

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

Sociology 2077
 Tuesday/Thursday, 8:00-9:15
 Hellems 201
 Fall Semester, 2005

Lori M. Hunter

Office: Ketchum 207A

Phone: 492-1006

Email: Lori.Hunter@colorado.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3:30-5:00Course Website: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~hunterlm/courses.htm>

OVERVIEW: This course provides a Sociological examination of the association between society and the natural environment. Within Environmental Sociology (the framework used here), researchers aim to examine how society effects the environment, as well as how the environment effects, and reflects, society. During this semester, we will review Environmental Sociology as a foundation for critical consideration of trends in public environmental opinion, environmentalism as a social movement, human-induced environmental decline, and injustices as related to environmental context.

SPECIFIC

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

- ◆ several theoretical perspectives used to examine interactions between society and the environment;
- ◆ examples of the ways in which socio-economic processes, such as consumption and globalization, impact the environment;
- ◆ examples of the ways in which environmental context shapes social processes, such as population change.

READINGS: We will work primarily out of one reader, with supplementary material on occasion. Supplementary material will be provided through the course website, and the following required text is available through the CU Bookstore:

- Leslie King and Deborah McCarthy (Editors). 2005. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.; Lanham MD. ISBN 0-7425-3508-8.

EVALUATION: There are 4 components to course evaluation, as outlined below. **The final exam will take place on Monday, Dec 12, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Any student *not* taking the final exam will fail the course. No exceptions.**

<i>Percentage of final score</i>	
Weekly Assignments	40
Midterm Exam	20
Final Exam	30
Participation/Attendance	10

Thursday, Oct 6, during class
Monday, Dec 12, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS: As apparent from the above breakdown, the 11 weekly assignments comprise a large part of students' grades for this course. The weekly assignments are typically due each Thursday (at the beginning of class) and will require writing 1 paragraph (no more than 1 double spaced, type written page) in response to a discussion question posted the previous Thursday on the course website. The question will require students to synthesize and think critically about the week's readings.

Professor Hunter will make only cursory editorial and substantive comments on the weekly assignments. 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.

On grading, the first 2 weekly assignments are each worth 2% of your overall grade. The remainder of the assignments are worth 4% each. As such, the first two assignments become an important testing ground for your written presentation of the course material.

Students are allowed 3 excused absences throughout the course of the semester, which is quite generous. An excused absence is one for which Professor Hunter is notified BEFORE class (email is fine, but must be BEFORE class). 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.** No exceptions.

MISC:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a **disability**, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester (**by the end of the 3rd week**) so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices)

Please review the course schedule ASAP. If you have conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments, let me know by the end of the 3rd week of class of the conflict in order to arrange accommodation.

The University has developed a **classroom behavior** policy. Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Standards of Conduct and to refrain from disrupting classes and other academic settings. The specific policy may be found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>

Both students and faculty are expected to abide by the University's honor code, details found at: <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/> Cheating and plagiarism are to be taken very seriously and are grounds for failure in the course. In a general sense, to **plagiarize** is to use another's words as your own, without proper attribution given to the original author. Please find more specific information through links on the honor code website.

Please come see me, call me, or send an E-mail, if you have any questions, concerns, or problems!

DETAILED SCHEDULE

Week 1, Aug 23 & 25: Introduction & Background

- ◆ Mills, C. Wright. 1996 (originally published 1959). “The Promise.” Pp. 1-7 in *Mapping the Social Landscape*, edited by S.J. Ferguson. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield. Available on the course website.
- ◆ Deborah McCarthy and Leslie King (in King and McCarthy). Portions of “Introduction: Environmental Problems Require Social Solutions.” pp. xi – xvii (up to “A Brief History”).

Week 2, Aug 30 & Sept 1: Environmental Sociology: Topics and Types

- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. Portions of Chapter 1 “Exploring Environmental Sociology.” pp. 1 – 19 (up to “Roots of Environmental Sociology”). Entire chapter available on the course website.
- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. “Key Issues in the Field.” pp. 29 – 31 (up to “Summary”). Entire chapter available on the course website.

Weekly Assignment #1 due Thursday, Sept 1

Week 3, Sept 6 & 8: Frameworks: Human Ecology & Political Ecology

- ◆ Humphrey, Lewis and Buttel. Portions of Chapter 1 “Exploring Environmental Sociology.” pp. 19 – 23 (start at “Roots of Environmental Sociology”, up to “The Rise and Revitalization of the Environmental Movement”). Entire chapter available on the course website.
- ◆ Robbins, Paul. Chapter 1 “The Hatchet and the Seed” in *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, pp. 1 – 15. Available on the course website.

Weekly Assignment #2 due Thursday, Sept 8

Week 4, Sept 13 & 15: Applying Frameworks I

- ◆ Robbins, Paul. Chapter 9 “Environmental Conflict” in *Political Ecology: A Critical Introduction*, pp. 172 – 185. Available on the course website.

Weekly Assignment #3 due Thursday, Sept 15

Week 5, Sept 20 & 22: Applying Frameworks II

- ◆ Julia Fox. “Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia: An Environmental Sacrifice Zone.” Chapter 2 in King and McCarthy, pp. 16 – 28.
- ◆ Oriol Pi-Sunyer and R. Brooke Thomas. “Tourism, Environmentalism, and Cultural Survival In Quintana Roo.” Chapter 4 in King and McCarthy, pp. 43 – 60.

