

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 328
Fall 2020

Dr. Zeke Baker



Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
-------------------	--------------	---------------------

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12pm-1pm, or by appointment

Dr. Zeke Baker bakerz@sonoma.edu (Remote via Zoom only): Zoom Link: <https://SonomaState.zoom.us/j/96405824455> (<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://SonomaState.zoom.us/j/93717457531&sa=D&source=calendar&ust=1597886607129000&usg=AOvVaw09taGsYRl>)

Lecture Information

Location	Time
-----------------	-------------

Online Instruction.

Zoom Meetings Link:

<https://SonomaState.zoom.us/j/96164392745>
(<https://SonomaState.zoom.us/j/96164392745>)

Mondays and
Wednesdays, 3:00PM -
4:50PM

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the relationship between society and the environment. It is intended for students majoring in sociology and related fields who wish to understand and engage environmental issues and crises, as well as students in natural/physical sciences and policy/business fields who wish to become familiar with the complex social processes that characterize human-environment interactions. The course uses several theoretical approaches to the environment-society relationship, and covers many specific environmental issues, ranging from climate change to human health, from biodiversity and resource extraction to industrial pollution. We investigate the causes, impacts, and politics surrounding such issues at local, national, and global scales.

Course Modality and Expectations for Online Engagement

Because of campus closures and our unprecedented crisis, this is an entirely online course. This course will be delivered online through the learning management system, Canvas. You will use your SSU username and password to log in to the Canvas course.

In Canvas, you will access online lectures, lessons, course materials, and resources. At designated times throughout the semester, we will participate in a blend of self-paced ("asynchronous") and group-paced ("synchronous:") activities using Canvas, Zoom web-conferencing and other internet-based technologies. All student work is submitted/posted online in Canvas.

Synchronous activities for which you are expected to be on-time, present, and have audio/video capabilities will not typically include the full lecture period. In other words, you can expect a "hybrid" course, which primarily features pre-recorded lectures combined with class activities on Zoom. *All mandatory Zoom-based, synchronous activities will occur within the allotted lecture time period* (Mondays and Wednesdays, 3pm-4:50pm), most typically from 4pm to 4:50pm. All expectations for Zoom attendance and participation will be communicated at the beginning of each "Lecture" Page within the Course Modules.

This is a 4-unit course and will require approximately 12 hours per week in order to read course materials, engage course lectures, participate in course assessment activities, and complete assignments.

Goals and Learning Objectives

The goals and objectives of this course are to:

- Explore the diverse relationships societies have to their environment.
- Provide an introduction to environmental sociology as fundamentally connected to the larger discipline of sociology.
- Understand some of the major causes of our contemporary environmental problems and crises.
- Understand how and why environmental 'goods' and 'bads' are distributed unequally at various scales, from the local to the global.
- Trace the broad historical development of concepts of 'nature' and 'environment,' and the historical development of the Environmental Movement and related struggles for environmental sustainability and justice.
- Improve skills in analyzing contemporary events through critical engagement with news sources, reports, and academic texts.
- Build and practice skills in writing and presenting a formal research paper.
- Exercise civic dialogue regarding tough, politically-charged problems through discussion, listening, peer review/criticism, writing, and presentation.
- Foster creative engagement with environmental problems and solutions through course activities, student collaboration, individual research, and personal reflection.

Required Course Materials

Kenneth A. Gould and Tammy L. Lewis (eds.) (2020) *20 Lessons in Environmental Sociology, 3rd edition*. London: Oxford University Press.

Materials or links to additional reading materials (academic articles, chapters, news articles, and online content) is organized chronologically and available within each Module. Readings are also listed in the Course Schedule (below) beside the lecture to which they correspond.

