

Community & Environmental Sociology 140

Introduction to Community & Environmental Sociology

Spring 2013

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Tuesday/Thursday
4:00-5:15pm or 6:00-7:15pm
Office Hours: Monday 4-5pm or by appointment

Course Overview

This course is an introduction to community and environmental sociology. More specifically, we examine the linkages between the social and biophysical dimensions of the environment. Key topics include community growth and development, local food systems, energy transitions, environmental justice, and sustainable development in the green economy. An important theme running through this course is the concept of community sustainability. We are especially interested in understanding some of the successful models and obstacles to promoting community sustainability and resiliency.

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Required Readings

Bill McKibben. 2007. *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*. New York: Times Books.

Michael Pollan. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. New York: Penguin Books.

Ozzie Zehler. 2010. *Green Illusions*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

These books are available at the University Bookstore. You should be able to find used copies online as well. Additional readings are available through Learn@UW.

Course Requirements. Grades will be based on three exams, four reading reflections, and class attendance checks. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and possibly short answer questions. Exams will cover lectures, readings, films and class discussion. The final exam will include only the material from the last third of the class and will be given during the final class period (May 9). Each exam will be worth 50 points. Dates for exams and assignments may be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

In four weeks you are required to write a reading reflection in response to a prompt that I will provide. In your reading reflections, you must a) demonstrate mastery of key concepts and

arguments, b) critically assess the argument, and c) relate the readings to the lectures, films, or class discussion. Reflection papers should be a maximum of 900 words long (double-spaced). You will be allowed to drop your lowest score (or you may choose not to write the last one if you are satisfied with your grades on the first three). Each reading reflection will be worth 25 points, for a total of 75. They must be submitted in the dropbox on Learn@UW by noon on the due date. Late papers will be penalized by a letter grade per day late, up to five days, after which they will be graded zero. *You are responsible for ensuring that your response is effectively submitted on Learn@UW.*

Attending lectures is critical to your success in this class. At the end of each lecture you will be given one or two questions to answer about the lecture or associated readings. Students caught completing these checks for students not attending the class will be charged with academic misconduct. In accordance with regent and faculty policy, students will not lose attendance points when they are absent from class to observe religious holidays. Please inform me in advance if you expect that you must miss a class. These checks will account for a total of 75 points.

Make-up examinations will be given only if students provide the instructor, in writing, an acceptable excuse from a physician or another professional regarding your illness. The make-up exams will be scheduled at a time that is mutually convenient for all students that miss exams. Grades on exams will be based on the following scale; a curve may apply:

A =	94% +	B =	83-88%	C =	70-76%	F <	60%
AB =	89-93%	BC =	77-82%	D =	60-69%		

Calculated from:	Attendance Checks	75 points
	Reading Reflections	75 points
	Exams	150 points
	Total:	300 points

Office Hours. Office hours are 4-5pm on Mondays. If you need to meet at another time, you can make an appointment. It is usually easiest if you do so by email. Office hours will not be devoted to tutorial for materials that students miss when not attending class. Also, please strive to ask routine questions of clarification *during the lecture*.

Attendance and Participation. Class attendance is extremely important for this course. Coming to class prepared and participating in the discussion will enhance your ability to learn the material presented in class (in most cases this material is not available in the readings or on Learn@UW). If you are absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from classmates and any other information missed during class.

Lecture Notes. Lecture slides will be posted on Learn@UW before class. These slides provide a broad outline without much detail, so you will still need to take notes in class.

Readings. You are expected to read the assignments *before* class each week. Expect to be called upon to discuss the readings in class.

Disruptive Behavior. One of my responsibilities is to ensure that the environment in the classroom is conducive to learning. If you are late, you should find a seat in the back of the classroom. If you need to leave early, please let me know in advance and sit in a location where it will be easy to quietly leave the room. Turn off all cell phones and put away newspapers at the beginning of class. Finally, please hold side-conversations and discussions until after class.

No Laptops, Tablets, Phones, or Other Electronic Devices. Although computers are a valuable tool for research and study, they are inimical to participation and collegiality in the classroom. The use of laptops or other electronic devices for note taking or other purposes in class, therefore, will not be permitted. If I identify you doing so, you will lose attendance credit for that day.

Academic Honesty. Cheating on exams and response papers will not be tolerated. Students caught cheating will receive a grade of F on the exam and the case will be reported to the Dean of Students. Given the amount of writing required in the class you should familiarize yourself with rules at the University regarding plagiarism (<http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm#special>).

Nighttime Safety. The University of Wisconsin-Madison has established several transportation and walking escort services to help you stay safe while getting around campus and the nearby areas after dark. To help take responsibility for your own safety and that of your friends, make use of services such as UWMadison SAFEwalk and SAFERide programs: <http://www2.fpm.wisc.edu/trans/Safe/>

Schedule

Community & Environment

Week 1. *Community*

Deep Economy, Ch. 1

Almgren, Gunnar (2001). "Community." *Encyclopedia of Sociology*. 2nd ed. Vol. 1. New York: Macmillan Reference USA.

C. Wright Mills (1959). "The Promise of Sociology." From *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 2. *Development*

Deneulin, Séverine and Lila Shahani, eds. 2009. Chapters 2 and 3 in *An Introduction to the Human Development and Capability Approach*. London: Earthscan.

Jon Gertner. 2010. "The Rise and Fall of the G.D.P." *New York Times Magazine*, May 16, pp. 60-71.

Deep Economy, Ch. 2

Week 3. Sustainable Development

Deep Economy, Ch. 3

Jackson, Tim. 2009. Chapters 1 and 5 in *Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*. London ; Sterling, VA: Earthscan.

