

Portland State University
Department of Sociology
217 Cramer Hall

Fall 09

SOC. 465/565: ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

Instructor: Prof. Veronica Dujon
Lectures: 10-11:50 pm, Tues. Thurs
Office Hours: Tues 12:00 -1:00 p.m. (217 Cramer Hall)
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The subject of the environment seems to be everywhere these days -- in the headlines of newspapers; on the cover of news magazines; on radio and television news and feature shows; and as a focus of the work of musicians and film makers. Whether it is because of global warming, acid rain, the extinction of species, the depletion of tropical rain forests, the quality of the food we eat, ground water contamination, the "safe" disposal of toxic wastes, the weakening of the ozone layer, our use of energy, urban sprawl, excessive logging, or what to do with the garbage we generate, some days it seems as if everyone is talking about environmental issues.

The **purpose of this course** is to begin to **understand why it is** from a sociological set of perspectives, **that environmental issues/ problems arise, and how it is that people choose to respond, or not respond to these issues/problems.** We will examine the source of, and the solutions for, environmental problems.

In this course we will not be examining the nature of environmental problems from a natural science perspective. We will not examine, for example, acid rain, ozone depletion, species extinction, or urban sprawl, to understand them as chemical reactions or ecological disturbances per se; rather we will examine the type of social and economic forces which give rise to these issues, the social forces which frame these issues as they emerge in public consciousness, and the social, economic and political forces which lead to consideration and implementation of mechanisms to resolve these issues once they have emerged.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance. Given the size of this course I will not always know whether you attend lectures on a regular basis or not; so attendance of lectures is something you will have to regulate for yourselves. But I can tell you several things: (1) you will get the most from the class by regular attendance at lectures, (2) discussion will be a central feature of the class and it will be evaluated and (3) failure to attend class will inevitably be reflected in your grasp of the material and your performance. If you miss class (and many of you will have to miss class at some point), you are encouraged to make arrangements with a classmate to provide you with notes for that lecture.

EXAMINATIONS

Mid-term examination Oct. 29th ~ 25 points
Final examination 30 points

ASSIGNMENTS

3 short written assignments

Assignment #1 – due Oct 13th-- 15 points

Assignment #2 - due Nov. 10th-- 15 points

Assignment #3 - due Nov. 24th-- 15 points

GRADUATE STUDENTS

In addition to requirements listed above, a final 10 page research paper (20 points)

Proposal due – Oct. 15th

1st Draft due – Nov. 17th

Final copy due – Dec. 1st

BOOKS AND READING MATERIAL

Required:

Benjamin Kline, 2000. First Along the River: A Brief History of the U.S. Environmental Movement. San Francisco, CA: Acada Books

In addition:

Syllabus and other material on Prof. Dujon's Soc. Dept. site

Electronic course reserves:

To access, go to www.library.pdx.edu; Find Course Reserves; Search Dujon; password is Dujon.

Recommended:

Dunlap, R. et al. 2002. Sociological Theory and The Environment. Boulder, CO: Rowman and Littlefield

C. R. Humphrey et al. 2003. Environment, Energy and Society: Exemplary Works. Belmont California: Wadsworth

Harper, Charles L. 2008. Environment and Society: Human Perspectives on Environmental Issues. Fourth Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall.

READINGS

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

Week 1 **We convene; an introduction to the social perspective.**

Sept. 29-Oct. 1

Movie: **The Lorax**

Anita Gordon and David Suzuki. 1991. "How did We Come to This?" (pps. 39-53)

Available at:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=bh2v5VvSg6cC&lpg=PA39&ots=5snPmoQykh&dq=>

How%20did%20we%20come%20to%20this%3F%20Gordon%20and%20Suzuki&pg=PA39#v=onepage&q=&f=false

Kline, Ch 1 pp 3-12 "Philosophical Foundations"

Kline, Ch 2 pp. 13-22, "The 1400s through 1700s: Inhabiting a New Land"

Week 2
Oct. 6-8

In The Beginning

Kline Ch 3 pp 23-35 "The Early 1800s Destroying the Frontier"

Kline Ch 4 pp 37-50 "The Late 1880s: Building an Industrial Nation"

Kline Ch 5 pp 51-67 "The 1900s thru the 1930s: Beginnings of the Conservation Movement"

Harris, Jonathan. 2001. "Basic Principles of Sustainable Development." Global Development and Environment Institute Working Paper 00-04. Available at: http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/Working_Papers/Sustainable%20Development.PDF

Video: Battle for the Trees

(hand out assignment #1, due Oct.13th)

PART TWO: FRAMING OUR PROBLEMS

Week 3
Oct. 13 -15

Individuals vs. Economic Structures

Maniates, Michael F. 2001. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?" *Global Environmental Politics*, 1:3. Available at: <http://web.ebscohost.com.proxy.lib.pdx.edu/ehost/pdf?vid=2&hid=111&sid=9b7b4fdd-33b5-4e9a-8394-48bdc5d202c0%40sessionmgr110>

Schnaiberg, Pelow, and Windberg. 2004. "The Treadmill of Production and the Environmental State." Available at: http://www.northwestern.edu/ipr/publications/papers/2004/schnaiberg/17_TreadmillEnvirState.pdf

Hawken, Paul, A. Lovins, and L. Hunter Lovins. 1999. *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*. Chapter 1. Available at: <http://www.natcap.org/images/other/NCchapter1.pdf>

