

## Environmental Sociology SYD 4510

Section 001, call# 25706 (3 credits)  
M,W, F 11 – 11:50 AM, SO 207

**Instructor:** Dr. Greg Lukasik

**Office hrs:** M, W, F 12-12:50pm, 2-3:50pm,  
and Sat 11:30am-2:30pm

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### Course Description:

In this course we will explore society's relationship with the natural environment. The natural environment has always played a crucial role in the existence of humans. On the most basic level, we use it to satisfy our basic needs like air, water, and food. On a more complex level, we use the natural environment for raw materials that serve as underlying components in our contemporary, advanced processes of production and consumption. While in the past, human societies that were much smaller than societies today had relatively low impact on the environment, today, due to global population explosion and the spread of contemporary, consumerist lifestyles across the globe, our impact on the environment is much greater. In this course we will examine human relationship to the natural environment, assess the level of environmental degradation, and will look at efforts to reverse environmental damage. The focus of this course will be on the relationship of the economy, culture, demographic trends, level of development, and science to the natural environment. While we will look at the outwardly signs of environmental degradation caused by human activity, such as pollution, deforestation, soil erosion, climate change, etc., we will also explore the rising tide of environmental movements across the world. Finally, this course will provide students with the theoretical framework that informs sociological research regarding the relationship between humans and their natural environment.

### Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is three fold. 1) Students will gain knowledge about serious environmental degradation that has been taking place due to human activity in the last hundred years, 2) Students will gain insight into the relationship between the economic, cultural, social, cultural, and political ideas and institutions and environmental degradation as well as these ideas and institutions can aid cleaning up the environment, and 3) This course will give students the critical and methodological skills to evaluate and explain environmental changes as they occur in contemporary world.

### Course Procedures:

While lectures will be the main component of the course, I hope that students' participation will enhance the active learning process and make the course more interactive and less formal. In addition to lectures and class discussions, I intend to use videos, overheads, and possibly other sources to enhance the overall student experience in the classroom and contribute to better understanding of the material. Sometimes my lectures will cover material not discussed in the textbook or other assigned readings, but you are still responsible for this material. I expect everyone to attend class having read the assignment indicated on the syllabus. I intend to make students' discussion of the assigned readings an integral element of each class.

In this course I will be posting PowerPoint presentations, lecture outlines, assignments, exam study guides, and announcements onto Blackboard. You may access these sources by going to <http://blackboard.fau.edu>

### Required Texts:

Harper, Charles L. 2012. *Environment and Society. Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues*. Fifth Edition. New York: Pierson

Additional Readings are posted in Blackboard in the **Course Library**

Please come to class having read the textbook chapter and/or other reading assigned for that day. You will notice that each textbook chapter concludes with a short list of review questions. You may be required to answer these questions for class assignments, and/or Q papers (see below), and you may find that these questions help prepare you for the exams.

### Course Requirements:

- 1) **Exams.** There will be two exams; first worth **20 percent** and the second worth **30 percent** of your final grade. All exams are based on material discussed in class, as well as the videos and the readings. The exams are mostly multiple choice (they include a few short answer questions). The final exam is not cumulative.
- 2) **Research Proposal** worth **5 percent** of your grade. I will provide more details in class.
- 3) **Research Paper** worth **20 percent** of your grade will test your ability to utilize the conceptual knowledge as well as some of the methodological tools gained from this course in the study of a social movement of your choice. You will be asked to do internet research to find information about a movement and/or social movement organization that is active now to describe its ideology and goals, strategies and tactics, participant base, and analyze its emergence and activity using one (or a combination of two) of the theoretical perspectives on social movements discussed in class. I will give you more detailed guidelines in class.
- 4) **Class attendance** is worth **10 percent** of your grade. I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a student in the class; I will not hand out my own lecture notes. Your attendance grade will

come from you attending regularly. Please see <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/religious2011.pdf> and <http://www.fau.edu/provost/files/studentabsences.pdf> for a description of what constitutes an excused absence, for which you are not penalized. You are allowed one unexcused absence with no grade penalty. For each additional unexcused absence, your attendance grade will drop one percentage point of your final grade.