Major Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Research Proposal	9/9/2020	5 pts/5%
Midterm Exam	10/19/20	15 pts/ 15%
Research Blog	11/8/2020	5 pts/ 5%
Research Paper	12/2/2020	30 pts/ 30%
Presentation	12/7/2020	10 pts/ 10%
Final Exam	12/9/2020	20 pts/ 20%
Discussions, Reading Questions, and Participation		15 pts/ 15%

Course Outline

Studying the relationship between society and the environment can be treated in distinct, if overlapping, ways. In this course we cluster these ways as "Modules," and organize lectures, discussion, and readings accordingly. In Module 1, "Our Environmental Crisis," we introduce the environmental crisis that we, as a society, have created and must confront.

In Module 2, we take a step back and gain some perspective on Environment Sociology—what topics, concepts, and theories organize the field—and what environmental sociologists agree and disagree about.

Then, in Module 3, we seek to explain the relationship between society and the environment by studying how we *make life*—how we produce, consume and metabolize nature in historically distinct and socially patterned ways. Module 3 is therefore labeled *Metabolisms*. We begin with an overview of the capitalist mode of production and the ecological and social relationships that sustain it or develop in contradiction to it. We investigate these processes of environmental "withdrawals" (resource use) and "additions" (waste) as comprising a "treadmill" of production and consumption, which causes environmental problems. We then ask what modern technological developments have to do with this "treadmill," and whether or not technological innovation is a sufficient solution to environmental problems. We conclude Module 3 by critically engaging a documentary film on climate change, titled *This Changes Everything* (2015).

Social-environmental relations have diverse outcomes and impacts, especially social inequalities in the distribution of environmental "goods" and "bads." We address these impacts in Module 4—*Inequalities*. We first examine social inequalities in environmental health. Then we try to understand inequalities in the distribution of environmental "bads," or toxics, with an emphasis on racial environmental injustice in the US. We conclude Module 4 by studying natural resource extraction in the Global South in the context of global economic forces and state power. Generally, in Module 4, we seek to describe social patterns in environmental inequalities, and explain them with reference to the kinds of power relationships that produce, facilitate and reproduce inequality.

In Module 5, *Politics*, we more deeply investigate the various ways societies (or factions of them) have developed political strategies, institutions, movements and ideologies around "the environment." We begin this Module with historical investigation of environmental policy and government institutions of an 'Environmental State,' with a focus on the US and national-comparative contexts. Because this history is tied up with the Environmental Movement, we also focus on the historical interaction between this social movement and national-state policy, with an emphasis on the US. We examine organized challenges to

climate-scientific consensus as a “counter-movement,” yet one which also sheds light on the politics of environmental knowledge more broadly. We then address the livelihood and survival concerns roughly organized in the Global North as the Environmental Justice movement, and in the Global South as what we can call the “Environmentalism of the poor.”

Through investigating environmental politics ‘from below,’ or from the perspectives of marginalized social groups, we can then also tackle a fundamental philosophical problem implicated in environmental crises: what is “nature” and “the environment,” anyway? How can they variously be given value, and whose valuation counts? How have societies come to understand humans to be separate from nature? Are there alternative concepts of “nature”/“society” available? These questions organize our investigations and activities within Module 6, *The Politics of Nature/Culture*.

In Module 7, we bring our learning in Modules 1 through 6 together to bear on an in-depth, critical engagement with a single concept: “*Sacrifice Zones*.” Through case studies, review of prior material, workshops, and discussion of student research projects, we will work together to explore and grapple with situations that demonstrate the uneven geographies and social stratification of environmental goods and bads, costs and profits, and risks and rewards.

Please Note

The following table outlines the course, as it will unfold this semester, along with the readings that must be completed by the lecture date to which they correspond. For information on assignments and other activities, navigate to the individual “Modules.” For each assigned reading, you are responsible for knowing the problem they seek to address (problem in the general sense), their argument in relation to this problem, and the general conclusions they draw as they relate to course topics. Thus, you are expected to digest the broad outlines of each reading and be prepared to discuss them during class.