Week 4
Oct. 20-22

The Tragedy of the Commons

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science*, 162. Pp. 1243-1248. Available at: <http://dieoff.com/page95.htm>

Dietz, Thomas, N. Dolsak, E. Ostrom, and P. Stern. 2002. "The Drama of the Commons." Chapter 1 in Ostrom, E. et al. (eds.), *The Drama of the Commons*. National Academy Press. Available at: http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=10287&page=3

Raymond De Young and Stephen Kaplan. 1988. "On Averting the Tragedy of the Commons" *Environmental Management* 12, 3: 273-283. Available online at:

http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/48163/1/267_2005_Article_BF01867519.pdf

(hand out study guide)

Week 5
Oct. 27-29

Population Control

Paul Harrison. 1994. "Sex and the Single Planet: Need, Greed and earthly Limits" *The Amicus Journal*, Winter. (ONLINE, SEE HARTMANN BELOW)

Betsy Hartmann. 1994. "Population Fictions: The Malthusians are Back in Town" *Dollars and Sense*, September/October. Available at:

<http://www.mhhe.com/socscience/english/allwrite3/seyley/ssite/seyley/se04/environ3.pdf>

Published on Thursday, September 7, 2006 by the Inter Press Service

Is Brain Drain Robbing Poor to Pay for the Rich? by Thalif Deen

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines06/0907-03.htm>

Hesketh, Therese et al. 2005. "The Effect of China's One-Child Family Policy after 25 Years." Available at:

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/353/11/1171>

Handout: From Rio to Johannesburg: What's Good for Women is Good for the World by Danielle Nierenberg (World Watch Institute)

Video: Harvest of Fear

Handout: Michael Dorsey "Environmentalism or Racism?" Sierra Club

MID TERM EXAM Oct. 29th

PART THREE: ISSUES IN ECO-ACTION

Week 6
Nov. 3-5

Activism/ Environmental Justice

Kline Ch 6 pp 70-82 "The 1940s thru the 1960s"

Kline Ch 7 pp 84-99 "The Conservation Movement Matures"

Video: **PickAxe**

Pellow, David and R. Brulle. 2005. "Power, Justice, and the Environment: Toward Critical Environmental Justice Studies." Chapter 1 in Pellow, D. and R. Brulle, *Power, Justice, and the Environment*. MIT Press. Available at:

<http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/chapters/0262162334chap1.pdf>

Bullard, Robert. July 1999. Environmental Justice: An Interview with Robert Bullard. *Earth First! Journal*. Available at:

<http://www.ejnet.org/ej/bullard.html>

Video: Frontline: Justice for Sale

Recommended: Dick Russell. 1987. "The Monkeywrenchers," The Amicus Journal 9, 4: 28-42.

(hand out assignment #2 Due Nov. 10th)

Week 7
Nov. 10-12

The Political Economy of Environmentalism

Kline ch 8 pp 101-109; pp 114

Faber, Daniel. 1998. *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy: Environmental Justice Movements in the United States*. Introduction: "The Struggle for Ecological Democracy and Environmental Justice" pps. 1-26.

Available online:

http://books.google.com/books?id=3S2MHvNCz_cC&pg=PR7&lpg=PR7&dq=Daniel+Faber+James+O'Connor+The+Struggle+for+Nature&source=bl&ots=x3__O_ufQf&sig=_8SC7AGXIKm9DxHTG3SEABgVUhk&hl=en&ei=wY6ySrPDBZOqtgON46meDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1#v=onepage&q=Daniel%20Faber%20James%20O'Connor%20The%20Struggle%20for%20Nature&f=false

Faber, Daniel. 1998. *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy: Environmental Justice Movements in the United States*. Ch. 1 "The Political Ecology of American Capitalism." Pps. 27-59

Available: electronic course reserves

Video: The God Squad

In-class exercise Nov 12 (tentative)

Week 8
Nov. 17-19

The Status of Environmental Action in the US

Kline ch 9 pp 116- 131 "The early 1990s"

Harvey M. Jacobs. 1995. "The Anti-Environmental, 'Wise Use' Movement in America," Land Use Law 47, 2: 3-8

Available: electronic course reserves

David Helvarg. 1995. "Red Herrings of the Wise Use Movement", The Progressive, November pp 18-20

Available at:

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Red+herrings+of+the+wise+use+movement.-a018008835>
(please ignore ads)

Kline ch 10 pp 133-141 "The Late 1990s"

Handouts: "Profit, Ideology Mix for some Measure 37 donors" by Laura Oppenheimer, April 2007; "Givings Counter Measure" by David Morris, Alternet, April 2005

(handout assignment #3, due Nov 24)

PART FOUR: PLANNING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Week 9
Nov. 24

The Issue of planning in a Democratic Society

Edward C. Banfield. 1973 (1953). "Ends and Means in Planning," in Andreas Faludi, ed. 1973. A Reader in Planning Theory. New York, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, pp. 139-150.

Available at:

<http://www.sims.monash.edu.au/subjects/ims5042/stuff/readings/banfield.pdf>

Videos: Trading in Democracy

Revisit the Jonathan Harris piece on Principles for Sustainable Development

Week 10
Dec. 1-3

The Issue of Planning in a Global Society

Kline ch 10 pp 144-152

Climate Change Is as Serious as WMD, November 15, 2006 by Agence France Presse

Available at:

<http://www.commondreams.org/headlines06/1115-02.htm>

Videos: Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai