ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY I – SOCY5562.01 (SPRING SEMESTER, 2016)
THURSDAYS, 4:30 – 7:00 PM, MCGUINN HALL, ROOM 415

INSTRUCTOR

Andrew Jorgenson, Professor of Sociology and Environmental Studies
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:00 PM

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

This seminar provides an overview of theoretical and empirical work in environmental sociology. After a brief introduction to the origins of the field, the seminar will cover substantive topics that are representative of what is current in the area, especially work that has global and structural orientations. This is a reading and discussion seminar designed for upper division undergraduates as well as graduate students. It is NOT a lecture course. However, I recognize that on some occasions I will spend moderate amounts of time giving an overview of employed research designs and methodologies that are used in the studies that we read and discuss. If you are unfamiliar with the methods being used, that’s ok!

We will have distinguished guests join us on some weeks (in-person or via skype) to informally discuss their research. Some guests will join us right at 4:30 PM, so it is imperative that you get to seminar on time, and ideally a few minutes early!

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

• Students are required to submit weekly critical summaries of the assigned readings (1-2 pages in length each). The weekly summaries are worth 10% of your final grade. The summaries are due in hard copy at the beginning of each class (no exceptions!). Late papers will NOT be accepted.
• Students are required to take turns in teams (of 3-4) facilitating weekly discussions. Each student is required to do this twice during the semester. These facilitating exercises are worth 20% of your final grade. We will schedule these group facilitations for the entire semester on the first day of seminar, and I will provide you with more specific written instructions and expectations on week 2.
• Attendance and general participation in seminar discussions is worth 20% of your final grade.
• There will be two take-home exams, one at the mid-point of the term, and the other at the end of the term. Each is worth 25% of your final grade. You will have a minimum of one week to finish each of the two exams, and each will consist of a small number of questions that I will provide that are largely based on the assigned readings and in-class discussions. I will provide you with additional details on both exams ahead of time.

REQUIRED READINGS

For Weeks 1 – 8, all required readings will consist of journal articles and handbook chapters, each of which are available in pdf via the course’s Canvas webpage. After Week 8, most required readings will be from the following two books, both of which are available at the campus bookstore in paperback (I don’t have extra copies to loan out):

2. Longo, Stefano, Rebecca Clausen, and Brett Clark. 2015. *The Tragedy of the Commodity: Oceans, Fisheries, and Aquaculture*. Rutgers University Press. (we will read this book weeks 9-10)

**DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Boston College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social, and recreational programs and activities. Appropriate support and referral services are provided by the Disability Services Office, which serves students with hearing, visual, mobility, medical, and psychiatric disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, dugganka@bc.edu, at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities and ADHD, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu, in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities, including temporary disabilities. Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. If you are unsure whether or not Disability Services are appropriate for your needs, please make an appointment with Disability Services for a consultation.

**BC STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

“The pursuit of knowledge can proceed only when scholars take responsibility and receive credit for their work. Recognition of individual contributions to knowledge and of the intellectual property of others builds trust within the university and encourages the sharing of ideas that is essential to scholarship. Similarly, the educational process requires that individuals present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique, and eventual reformulation. Presentation of others' work as one's own is not only intellectual dishonesty, but also undermines the educational process.” Please review the standards on academic integrity at the website: https://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity.html

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**TOPIC AND READING SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: Thursday, January 21**

Course and People Introductions

**Week 2: Thursday, January 28**

Origins of and Reflections on the Field (*Riley Dunlap MIGHT join us via Skype*)

**Week 3: Thursday, February 4**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  **Environmental Justice & Environmental Inequality Research in the US**


**Week 4: Thursday, February 11**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  **Gender and Environmental Sociology (Emily Huddart Kennedy will join us via Skype)**


**Week 5: Thursday, February 18**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  **Environmental Values, Environmental Concern (Jennifer Givens will join us via Skype)**


Week 6: Thursday, February 25

- Discussion Facilitators:

Environment and Development Perspectives


Week 7: Thursday, March 3

- Discussion Facilitators:

Environment and Development Empirical Approaches


Week 8: Thursday, March 17

- Discussion Facilitators:
  World Society and the Environment, World-Systems and the Environment (Brian Gareau will join us)


Week 9: Thursday, March 31

- Turn in Exam 1
- Discussion Facilitators:
  The Crisis of Marine Ecosystems

  - Read Chapters 1-4 in The Tragedy of the Commodity: Oceans, Fisheries, and Aquaculture.

Week 10: Thursday, April 7

- No Discussion Facilitators this week!

  The Crisis of Marine Ecosystems (all three authors will join us via Skype)

  - Read Chapters 5-7 in The Tragedy of the Commodity: Oceans, Fisheries, and Aquaculture.

Week 11: Thursday, April 14

- Discussion Facilitators:
  Ecologically Unequal Exchange, Militarization and the Environment

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**Week 12: Thursday, April 21**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  Sociological Perspectives on Climate Change

  - Read Chapters 1, 11, 12, and 2 in *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives*.

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**Week 13: Thursday, April 28**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  Sociological Perspectives on Climate Change (*Juliet Schor will join us*)

  - Read Chapters 3-6 in *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives*.

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**Week 14: Thursday, May 5**

- Discussion Facilitators:

  Sociological Perspectives on Climate Change (*Rachael Shwom will join us via Skype*)

  - Read Chapters 7-10 in *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives*.

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**Week 15: Thursday, May 12**

- Turn in Exam 2