

SYLLABUS – Updated 9/22/17

SOC 4422: Environmental Sociology Tues/Thurs, 10:00-11:50am, MI 2100 Fall Quarter 2017

Professor: Dr. Duke Austin, PhD
Appropriate ways to address the prof: “Dr. Duke,” “Dr. Austin,” or “Professor Austin”
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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 2:00-3:30pm, Thursdays: 12:00-1:30pm,
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

This class is an introduction to environmental justice theory and practice. It examines critical studies of environmental racism and other forms of ecological injustice. It probes claims made by diverse groups and examines policy and civil society responses that address perceived environmental inequity and injustice. While focused mainly on the United States, international issues and perspectives are also considered.

In this course, you will practice the following student learning outcomes:

- Sociology SLO3: Students will be able to understand social diversity and develop the ability to read and understand academic studies on and critically analyze cultural representations of populations subordinated by race/ethnicity, social class, gender and sexuality.
- Sociology SLO5: Students will be able to promote sustainability by acquiring knowledge of local, national and global socioeconomic policies and practices that contribute to poverty, resource scarcity, violence, exploitation, and environmental degradation, as well as explore ethical, responsible alternatives to those policies.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Bell, Michael M. and Loka L. Ashwood. 2016. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology, Fifth Edition*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

Klien, Naomi. 2014. *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs The Climate*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster Paperbacks.

NOTE: The books are available in the Pioneer Bookstore and on reserve at the library. Do not purchase them online. They will not arrive in time. Instead, purchase them at the bookstore. The bookstore will

match any online price, and you don't have to worry about shipping. Alternatively, you may check out the books for free at the library reserves.

- A computer with access to CSUEB Online/Blackboard (bb.csueastbay.edu).
- Microsoft Word. As a CSUEB student, you may download Microsoft Office for free by following the links on the following website: <http://www.csueastbay.edu/news/2015/06/06102015.html>
- Activate your free New York Times subscription at:
<http://proxylib.csueastbay.edu/login?url=http://ezmyaccount.nytimes.com/grouppass/redirect>.
Once your account is activated, subscribe to "Today's Headlines" newsletter and "Race Alerts." See additional instructions in Blackboard > Course Materials. Email a screenshot from your horizon email account to the professor verifying this step is complete.

CSUEB Online/ BLACKBOARD bb.csueastbay.edu

Course materials can be found on CSUEB Online (also known as Blackboard). You can access Blackboard at <https://bb.csueastbay.edu>. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the resources the professor has posted to the course site.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Your final grade will reflect your success in demonstrating your critical comprehension of the material. To do well in this class, most students will need to work hard and apply sustained effort throughout the course. That said, working hard does not guarantee an "A." The final grade is based on the grades you have earned throughout the course. Grades will not be curved. Your grade will be composed of the following weighted components:

Your grade will be comprised of the following parts, broken down by weight:

Reading Journal Average	25%
Attendance Average	10%
Quizz Average	25%
EJ Tour Reflection Paper	15%
Advocacy Letter	25%
Extra Credit	up to 4%

Reading Journals

The daily reading journals help students complete, comprehend, and assess the general content of the readings. In addition, they allow the professor to gauge students' progress in those areas. Complete instructions for the daily assignments can be found on Blackboard in the Course Materials tab.

Submit the reading journals via Blackboard before class on the day they are due. Submission links can be found in Course Materials > Weekly Journals. Late assignments are not accepted for any reason. However, your lowest (1) weekly journal grade will be dropped.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken each class period. If you arrive to class 0 to 9 minutes late or leave 0 to 9 minutes early, you will forfeit 2 out of 10 points on your daily attendance grade. If you arrive ten or more

minutes late or leave 10 or more minutes early, you will receive a 0 for the day. Your lowest 2 attendance grades will be dropped.

Quizzes

There will be four vocabulary quizzes throughout the quarter. Each quiz will contain 10 multiple choice questions. The information on the quiz comes from the book *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology*. I will not schedule make-up quizzes. However, your lowest (1) quiz grade will be dropped.

Environmental Justice Tour Reflection Paper

This quarter, our class will take an environmental justice fieldtrip to several areas effected by environmental racism, and we will meet community members and organizations who fight for environmental justice in the Bay Area. Following our day-long field trip, you will write a 250-word maximum reflection of the field trip. You should reflect on your understanding of environmental racism and environmental justice. In addition, you should identify your own positions, identities, assumptions, stereotypes, judgements, and biases regarding environmental racism. You will need to analyze how the environmental justice tour influenced your understandings of environmental racism and environmental justice.