Course Schedule

Date	Module Topic / Lecture Title	Reading	Notes
	MODULE 1: Our Environmental Crisis		
Lecture 1 (8/19/20)	Course Introduction and Overview	Review Course Syllabus	
Lecture 2 (8/24/20)	Our Environmental Crisis in Planetary Perspective	Rockstrom, Johan, et al. 2009. “Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity.” <i>Ecology and Society</i> . www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/ (http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/) Foster, Clark, and York (2008) “Ecology: The Moment of Truth—An Introduction.” <i>The Monthly Review</i> 60(3).	
Lecture 3 (8/26/20)	Our Environmental Crisis in Local Perspective	Stokstad (2020). "Droughts exposed California's thirst for groundwater. Now, the state hopes to refill its aquifers." Science Magazine. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/droughts-exposed-california-s-thirst-groundwater-now-state-hopes-refill-its-aquifers (https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/04/droughts-exposed-california-s-thirst-groundwater-now-state-hopes-refill-its-aquifers).	
	MODULE 2: Principles of Environmental Sociology		
Lecture 4 (8/31/20)	What is Environmental Sociology?	Gould & Lewis (2020): "An Introduction to Environmental Sociology" and Chapter 1, "The Social Constuction of Nature" (pp. 13-27) Stewart Lockie (2015) "What is environmental sociology?" <i>Environmental Sociology</i> 1:3, 139-142, DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2015.1066084	
Lecture 5	Theories and	Gould & Lewis: Chapter 2, "Theories in Environmental Sociology (pp. 28-58).	

(9/2/20)	Controversies in Environmental Sociology	Pellow and Nyseth (2013) "An environmental sociology for the twenty-first century." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 39(1): 229-250.	
	MODULE 3: Metabolisms		
Lecture 6 (9/9/20)	Political Economy and Environmental Disorganization	Foster (1999) "Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 105(2): 366-405. Harvey (2015) "Capital's relation to nature." Pp. 246-264 in <i>17 Contradictions and the End of Capitalism</i> . <i>Recommended:</i> Rudel, Roberts, and Carmin (2012) "Political Economy of the Environment." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 37: 221-38.	
Lecture 7 (9/14/20)	The Treadmill of Production (1)	Gould and Lewis (2020), Chapter 5, "Labor Productivity and Environment," (pp. 76-85) and pages 60-62, 34-40. *See module for additional online resources (videos).	
Lecture 8 (9/16/20)	The Treadmill of Production (2)	Gould, Pellow and Shnaiberg. 2004. "Interrogating the Treadmill of Production: Everything You Wanted to Know About the Treadmill but Were Afraid to Ask." <i>Organization & Environment</i> 17(3): 296-316, http://www.jstor.com/stable/26162434 (http://www.jstor.com/stable/26162434) Tammy L. Lewis (2019) "Globalizing the treadmill of production: a solutions-oriented application to Ecuador." <i>Environmental Sociology</i> , 5:3, 219-231, DOI: 10.1080/23251042.2018.1514942 (https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2018.1514942)	
Lecture 9 (9/21/20)	Governing the Treadmill	Gould & Lewis (2020), Chapter 3, "The State and Policy: Imperialism, Exclusion, and Ecological Violence as State Policy" Jason S. Allen, Stefano B. Longo & Thomas E. Shriver (2018) "Politics, the State, and Sea Level Rise: The Treadmill of Production and Structural Selectivity in North Carolina's Coastal Resource Commission." <i>The Sociological Quarterly</i> 59:2, 320-337, DOI: 10.1080/00380253.2018.1436945 (https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2018.1436945)	
Lecture 10 (9/23/2020)	Getting on the Treadmill: Consumption	"Climate and Consumption," in <i>Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives</i> , Riley E. Dunlap and Robert J. Brulle, eds., (New York: Oxford University Press), (with Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez), 2015. Taiebat and Xu (2019). "5 Charts Show How Your Household Drives Up Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions." <i>The Conversation</i> . https://theconversation.com/5-charts-show-how-your-household-drives-up-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-119968 (https://theconversation.com/5-charts-show-how-your-household-drives-up-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-119968)	
(9/28/20)		*Cancelled Due to Wildfire*	
Lecture 11 (9/30/20)	The Trajectory of Consumption?	Film: <i>Plastic Wars</i> (2020): https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/ (https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/plastic-wars/) Szasz (2007) <i>Shopping Our Way to Safety</i> , Introduction, one Chapter from Part I and one Chapter from Part II (See Module for guidelines)	
10/5/20	Inverted	*Catch up on all assigned reading, video, and lecture materials regarding Consumption	

