

SOC 337 (3 credit hours)

Environment and Society

Fall 2009

- ❖ How natural are “natural” disasters?
- ❖ Were our ancestors more environmentally friendly?
- ❖ Why do tornadoes like mobile home parks?
- ❖ Why do Americans keep rebuilding beach houses in hurricane areas?
- ❖ Where does our food come from? How safe is it to eat?
- ❖ Where does our trash go?
- ❖ How clean is the air we breathe? The water we drink?

The purpose of this course is to examine "environment" as a social and cultural issue. In addition to answering the questions asked above, topics discussed include an overview of the field of environmental sociology, traditional sociological perspectives on environmental issues, paradigmatic implications of environmental sociology, the development of environmental movement, the rise of environmental deterioration, public attitudes toward environmental issues, national environmental policies, and social impact assessment.

Prerequisite: Upper division standing. Credit 3.

Time & Place

Number & Title	Sociology 337 Environment & Society
Time	MW 10:00-11:20 PM
Place	CHSS 206

Instructor/TA

Karen Manges Douglas, Ph.D.

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Email: kmd007@shsu.edu

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Office Hours: MW: 11:30-1:30;

And by Appointment

TA: Nikki Miller

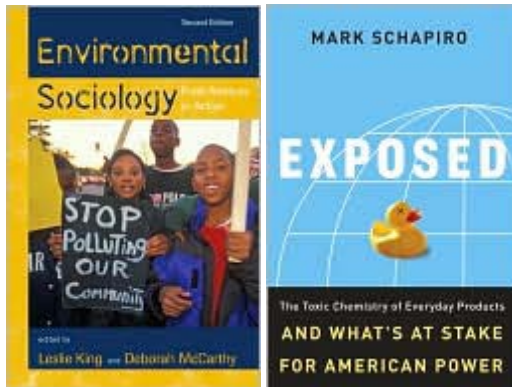
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Required Books



- (1) King, Leslie and Deborah McCarthy. 2009. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*. MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- (2) Schapiro, Mark. (2009). *Exposed: The Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products and What's at Stake for American Power*. Chelsea Green Publisher.

Course Format & Requirements

The course will follow a lecture-discussion format. Further, there will be occasions when you will be responsible for presenting a portion of a class lecture (e.g., group presentations). Please note that the lectures will not strictly follow the book. Lectures may include new material, often topical material of events that make the news. You are responsible for all the material covered be it from the lectures, the textbooks, as well as other readings.

The requirements for this course include completing the assigned readings, taking the required exams, participating in regular class meetings; and preparing a portion of a class lecture.

I. Article Summary/ Presentation (100 points)

- (1) Every student will be assigned 4 articles/book chapters in which to prepare a summary. Written instructions regarding format and content will be provided. Points will be deducted for misspellings, incorrect punctuation, poor grammar, poor sentence construction, etc. PLEASE PROOFREAD your work before turning in your summary.
- (2) The summaries should be no more than two typed pages. Each summary will be worth 25 points.
- (3) Additionally, you will be required to make a brief presentation (Powerpoint) of one of your articles to the class. The Powerpoint presentation will be worth 34 points.

II. Exams (200 points)

- (1) There will be two exams which will be primarily essay in format. Each exam will cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and supplemental materials that we have discussed up to the time of each exam. Specific date for each exam will be announced in the class as the

course progresses. Makeup exams will be administered under compelling circumstances which must be documented. Makeup exams must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points.

III. Attendance/Participation (100 points)

Regular attendance and involvement in the class discussion is expected of each class members. Particular in border-line cases, exceptionally fine or weak class involvement will be considered in the calculation of the final grade. The highest class involvement grade without significant involvement in class discussion is a "B", and this allows up to six hours absence. Involvement in class discussion (quantitative and qualitative) is necessarily for an "A" (10% of the grade). Everyone starts with 100 points – points get deducted for absences (3 points) and when assignments are turned in late (3 points). Six points (more than half a letter grade) will be deducted from your attendance points if you are absent on a day in which an assignment is due and/or you are assigned to lead the discussion.

GRADING: Your final course grade will be based on:

2 Exams @ 100 points each	(50%) 200 points
Article summaries	(25%) 100 points
Attendance, Presentation, Discussion	(25%) 100 points
Total	100 400 total points

90% and above (360-400 points)	A
80-89% (320-359 points)	B
70-79% (280-319 points)	C
60-69% (240-279 points)	D
59% and below (<=239 points)	F

Rules of Conduct

Class starts promptly at 10 o'clock which assumes that you are already in your seat at that time. Class ends either (1) when the instructor dismisses class; and/or (2) at 11:30 am -- whichever comes first. You are expected to attend the class for the entire period.



Cell phones, beepers and other electronic devices should either be shut-off or put in a non-disruptive mode. If you bring a laptop to class with you, surfing the internet or checking email during class is NOT acceptable. Failure to respect this simple rule will result in disciplinary action that may include banning the use of laptops during class and/or a disciplinary report filed to the appropriate university personnel.

MP3 players and earbuds should be shut off and put away during class. If you are wearing your player on exam day, the instructor will temporarily confiscate your MP3 player while you complete the exam. The player will be returned when the exam is submitted.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:
<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.
Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances.

The Quality of Your Work

Please take the time to plan your essays well. They are short assignments. That means you only have a brief space in which to construct a thoughtful response, and one which incorporates as much reference to the readings and lectures as you can manage.