Environmental Justice Advocacy Letter

After writing your reflection paper, you will choose an environmental justice issue that you would like to address in the Bay Area, and you will write a 1000-word maximum letter to a local governing body asking them to address the issue you have chosen. To write your letter, you will need to research the environmental justice issue that you have chosen using 4 to 6 scholarly and journalist sources. Next, you will determine which governing body will be best suited to address the issue you have chosen, and address your letter to that body. In your letter, you will incorporate 3 to 4 sociological concepts and theories from the course.

Extra-Credit

In addition to helping students earn their desired grade, the extra-credit for this course is meant to help students apply course material to current events. The professor will announce current events that pertain to course themes via Blackboard. Students may also suggest events or articles for professor approval as possibilities for extra-credit.

Students may complete up to 2 extra-credit assignments, each of which has the potential to earn up to 2 percentage points of the overall course grade. Instructions for extra credit assignments can be found on Blackboard.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Appealing Your Grade

If you feel that you have been given an unfair or incorrect grade on an assignment or exam, you may submit a written appeal within 10 days of receiving the grade. You are responsible for keeping all materials that have been graded and returned to you. If you cannot provide these materials, your grades cannot be appealed.

Missing Class

See the sections above for penalties for arriving to class late or leaving early. If you must miss class, contact a fellow student for class notes or read the class notes posted to the discussion board. Students who receive a 0 for 8 more class periods, regardless of the reason, will automatically fail the course.

Discussion Board

Use the discussion board to ask general course questions, current events, lecture notes, and extra credit. First, if you cannot find the location for the readings, ask your question on the discussion board. If you know the answer to someone else's question, please answer it. Second, please post articles, videos, etc. that pertain to class topics to the discussion board, and feel free to post responses to other peoples' posts. Third, you must post your lecture notes to the discussion board for the benefit of everyone if you have been given permission to use your laptop to take notes. Finally, you may also post possible extra-credit events to the discussion board. If approved by the professor, these events are available to everyone as extra-credit opportunities.

Take a moment to subscribe to discussion board email notifications. That way you will be informed when a post has been made to the discussion board. Perhaps someone else has already answered that question that you have been trying to solve!

Email

Email is the official means of communication for the university. You need to check your CSUEB email account every business day. Only email your professors using your CSUEB account, not your personal account. Keep in mind that the professor may not be able to respond to email for up to 2 business days. The professor does not respond to email on the weekends.

Laptops and Other Electronic Devices

Laptops, cell phones, and similar electronic devices must be silenced and placed in your bag (not on your desk or lap) except when they are needed for specific class-related activities. If you need to leave your phone on for emergency reasons, please notify me at the beginning of class.

To receive permission for using your laptop to take notes, you must email the professor with an explanation of how your laptop-generated notes will improve your performance in the course. You must also promise not to check email, social media, or other non-course related material during the class. If granted permission, you must post your lecture notes to the discussion board each and every class period in which you use your laptop.

Students who must be asked more than once to put away their phone or other electronic device will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive a zero on their daily reading journal grade.

Additional University Policies

Please refer to the common CSUEB syllabus items and university policies on Blackboard.

COURSE CALENDAR- (Unless otherwise noted on calendar, class meets on Thursdays but no assignment is due)

Topic	Date	Readings Due Before Class on the Day Assigned	Vocabulary To Be Defined in the Reading Journal	Assignment & Quizzes
1: Environmental Problems	Tue, Sept 26	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 1 “Environmental Problems and Society” and <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Introduction “One Way or Another, Everything Changes”	Environmental sociology, the material, the ideal, the practical, ecological dialogue, sustainability, environmental justice, environmental bads, environmental goods, environmental racism	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class Email Screenshot of NY Times Subscription before Class In-Class Syllabus Quiz
2: Capitalism and the Environment, Part 1	Tue, Oct 3	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 2 “Consumption and Materialism”	Social psychology of consumption, hierarchy of needs, conspicuous consumption, conspicuous leisure, conspicuous waste, positional goods, interest, sentiment, rational choice, <i>hau</i> , green consumerism, work and spend, the treadmill of consumption	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
3: Capitalism and the Environment, Part 2	Tue, Oct 10	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 3 “Money and Markets” <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 2 “Hot Money”	Wage-price gap, generalization of the market, treadmill of production, externalities, local growth coalitions, growth machine, use values, exchange values, world system, resource trap, invisible community, commodity fetishism, crisis of overproduction, crisis of underproduction, free markets, freedom-from, freedom-to, privatization, neoliberalism, political economy	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Thur, Oct 12	In-Class Quiz over Chapters 1, 2, & 3 of <i>Invitation</i>		
4: Overcoming Ideological Blocks	Tue, Oct 17	<i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 3 “Public and Paid For” and Ch. 6 “Fruits, Not Roots” (Big Business)	No Vocabulary Due	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Thurs, Oct 19	Class Cancelled for Environmental Justice Tour		