	Quarantine: Individual Consumption or Collective Response?	(Lectures 10 and 11) *Zoom-Based Discussion to conclude sub-unit on Consumption has been rescheduled from 9/30 to Monday, 10/5.	
Lecture 12 (10/7/20)	Energy & Society	Shannon Bell, in Gould & Lewis (2020), Chapter 9, "Energy, Society, and the Environment" Scott Montgomery (2018) "Cheap Oil is Blocking Progress on Climate Change." https://theconversation.com/cheap-oil-is-blocking-progress-on-climate-change-108450 . (https://theconversation.com/cheap-oil-is-blocking-progress-on-climate-change-108450) <i>Recommended:</i> Erik Lipton (Oct 5, 2020). "'The Coal Industry is Back,' Trump Proclaimed. It Wasn't." https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/05/us/politics/trump-coal-industry.html . (https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/05/us/politics/trump-coal-industry.html)	
Lecture 13 (10/12/20)	Technology and Modernization	Gould and Lewis (2020), Chapter 7, "Technological Change and the Environment" Lovins, Hunter Lovins, and Paul Hawken (2010). " The Next Industrial Revolution ," Pp. 1-21 in Natural Capitalism. Short Film: William McDonough TedTalk (2005) "Cradle to cradle design." Hornburg, Alf (2019). "How Localisation Can Solve Climate Change." https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190905-how-localisation-can-solve-climate-change . (https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190905-how-localisation-can-solve-climate-change) <i>*Recommended:</i> Jorgenson and Clark (2012) " Are the economy and the environment decoupling? A comparative international study, 1960-2005 ." American Journal of Sociology 118(1): 1-44.	
Lecture 14 (10/14/20)	Film: <i>This Changes Everything</i> (2015)	Available online for free via YouTube (with ads), or from some subscription services for purchase/rental: This Changes Everything . (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xb4wp4QK2PU)  . (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xb4wp4QK2PU)	
Lecture 15 (10/19/20)	MIDTERM EXAM		
	MODULE 4: Inequalities		
Lecture 16 (10/21/20)	Introduction to Environmental Inequality	Gould and Lewis (2020), Chapter 10, "Environmental Inequality and Environmental Justice" AND "This is Inequality at the Boiling Point" (New York Times, August 2020) https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/06/climate/climate-change-inequality-heat.html? . (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/06/climate/climate-change-inequality-heat.html?) OR "Earth's New Gilded Era" (The Atlantic, October 2020)	

