* (excerpts) and common property resource exercise
- Writing Assignment #2 due

**Week 4: “Population and Environment” in D2L**

**Tues, Sept 17th  *Population Dynamics and the Environment***

- Watch portion of video lecture entitled “Reflecting on Human History” – Third annual Malthus lecture: “How can we feed a growing world and still sustain the planet?” Available through course website.
- In-class video and discussion: *Mother: Caring for 7 Billion* (excerpts)

**Thurs, Sept 19th  *The Demographic Dividend & the Ecological Footprint***

- In-class video and discussion: *Mother: Caring for 7 Billion* (excerpts)
- Writing Assignment #3 due
**Week 5: “Urban Sociology” in D2L**

**Tuesday, Sept 24th**  
*Urban Ecology & the Ecological Footprint*


**Thurs, Sept 26th**  
*Urban Ecology & the Ecological Footprint*

- Writing Assignment #4 due

**Week 6: “Climate Change” in D2L**

**Tues, Oct 1st**  
*Climate Change, Population Dynamics, Vulnerability*

- In-class video and discussion: An *Inconvenient Truth* (excerpts)

**Thursday, Oct 3rd**  
*Climate Change, Population Dynamics, Vulnerability*

- In-class video and discussion: An *Inconvenient Truth* (excerpts)
- Writing Assignment #5 due

**Week 7: No topic in D2L**

**Tues, Oct 8th**  
Review & Catch-up

**Thurs, Oct 10th**  
Midterm Exam
Week 8: “Natural Resource-based Livelihoods” in D2L

Tues, Oct 15th  Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods


Thurs, Oct 17th  Natural Resources and Rural Livelihoods

- Writing assignment #6 due

Week 9: “Environment & Migration” on D2L

Tuesday, Oct 22nd  Human Migration: Definitions and Links to Environment

- In-class video and discussion: Sun Come Up

Thursday, Oct 24th  Research and Theory on Migration-Environment Connections

- In-class video and discussion: Sun Come Up
- Writing Assignment #7 due

Week 10: “Environmental Inequality” on D2L

Tuesday, Oct 29th

Thursday, Oct 31st

♦ Professor Hunter will be traveling this day. In lieu of class time, please watch (and take notes on) the following video. It is on 2-hour reserve at Norlin Library or you can purchase a short-term rental online.
  ○ *The return of Navajo Boy* / directed by Jeff Spitz ; co-producers, Jeff Spitz & Bennie Klain

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# Week 11: “Environmental Activism” in D2L

**Tues, Nov 5th**  
*Responding to Socio-Environmental Inequalities*

♦ Guest Speaker: Curtis Kline  
  ♦ Researcher, Cultural Survival & Global Response  
  ♦ MA Candidate in International Human Rights  
  ♦ Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

**Thurs, Nov 7th**  
*Environmental Activism in U.S.*

♦ Writing Assignment #9 due

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# Week 12: “AIDS-Environment” on D2L

**Tues, Nov 12th**  
*The AIDS Pandemic: Overview and Environmental Dimensions*


**Thurs, Nov 14th**  
*Environmental Dimensions of AIDS*

♦ Writing Assignment #10 due

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# Week 13: “Fertility-Environment” and “Food” on D2L

**Tuesday, Nov 19th**  
*Environmental Dimensions of Fertility*

Thurs, Nov 21st    

**The Human Ecology of Food**

- Edwards, Bob and Adam Driscoll, “From Farms to Factories: The Environmental Consequences of Swine Industrialization in North Carolina” in Gould and Lewis.
- In-class video and discussion: *Food Inc* (excerpts)
- Writing Assignment #11 due

### Week 14: Thanksgiving Break  Nov 25-29

### Week 15: “Environmental Perceptions & Futures” on D2L

**Tues Dec 3**    

**Social Construction of Environmental Perceptions**


**Thurs Dec 5th**    

**“Sustainable” “Development”?**

- Professor Hunter will be traveling this day. In lieu of class time, please watch (and take notes on) the assigned video *(to be determined based on class interests!)*
- Writing Assignment #12 due

### Week 16    

**No materials on D2L**

**Tues Dec 10**    

**Catch-up**

**Thurs Dec 12**    

**Review, Summary & Discussion**

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**Final Exam**    

**Wednesday, Dec 18, 1:30-4:00 pm**