Weekly Assignment #4 due Thursday, Sept 22

Week 6, Sept 27 & 29:**Environmental Justice**

- ◆ Robert D. Bullard and Glenn S. Johnson. “Environmental Justice: Grassroots Activism and Its Impact on Public Policy Decision Making.” Chapter 9 in King and McCarthy, pp. 120 – 136.
- ◆ William A. Shutkin. “Oakland’s Fruitvale Transit Village: Building an Environmentally Sound Vehicle for Neighborhood Revitalization.” Chapter 6 in King and McCarthy, pp. 73 – 86.
- ◆ Visit the EJRC website for use in the written assignment for this week: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/>

Weekly Assignment #5 due Thursday, Sept 29

Week 7, Oct 4 & 6: Environmental Justice

- ◆ Lois Bryson, Kathleen McPhillips, and Kathryn Robinson. “Turning Public Issues into Private Troubles: Lead Contamination, Domestic Labor, and the Exploitation of Women’s Unpaid Labor in Australia.” Chapter 8 in King and McCarthy, pp. 107 – 119.

Midterm Exam Thursday, Oct 6**Week 8, Oct 11 (Oct 13th = Fall Break): Patterns of Social-Environmental Mobilization**

- ◆ Thomas E. Shriver. “Risk and Recruitment: Patterns of Social Mobilization in a Government Town.” Chapter 22 in King and McCarthy, pp. 107 – 119.
- ◆ Moore, Mik. “Coalition Building between Native American and Environmental Organizations in Opposition to Development: The Case of the New Los Padres Dam Project.” Chapter 224 in King and McCarthy, pp. 371 – 393.

No weekly assignment

Week 9, Oct 18 & Oct 20: Patterns of Socio-Environmental Mobilization

- ◆ Luiz C. Barbosa. “The People of the Forest against International Capitalism: Systemic and Anti-Systemic Forces in the Battle for the Preservation of the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest.” Chapter 3 in King and McCarthy, pp. pp. 29 – 42.
- ◆ Myron Peretz Glazer and Penina Migdal Glazer. “On the Trail of Courageous Behavior.” Chapter 29 in King and McCarthy, pp. pp. 451 – 467.

Weekly Assignment #7 due Thursday, Oct 20

Week 10, Oct 25 & Oct 27: Social Construction of the Environment

- ◆ Susan G. Davis. “Touch the Magic.” Chapter 17 in King and McCarthy, pp. 255 – 273.
- ◆ Podschi, Christopher W. “The Nature of Future Myths.” Chapter 18 in King and McCarthy, pp. 274 – 291.

Weekly Assignment #8 due Thursday, Oct 20

Week 11, Oct 25 & Oct 27: Social Construction & Consumption

- ◆ Robin Andersen. “Selling Mother Earth: Advertising and the Myth of the Natural” Chapter 19 in King and McCarthy, pp. 293 – 306.
- ◆ Juliet Schor. “Cleaning the Closet: Toward a New Fashion Ethic.” Chapter 3 in King and McCarthy, pp. pp. 439 – 450.

Weekly Assignment #9 due Thursday, Oct 27

Week 12, Nov 8 & Nov 10: Environmental Science & Health

- ◆ Sandra Steingraber. “The Social Construction of Cancer: A Walk Upstream.” Chapter 20 in King and McCarthy, pp. 309 – 325.
- ◆ Connie P. Ozawa. “Science in Environmental Conflicts.” Chapter 21 in King and McCarthy, pp. 326 – 338.

Weekly Assignment #10 due Thursday, Nov 10

Week 13, Nov 15 & Nov 17: Jobs vs the Environment

- ◆ William R. Freudenburg, Lisa J. Wilson and Daniel J. O’Leary. “Forty Years of Spotted Owls? A Longitudinal Analysis of Logging Industry Job Losses.” Chapter 10 in King and McCarthy, pp. 139 – 155.
- ◆ David N. Pellow. “The Next Revolutionary Stage: Recycling Waste or Recycling History?” Chapter 11 in King and McCarthy, pp. 156 – 170.

Weekly Assignment #11 due Thursday, Nov 17

Week 14, Nov 22 (Nov 24 = Thanksgiving Break) Globalization

- ◆ Emery Roe and Michel JG Van Eeten. 2004. “Three—Not Two—Major Environmental Counternarratives to Globalization.” *Global Environmental Politics*. 4, 4, pp. 36 – 54. Available on the course website.

No weekly assignment

Week 15, Nov 29 & Dec 1: Globalization

- ◆ Barndt, Deborah. “Tangled Routes: Women, Work, and Globalization on the Tomato Trail.” Chapter 14 in King and McCarthy, pp. . 205 – 225.
- ◆ Peter Freund and George Martin. “Driving South: the Globalization of Auto Consumption and Its Social Organization of Space.” Chapter 15 in King and McCarthy, pp. 226 – 238.

Weekly Assignment #12 due Thursday, Dec 1

Week 16, Dec 6 & Dec 8 Discussion & Review

Final exam: Monday, Dec 12, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.