		https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/10/heat-human-rights-issue-21st-century/616693/?fbclid=IwAR2YDwhRtSnvTCGCCixN5kzDbPDQ7mA5wa-PZYu-NCRDC0rixwAL3wbyW_E (https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/10/heat-human-rights-issue-21st-century/616693/?fbclid=IwAR2YDwhRtSnvTCGCCixN5kzDbPDQ7mA5wa-PZYu-NCRDC0rixwAL3wbyW_E)	
Lecture 17 (10/26/20)			
Lecture 18 (10/28/20)	Stratification, Vulnerability, and Environmental Toxics	Taylor (2010), <i>Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility</i> , Introduction-Ch. 3 pp. 1-68. Available at: https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.sonoma.idm.oclc.org/lib/sonoma/reader.action?docID=1685764 (https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.sonoma.idm.oclc.org/lib/sonoma/reader.action?docID=1685764) Pellow, "Polluting the Voiceless" https://www.facebook.com/427333065164/videos/218968709428093/ (https://www.facebook.com/427333065164/videos/218968709428093/) "Flint's Deadly Water" (2019) https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/flints-deadly-water/	*Guest Speaker (rescheduled for 10/28): Dr. Amanda FencI
Lecture 19 (11/2/20)	Sacrifice Zones	Steven Lerner. 2010. <i>Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States</i> The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA. G. Hooks, C.L. Smith. 2004. "The Treadmill of Destruction: National Sacrifice Areas and Native Americans." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 69(4):558-575. Hop Hopkins (2020), "Racism is Killing the Planet." https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/racism-killing-planet (https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/racism-killing-planet)	*Guest Speaker: Cheryl Johnson
Lecture 20 (11/4/20)	Environmental Conflict: From Inequalities to Politics	*Some materials relocated to Lecture topic, "The Environmentalism of the Poor" No new reading. Be ready to present on your reading from Lerner (2010) body chapter.	*Workshop of Final Projects (Blog Post)
	MODULE 5: Politics		
Lecture 20 (11/9/20)	Environmental Policy and the Environmental State	Read and Interact with: "The Trump Administration Is Reversing 100 Environmental Rules. Here's the Full List." By Popovich, Albeck-Ripka, and Pierre-Louis. (Updated July 15, 2020) https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html) Skim Trump's Campaign on "Promises Kept" regarding Energy and Environment: https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/energy-and-environment/ (https://www.promiseskept.com/achievement/overview/energy-and-environment/) Listen to: (https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/climate/green-new-deal-questions-answers.html) https://therealnews.com/stories/a-climate-sociologist-explains-the-green-new-deal-pt-1-2 (https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/21/climate/green-new-deal-questions-answers.html)	
Lecture 21 (11/16/20)	Science, Ideology, and Environmental Politics	Read: Aaron M. McCright & Riley E. Dunlap (2011) "The Politicization of Climate Change and Polarization in the American Public's Views of Global Warming, 2001–2010." <i>The Sociological Quarterly</i> 52:2 (155-194). DOI: 10.1111/j.1533-8525.2011.01198.x Link to article: McCright and Dunlap_2011.pdf	

		<p>Skim:</p> <p>Rich, Nathaniel. 2018. "Losing Earth." https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/01/magazine/climate-change-losing-earth.html (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/08/01/magazine/climate-change-losing-earth.html).</p> <p>Watch:</p> <p>Film: "Merchants of Doubt", Available via Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Merchants-Doubt-Patricia-Callahan/dp/B00YO2IC3W (https://www.amazon.com/Merchants-Doubt-Patricia-Callahan/dp/B00YO2IC3W)</p> <p>Or free (as of 11.9.2020) at the following external link: http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Merchants%20of%20Doubt (http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=Merchants%20of%20Doubt)</p> <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <p>Oreskes and Conway (2010), <i>Merchants of Doubt</i>, Ch. 6 (pp. 169-215).</p>	
Lecture 22 (11/18/2020)	Environmental Social Movements	<p>Gould and Lewis (2020), Chapter 18, "Environmental Social Movements."</p> <p>"Principles of Environmental Justice," (1991). Available at the following link to a Canvas File: 1991_EJ_principles.pdf</p> <p>Browse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Justice Alliance: https://climatejusticealliance.org/about/ (https://climatejusticealliance.org/about/) • Sunrise Movement: https://www.sunrisemovement.org/?ms=SunriseMovement (https://www.sunrisemovement.org/?ms=SunriseMovement) 	
Lecture 23 (11/23/2020)	Environmentalism of the Poor	<p>_ (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424)</p> <p>First, <i>Skim</i> Martinez-Alier, Joan. 2002. <i>The Environmentalism of the Poor</i>, Preface and Chapter 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Link to book chapter PDF: Martinez Alier_2002_Introduction.pdf _ (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424) <p>Second, read Anguelovski and Martinez-Alier (2014), "The 'Environmentalism of the Poor' Revisited: Territory and Place in Disconnected Glocal Struggles." <i>Ecological Economics</i> 102:167–76. doi: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.04.005 (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2014.04.005).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Link to article PDF: Anguelovski_Martinez Alier_2014_Environmentalism of the Poor revisited.pdf <p>Third, read Gould and Lewis (2020), Chapter 19, "Environmental Movements in the Global South"</p> <p>Fourth, and finally, <i>Skim</i>: Scheidel, et al. 2020. "Environmental Conflicts and Defenders: A Global Overview." <i>Global Environmental Change</i>. Link: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424 (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424) _ (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378020301424)</p> <p>Recommended:</p> <p>Temper and Martinez-Alier (2013) "The god of the mountain and Godavarman: Net Present Value, indigenous territorial rights and sacredness in a bauxite mining conflict in India" <i>Ecological Economics</i> 96: 79-87.</p>	