Wackernagel, Mathis and William E.. Rees 1996. *Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers.

Week 4. Treadmills and Growth Machines

Deep Economy, Ch. 4

Jackson, Tim (2009). Chapter 6 in *Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet*. London ; Sterling, VA: Earthscan.

Juliet Schor (1991). Chapter 5 in *The Overworked American*. New York: Basic Books.

Reflection Paper #1 Due 15 February

Week 5. Environmental Justice and Inequality across Communities

Deep Economy, Ch. 5

Mascarenhas, Michael. 2009. "Environmental Inequality and Environmental Justice." In *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, ed. Kenneth Alan Gould and Tammy L. Lewis, 127-139. New York: Oxford University Press.

Selected articles to be posted

Exam #1, 26 February

Agriculture

Week 6. Farming and Agribusiness

The Omnivore's Dilemma, pp. 1-108

Kloppenburg, Jack. 2010. "Seed Sovereignty: The Promise of Open-Source Biology." Pp. 152-167 in Annette Aurélie Desmarais, Nettie Wiebe, and Hannah Wittman, eds. *Food Sovereignty: Reconnecting Food, Nature, and Community*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Nature Biotechnology. 2008. "Join the Dots." *Nature Biotechnology* 26(8):837.

Week 7. Food Work

The Omnivore's Dilemma, pp. 123-184.

Jill Harrison and Sarah Lloyd. 2011. "Illegality at work." *Antipode* 44: 365-385.

Eric Schlosser. 2002. Ch. 7 in *Fast Food Nation*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Reflection Paper #2 Due 8 March

Week 8. *Re-Embedding Agriculture*

The Omnivore's Dilemma, pp. 185-262

Raynolds, Laura T. (2000). "Re-Embedding Global Agriculture: The International Organic and Fair Trade Movements." *Agriculture and Human Values* 17: 297-309.

Week 9. *Food Justice*

The Omnivore's Dilemma, pp. 109-119, 263-273, 287-303.

DeLind, Laura B. 2011. "Are Local Food and the Local Food Movement Taking us Where We Want to Go? Or Are We Hitching Our Wagons to the Wrong Stars?" *Agriculture and Human Values* 28(2):273-283.

MacMillan, Tom. 2012. "Food Security: Eating Globally." *Nature* 486(7401):30-31.

Reflection Paper #3 Due 22 March

Week 10. *Consumption*

Green Illusions, Ch. 11. (Pp. 223-257)

Szasz, Andrew. 2007. *Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press. (Pp. 1-8, 99-103, 194-211)

Exam #2, 21 March

In Search of Solutions

Week 11. *Fossil Industries*

Green Illusions, Ch. 1, 2, 4, 6

Perdue, Robert Todd, and Gregory Pavela. 2012. "Addictive Economies and Coal Dependency: Methods of Extraction and Socioeconomic Outcomes in West Virginia, 1997-2009." *Organization & Environment* 25(4):368-384.

Bill McKibben. 2012. "Why Not Frack?" *New York Review of Books* LIX(4): 13-15, and responses.

Bill McKibben. 2012. "Global Warming's Terrifying New Math." *Rolling Stone*, July 19.

Week 12. *Green Fuels, Green Jobs?*

Apollo Alliance. 2007. *Community Jobs in the Green Economy*. The Apollo Alliance.

Atkinson et al. 2011. *Climate Pragmatism: Innovation, Resilience, and No Regrets*. Breakthrough Institute.

Green Illusions, Ch. 8, 9

Film: *Greening Southie*

Week 13. *Population, Environment, and Development*

Green Illusions, Ch. 10.

Tilt, Bryan. 2010. *The Struggle for Sustainability in Rural China*. New York: Columbia University Press. Ch. 2, 3, 8. (Pp. 21-45, 47-63, 151-162)

Levitt, Tom. 2012. "What are the ecological costs of China's future food imports?" *China Dialogue*. (<http://www.chinadialogue.net/article/show/single/en/5154-What-are-the-ecological-costs-of-China-s-future-food-imports>)

Week 14. *The Architecture of Communities*

Green Illusions, Ch. 12.

Szasz, Andrew. 2007. *Shopping Our Way to Safety: How We Changed from Protecting the Environment to Protecting Ourselves*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press. (Pp. 56-76, 82-89)

Burchell, Robert W., Anthony Downs, Barbara McCann, and Sahyan Mukherji 2005. *Sprawl Costs: Economic Impacts of Unchecked Development*. Island Press: Washington, DC. (Pp. 2-47)

Film: *Save Our Land, Save Our Towns*.

Reading Reflection #4 Due 26 April

Week 15. *Getting Sustainability*

Green Illusions, Ch. 13-14.

Marvier, Michelle, Peter Kareiva, and Robert Lalasz. 2012. "Conservation in the Anthropocene -- Beyond Solitude and Fragility." *Breakthrough Journal* (<http://thebreakthrough.org/index.php/journal/past-issues/issue-2/conservation-in-the-anthropocene/>).

Nordhaus, Ted and Michael Shellenberger. 2007. "Second Life: A Manifesto for a New Environmentalism." *The New Republic*, September 24, pp. 30-33.

Will, George. 2012. "Why Doom Has Not Materialized." *Washington Post*, August 17.

Tidwell, Mike. 2007. "Voluntary Actions Didn't Get us Civil Rights, and They Won't Fix the Climate." September 4, *Grist*.

Kingsnorth, Paul. 2013. "Dark Ecology." *Orion*, February (<http://www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/7277>).

Exam #3, 9 May