Please write your assignments with care. I will review them accordingly. Be sure to proofread and polish your work. And be sure to present your ideas clearly. For example, if you find yourself trying to include ten different ideas into the same sentence, why not try ten smaller sentences instead?

Turning in slapdash, last-minute work shows a lack of consideration and maturity. Poorly executed work is not acceptable in the business world, and it certainly is not acceptable at the university. Moreover, if you hope to benefit from having your writing reviewed, it pays to make the effort to give me the best work you can. Otherwise, you waste my time and yours.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. You are responsible for signing the course attendance book. If you fail to sign the attendance roster on a given day, **you will not get credit for attendance on that particular day**. In the event you are unable to attend class, you are still responsible for the material covered. Everyone starts the course with 100 points. 3 points for each absence including leaving class early or coming into class more than fifteen minutes late will be deducted from these points. Additionally, a missed deadline will result in a minimum of 3 points being deducted from these points as well.

If you add the class late and missed assignments/readings/quizzes as a result, your grade will reflect this late addition. You cannot get credit for days in which you are not in attendance. You are still required for all the material covered from the first day of class until the last day of class even if you are not physically present in class. It is your responsibility to obtain the missed material.

Chronic absenteeism (more than one week) will be reported to the Sam Center First Alert program for follow-up.

Earning back attendance points. In the event that someone is not prepared to lead the class discussion relating to their assigned article, you may earn 3 points for each time you are prepared to lead the discussion in their stead.

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Cheating on an exam, quiz and/or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of zero (0) for the exam, quiz or assignment in question. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. See *Student Syllabus Guidelines* <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Plagiarism is also not acceptable and will not be tolerated. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

All student papers will submit their paper to the Turnitin database to check originality. This system compares the document with online sources and the Turnitin database. Turnitin then scores the paper for originality.

Plagiarized papers will be returned to the student to be rewritten and will docked a full letter grade. Additional incidents will result in an F for the class and your conduct will be reported to the appropriate university personnel.

American with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must be initiated by the student. If you are seeking such accommodations you should go to the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

Absences for the observance of religious holidays will be respected and excused provided that I am notified of the absence at the beginning of the semester.

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluations

Towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form. These are very important to me and provide me with invaluable information for improving the course.

Study Tips

I will devote one lecture during the first week of class on active reading which will be helpful in helping you prepare your chapter summaries. I also encourage study groups. Study groups help check your understanding of the reading material as well as provide an opportunity to take advantage of the results that emerge as a result of group synergy. Further, you can use members of your group as editors of your writing and you can also edit the writing of your classmates as well. If you have difficulties with writing for the social sciences or exam anxiety, the SAM Center offers excellent tutoring along with help with

writing. These services are available without charge to all Sam Houston students and you should take advantage of these wonderful services.

Course Schedule and Weekly Assignments

(Subject to modification over the course of the semester)

eWeek	Meeting Days	Assignments	Assignments	Lecture
1	8/24-8/26	Syllabus Read Introduction (McCarthy and King)		Overview of Environmental Sociology
2	8/31-9/2	Arts. 1-2		
3	9/7-9/9	Art. 3		
4	9/14-9/16	Arts. 4 & 5		
5	9/21-9/23	Arts. 6 & 7		
6	9/28-9/30	Arts. 8 & 9		
7	10/5-10/7	Arts. 10 & 11		
8	10/12-10/14	Arts. 12 & 13	10/14 Mid-term Exam (Articles 1-12)	
9	10/19-10/21	Arts. 14 & 15		
10	10/26-10/28	Arts. 16 & 17		
11	11/2-11/4	Arts. 18 & 22		
12	11/9-11/11	Arts. 23 & 24		
13	11/16-11/18	Exposed Chpts. 1-2		
14	11/23-11/25	Chpts. 3-4		
15	11/30-12/2	Chpts. 5-6		
16	12/7-12/9	Chpts. 7-9		
17	12/14	FINAL EXAM	11 am – 1 pm	

References

Bell, Michael Mayerfeld. 2004. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology*. Pine Forge Press.

Bocking, Stephen. 2004. *Nature's Experts: Science, Politics and the Environment*. Rutgers University Press.

Carson, Rachel. 1962. *Silent Spring*. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Fink, Deborah. 1998. *Cutting into the Meatpacking Line: Workers and Change in the Rural Midwest*. University of North Carolina Press.

Littig, Beate. 2001. *Feminist Perspectives on Environment and Society*. Prentice Hall.

Pollan, Michael. 2006. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. The Penguin Press, New York.

Reisner, Marc. 1986. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water*. Penguin Books.

Rifkin, Jeremy. 1992. *Beyond Beef: The Rise and Fall of the Cattle Culture*. The Penguin Group, New York.

Rogers, Heather. 2005. *Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage*. The New Press.

Romm, Joseph. 2007. *Hell and High Water: Global Warming – the Solution and the Politics – and What We Should Do*. William Morrow Press.

Schnaiberg, Allen and Kenneth Gould. 1994. *Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict*. St. Martin's Press.

Schollosser, Eric. 2002. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. Perennial Press.

Stull, Donald D., Michael J. Broadway and David Griffith (eds). 1995. *Any Way You Cut It: Meat Processing and Small-Town America*. University Press of Kansas.

Worster, Donald. 1985. *Rivers of Empire: Water, Aridity, and the Growth of the American West*. Oxford University Press.