		Peluso and Vandergeest. "Taking the Jungle out of the Forest: Counter-Insurgency and the Making of National Natures," Pp. 254-284. In <i>Global Political Ecology</i> , Peet, Robbins, and Watts (eds).	
	MODULE 7: The Politics of Nature/Culture		
Lecture 25 (11/30/2020)	Politics of Nature/Culture (1): Whose Nature?	<p>Carolyn Merchant (1993[1980]), excerpt from <i>The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PDF available here: Merchant_1980_the-death-of-nature_short_excerpt_in_Zimmerman_et_al._1993.pdf <p>Maria Meria and Vandana Shiva (2014), <i>Ecofeminism</i>, Chapters 2 and 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2: Ecofeminism ---- (Part 1 Critique and Perspective).pdf Chapter 11: Ecofeminism ---- (Part 4 Ecofeminism v. New Areas of Investment through Biotechnology).pdf <p>*Note: The following video will be incorporated into lecture:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ER5ZZk5atIE . (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ER5ZZk5atIE)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ER5ZZk5atIE</p>	
Lecture 26 (12/2/2020)	Politics of Nature/Culture (2): Whose History? Whose Future?	<p>Cronon (1996) "The Trouble with Wilderness: Or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." <i>Environmental History</i> 1: 7-28. Link to PDF: Cronon 1996_The Trouble with Wilderness.pdf</p> <p>Kyle Whyte. 2017. "Indigenous Climate Change Studies: Indigenizing Futures, Decolonizing the Anthropocene" Link to PDF: Indigenous_Climate_Change_Studies_Indige.pdf</p> <p>Short Film, will be incorporated into lecture: "Mni Wiconi: The Stand at Standing Rock": https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1435600033134929 https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1435600033134929</p>	
12/9/2020	Final Exam Due	*Due at 6pm*	

Guidelines on Assignments and Evaluation

Grade Scale

- A Excellent (90%+ [of total points])
- B Good (80-89%)
- C Fair (70-79%)
- D (Below 70%)
- F (Very poor, not passing)

Course grading will be based on general University standards. A passing grade requires completion of all written work and exams. Grades are not given based on "need." If you must gain a particular grade in this course it is your responsibility to earn it. Per University policy, final grades can only be changed in cases of mathematical or clerical error. Grades of "incomplete" are only given to students who have completed at least 50% of the course requirements, have produced work of passing quality, and have good cause.

Exam Structure

The Midterm and Final Exams will have different formats. To accommodate the situation of remote learning, all exams will be open book and open note. No sources outside course readings and lectures are permitted for the Midterm. The Midterm will primarily feature Short Answer Questions, which ask you to relate course concepts to one another, drawing from course readings, material, and lectures. The Final Exam will be a long-form essay, which responds to a

single prompt. Although you will not have access to the prompt ahead of time, you can expect that it will ask you to apply course concepts to issues in contemporary U.S. environmental politics.