- 5) **Five Q Papers** will account for **10 percent** of your final grade. These short, one page (**single space**) papers try to critically assess the main arguments posed by the assigned readings and videos watched in class. I will provide specific questions for you to answer in your q papers. In addition, for each q paper you will be asked to provide a single question of your own to be discussed in class. You must bring a copy of your Q Paper to class and turn it in at the beginning of class on the day it is due. In addition, you will be asked to submit a copy of your Q paper electronically via the Assignments link in blackboard on or before the due date. The Q Papers will help you prepare for the exams and your research paper. **No Q Papers will be accepted after the due date!**
- 6) **Five short, in-class exercises** will count for **5 percent** of your grade. Every now and then, you will be working in small groups to complete a short class exercise. These exercises will be based on the reading material and/or lectures and videos. At the end of the exercise, each group will turn in a one page response to receive credit. Students who miss an in-class exercise due to a valid reason will be allowed to meet with me/TA to discuss an **alternative assignment**. These alternative assignments will be given only to students with proper documentation.

### Missed Exams

If you know you must miss a test, you may take the exam at a pre-arranged time. Any student who is absent from exam will receive a grade of zero. **Make-up exams** are only given for valid reasons (verifiable proof required). Lack of readiness and heavy traffic are two of many unacceptable circumstances. Make-up exams must be taken within one week after the scheduled exam date.

### Grading:

**I will NOT offer extra credit work.** I calculate course grades on a 100-point scale. These grades translate to the following letter scale:

93% - 100% = A	77 - 79 = C+	60 - 62 = D-
90 - 92 = A-	73 - 76 = C	Below 60% = F
87 - 89 = B+	70 - 72 = C-	
83 - 86 = B	67 - 69 = D+	
80 - 82 = B-	63 - 66 = D	

### Change of Grade

Please note that after the semester is over, a grade change will be performed only under extraordinary circumstances (clerical error, documentation of hospitalization during the final exam, etc.). So please be sure to discuss with me any issues relevant to your course grade, such as absences, **before** the end of the semester. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

### Office Hours and Assistance:

I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss any problems, questions, or suggestions related to the class or to your performance. If you cannot make my office hours, please let me know and we can make an appointment to talk.

We will also have a TA for our course, and her/his information (including office hours, location, email, phone number) will be posted in blackboard in ANNOUNCEMENTS.

If you need to email me or our TA, in your email you must make sure you **include your name, the name of the class, and the class time** in order to receive a response. I will generally respond to emails within 48 hours during the week. Email responses will generally take longer during the weekends.

### Students with Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305) and follow all OSD procedures. For further information, go to [www.osd.fau.edu](http://www.osd.fau.edu).

Students who have registered with OSD should present the appropriate paperwork to me during the first week of class.

### The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)

The University's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) offers resources that students may find helpful in improving their study skills and facilitating academic success. Their website is <http://www.fau.edu/ctl> I encourage you to visit this website and to make use of its many valuable resources, including especially "Tips for Success and Academic Resources"

<http://www.fau.edu/ctl/TipsForSuccessAndAcademicResourcesStudentResources.php>

### Honor Code:

I expect all students to complete their work honestly and independently. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. Any failure to comply with the honor code may be the basis for a grade of F in the course. For more information see the Code of Academic Integrity in

the University Regulations available at

[http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\\_Code\\_of\\_Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf).

The FAU Code of Academic Integrity describes the expectations for students' ethical academic conduct and the procedures for charging a student with a violation of the Code. It also outlines the procedures for students to appeal such charges.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Cheating

- i. The unauthorized use of notes, books, electronic devices or other study aids while taking an examination or working on an assignment.
- ii. Providing unauthorized assistance to or receiving assistance from another student during an examination or while working on an assignment.
- iii. Having someone take an exam or complete an assignment in one's place.
- iv. Securing an exam, receiving an unauthorized copy of an exam or sharing a copy of an exam.