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Topic	Date	Readings Due Before Class on the Day Assigned	Vocabulary To Be Defined in the Reading Journal	Assignment & Quizzes
5: Technology and the Environment	Tue, Oct 24	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 4 "Technology and Science" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 5 "Beyond Extractivism"	Dialogue of technology, social organization of convenience, phenomenology, recipes of understanding, science as dialogue, naturalistic fallacy, science wars, black box, scientific capital, actants, performances, science and technology as political	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
6: Population and Resistance	Tue, Oct 31	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 5 "Population and Development" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 9 "Blockadia"	Malthusian argument, exponential growth, population momentum, modernization theory, structural adjustment, entitlement systems, cornucopian, Boserup effect, demographic transition, patriarchy, environmental determinism, environmental agency,	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Thur, Nov 2	In-Class Quiz over Chapters 3 & 4 of <i>Invitation</i>		
7: Health and the Environment	Tue, Nov 7	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 6 "Body and Justice" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 11 "You and What Army?"	Environment, environment, mobilities theory, stabilities or moorings, living downstream, <i>banlieues</i> , tyranny of the majority, utilitarianism, justice as fairness, pluralism, social power, precautionary principle, NIMBY	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Sat, Nov 11	Environmental Justice Tour: Meet at the Recreation and Wellness Center by 9:00, dismissed by 3:00, OR Meet at Communities for a Better Environment, 120 Broadway, Richmond, CA at 9:45am (Meet in Richmond only with professor approval)		

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Topic	Date	Readings Due Before Class on the Day Assigned	Vocabulary To Be Defined in the Reading Journal	Assignment & Quizzes
8: Modernization and Planning for a Better Environment	Tue, Nov 14	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 11 "Modernizing the Ecological Society" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 4 "Planning and Banning"	Behaviorist approach, cultivation of knowledge, phenomenological rupture, frame analysis, conscientization, problem of collective action, tragedy of individualism, dialogue of solidarities, political opportunity structure, conception/connection/contestation	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Thur, Nov 16	In-Class Quiz over Chapters 5 & 6 of <i>Invitation</i>		
9: Governance and the Environment	Tue, Nov 21	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 12 "Governing an Ecological Society" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 10 "Love Will Save This Place"	Individualism, administrative despotism, bureaucratic machine, habits of the heart, administrative law, dialogue of bottom and top, participatory governance, participatory development, local knowledge	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
10: Looking Ahead	Tue, Nov 28	<i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology</i> : Ch. 13 "Living in an Ecological Society" <i>This Changes Everything</i> : Ch. 13 "The Right to Regenerate" and Conclusion "The Leap Years"	Environmental sociological imagination, A-B Split, social reconstitutions, normal environmentalism, A-B dialogue, smart growth, new urbanism, green taxes, industrial ecology, dematerialization, green labeling, community land trusts, degrowth economics, 80 percent solution, transition towns, intentional communities, conscious consumers, anthropocentric environmentalism, ecocentric environmentalism	Reading Journal due to Blackboard before Class
	Thur, Nov 30	Environmental Justice Tour Reflection Paper due to BB before Class. In-Class Quiz over Chapters 11, 12, & 13 of <i>Invitation</i>		

COURSE CALENDAR

Event	Date	Description
Additional Office Hours	Tues, Dec 5	No Class - Optional Office Hours 10:00-12:00
Advocacy Letter Due	Thurs, Dec 7	Class does not meet. The Environmental Justice Advocacy Letter is due to Blackboard by 12:00noon.