Guidelines for Written Work

Submission Guidelines

Written work must be turned in via the course Canvas site. Documents must be in either WORD or PDF format (no other formats will be accepted), double-spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman, with 1" margins. Use a consistent, formal citations style. ASA style is strongly preferred. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due by 11:59PM of the due date. Don't be like Kanye West and [file your paperwork late](https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/510986-kanye-west-may-have-missed-deadline-to-get-on-wisconsin-ballot-by-minutes) (<https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/510986-kanye-west-may-have-missed-deadline-to-get-on-wisconsin-ballot-by-minutes>).

Late Assignments Policy

Late assignments will lose 10% for each day late (including weekends) up to 5 days late. After the 5-day deadline, you CANNOT submit a late assignment, and you will receive a zero for the assignment unless you have prior approval from the instructor or proof of a medical/family emergency. If you do encounter an emergency, communicate with the instructor by e-mail as immediately as practicable. The final presentation and final exam cannot be submitted late.

Research Paper Guidelines

Research Paper Proposal Guidelines:

The research paper is the backbone assignment of the course, and all written assignments are in some way tied to it. The paper is intended to allow you the opportunity to use your sociological imagination to understand an environmental problem that is rooted in time and place. In particular, the goal is to utilize the concept of "sacrifice zone."

The research paper assignment begins with a brief proposal. The proposal must be two paragraphs. The first paragraph must clearly state either (a) the case you have chosen to analyze, or (b) the issue you have chosen to analyze. The second paragraph must present a clear plan for how you will complete your study over the remainder of the term.

Research Blog Guidelines:

The research blog is meant to give you a chance to publicly reflect on your research, even as you are still in the process of developing your paper. The goal is to follow the conventions of short-form persuasive writing, in the style of an Op-Ed column (see: [tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/opinion/tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers.html?mcubz=0) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/opinion/tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers.html?mcubz=0>)) or an online academic or political blog (see: [tips on academic blogging](https://thoughtcapital.wordpress.com/2007/03/11/how-to-write-an-academic-blog/) (<https://thoughtcapital.wordpress.com/2007/03/11/how-to-write-an-academic-blog/>)). We will discuss strategies for this writing in-class. However, the basic principles will be to (1) develop a part of the argument of your research paper, drawing on academic sources, yet without using jargon, (2) relate your own experiences (or those of the general reader) to the topic, and (3) make a persuasive statement with respect to existing controversy surrounding your research topic.

Final Research Paper Guidelines:

The final research paper should be carefully planned, executed, and edited to demonstrate college-level research practices, evidence-based argumentation, writing quality, and critical thinking. You must *seriously* engage at least 2 major course concepts, citing course texts as appropriate. In addition, you must draw on primary research, evidenced by at least 2 outside academic sources and at least 2 non-academic sources (e.g. media coverage of an event, magazine article, government report or data source, or primary-source collected data). We will address strategies on how to find, read, and critically engage these materials in class. The final paper should be between 8-10 pages, double spaced, with Times New Roman 12-pt font, 1" margins, and have no extra space between paragraphs. In-text references and a corresponding "References" section must be present, and should follow a standard citation style, with a preference for ASA-style essays (Style Guidelines: [here](#)). Please see the assignment rubric (Link: [here](#)) for details on how the paper will be evaluated and how points will be allocated.

Paper Presentation Guidelines:

Our class will host a public-facing Webinar Series on "Sacrifice Zones". Webinars are common in a variety of professional settings—particularly during the COVID period. Even outside the pandemic, webinars are a common format for presenting research in academic, policy, and business-organizational settings.

A Webinar presentation can take a variety of formats. A "traditional" format relies primarily on slides, which the presenter uses to structure their talk. You may also choose a "Ted Talk" style that might utilize slides or visuals but mostly features the presenter themselves. Finally, depending on your study and your preferences, you are welcome to be adopt the style of "Investigative journalism" or a "Call to Action."