(B) Plagiarism

- i. The presentation of words from any other source or another person as one's own without proper quotation and citation.
- ii. Putting someone else's ideas or facts into your own words (paraphrasing) without proper citation.
- iii. Turning in someone else's work as one's own, including the buying and selling of term papers or assignments.

(C) Other Forms of Dishonesty

- i. Falsifying or inventing information, data or citations.
- ii. Failing to comply with examination regulations or failing to obey the instructions of an examination proctor.
- iii. Submitting the same paper or assignment, or part thereof, in more than one class without the written consent of both instructors.
- iv. Any other form of academic cheating, plagiarism or dishonesty.

**Syllabus Changes:**

I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus as deemed necessary. I will announce these changes during class meetings (and post announcements in blackboard).

Course Outline:

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
1	1/6-1/10	Environment and Human Systems Video: "Dust Bowl"	Harper ch.1, Course Library Readings 1 and 2
2	1/13-1/17	Environment and Human Systems Sociological Theory; Research Concepts	Christoff and Eckersley, ch.1
3	<b>1/20</b> 1/22-1/24	<b>M.L. King Jr. Holiday = No class</b> Humans and the Resources of the Earth	Harper ch.2
4	1/27-1/31	Climate Change, Science, and Risk Video: "Inconvenient Truth"	Harper ch.3
5	<b>2/3</b> 2/5-2/7	<b>Research Proposal Due</b> Video: "Censoring Science"	Harper ch.3
6	2/10-2/14	Energy and Society Video: "Who Killed the Electric Car?"	Harper ch.4
7	2/17-2/21	Population, Environment, and Food Video: "King Corn"	Harper ch.5
8	<b>2/24</b> 2/26-2/28	<b>EXAM 1 (ch.1-4, videos, library readings)</b> Video: "Fresh"	Harper ch.5
9	<b>3/3-3/9</b>	<b>Spring Break = No class</b>	
10	3/10-3/14	Globalization, Inequality, sustainability Video: "Life and Debt"	Harper ch.6; Foster, pp.25-37
11	3/17-3/21	Globalization, inequality, sustainability Video: "Affluenza"	Harper ch.6 Vandana Shiva, p.465-473
12	3/24-3/28	Transforming Structures: Markets and Politics	Harper ch.7
13	3/31-4/4	Markets and Politics continued; Video: "Corporation"	Harper ch.7
14	4/7-4/11	Culture, Media, and Environment Video: "Earth Days"	Reading: TBA
15	<b>4/14</b> 4/16-4/18	<b>Research Paper Due</b> Environmentalism: Ideology and Action	Harper ch.8 Weston, pp.163-179
16	4/21-4/23 <b>4/30</b>	Video: "Off the Grid" <b>Final Exam</b> (ch.5-8; readings and videos)	

**IMPORTANT: Additional readings are located in the Course Library in blackboard. I will keep you posted when you should be readings these materials.**

### **Religious Accommodations**

In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. Students who wish to be excused from course work, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences. Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs.

### **Missing Test Scores**

Students are responsible for checking whether all tests scores have been posted in blackboard. Students who have taken all tests but whose test score have not been posted in blackboard must inform the instructor about such occurrences immediately so an appropriate action can be taken (locating the missing grade, scheduling a make up test, etc.). Failure to report a missing grade may result in a lower grade or even a grade of F for the semester.

### **Grade of Incomplete**

Students who have not finished one of the requirements of the course (i.e. one of the exams) prior to the end of the semester due to unexpected event (hospitalization, death in the family, etc.) may request a grade of “incomplete” or “I”. Students must contact the instructor with such a request in a timely fashion and prior to the date that the grades are due. Requests submitted at the last minute may not receive consideration. Any requests for a grade of “I” must be accompanied by proper documentation (for example documentation of hospitalization) that is required by the university. Grade of Incomplete is given only to students who have fulfilled the majority of the course requirements.