University Policies and Resources

There are important University policies that you should be aware of, such as the add/drop policy; cheating and plagiarism policy; grade appeal procedures; accommodations for students with disabilities and the diversity vision statement. Please review these standards and policies at the following link: [SSU University Policies](http://www.sonoma.edu/policies). (<http://www.sonoma.edu/policies>)

Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and think you may need academic accommodations, please contact Disability Services for Students (DSS). Please contact DSS as early as possible in order to avoid a delay in receiving accommodation services. The use of DSS services, including testing accommodations, requires prior authorization by DSS in compliance with university policies and procedures. See SSU's policy on [Disability Access for Students](http://www.sonoma.edu/policies/disability-access-students) (<http://www.sonoma.edu/policies/disability-access-students>).

- Phone: (707) 664-2677
- Phone TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958
- [DSS Website](http://web.sonoma.edu/dss/) (<http://web.sonoma.edu/dss/>).

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

The semester will be challenging. We will work to make this course a 'human-first' and holistic learning environment that takes into account your well-being. Nevertheless, crises hit people differently, and I encourage any student who may need help to reach out to Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

- Phone: (707) 664-2153
- [CAPS Website](http://web.sonoma.edu/counselingctr/) (<http://web.sonoma.edu/counselingctr/>)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Aug 19, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33453&include_contexts=course_22863)	3pm to 5pm
	 Icebreaker and Student Introductions (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/146691)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Aug 24, 2020	 Module 1: Discussion - Environmental Problems, Global and Local (Due 8/24) (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/151340)	due by 3pm
Wed Sep 2, 2020	 Module 2: Reading Questions (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/149483)	due by 3pm
Wed Sep 9, 2020	 Assignment: Research Paper Proposal (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/146960)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 28, 2020	 Consumption Log, Photos + Discussion (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/159152)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 7, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33454&include_contexts=course_22863)	4pm to 4:45pm
Mon Oct 12, 2020	 Module 3, Lecture 13: Reading Questions (Technology and Modernization) (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/161919)	due by 3pm
	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33455&include_contexts=course_22863)	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Oct 14, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33456&include_contexts=course_22863)	4pm to 4:45pm
	 This Changes Everything: Discussion and Application of Module 3 Concepts (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/162141)	due by 5pm
Mon Oct 19, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment (https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33457&include_contexts=course_22863)	4pm to 4:45pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Oct 20, 2020	 Midterm Exam https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/147664	due by 6pm
Wed Oct 21, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33458&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Mon Oct 26, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33459&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Oct 28, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33460&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Fri Oct 30, 2020	 Beyond Flint? Reflections on Environmental Harm and Race https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/164806	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 2, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33461&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Nov 4, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33462&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Sun Nov 8, 2020	 Student Research Blog https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/146968	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 9, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33463&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Nov 11, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33464&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Mon Nov 16, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33465&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
	 Politics, Ideology, and Climate Change Concern https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/167315	due by 4pm
Wed Nov 18, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33466&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Mon Nov 23, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33467&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Nov 25, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33468&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Mon Nov 30, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33469&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Dec 2, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33470&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm

Date	Details	Due
	 Student Final Research Paper https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/147353	due by 11:59pm
Fri Dec 4, 2020	 EJ Atlas Presentation https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/170498	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 7, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33471&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
	 Student Webinar Presentation https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/131941	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 9, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33472&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
	 Final Exam https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/147665	due by 6pm
Mon Dec 14, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33473&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
Wed Dec 16, 2020	 SOCI-328-001-20-FA: Sociology of the Environment https://canvas.sonoma.edu/calendar?event_id=33474&include_contexts=course_22863	4pm to 4:45pm
	 In-Class Attendance and Participation https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/171445	
	 Proposal Peer Review https://canvas.sonoma.edu/courses/22863/assignments/158338	