

SOCI 3500 ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY(3 credit hours)

Elmira College

SPRING 2025

Required Text:

Gould, K.A. T.L. Lewis 2009. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. Oxford University Press: New York.

Supplemental readings might be included to illustrate or expand on textbook readings.

Pre-requisites: None.

Course Description

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the field of environmental sociology. It investigates the evolving connection between social systems and the environment, delving into the process of defining environmental issues as social problems. We will also explore various perspectives within the discipline, such as risk analysis, political economy, consumer studies, and social movements.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Identify core concepts, theories, and perspectives in the study of environmental sociology.
- Examine emerging approaches and questions that characterize contemporary environmental sociology.
- Describe current theoretical and empirical debate on environmental movements and sustainable resource management practices.
- Appropriately apply different theories and methodologies of research in different contexts relevant to environment and sustainable development.
- Apply the main perspectives in environmental sociology to the understanding an analysis of contemporary environmental issues.

Evaluation of Performance

Your grade will be based upon your performance on exams, assignments, and participation.

4 Assignments	20%
2 Quizzes	20%
Final Paper and Presentation	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93% and above	B- 80 - 82%	D+ 67 - 69%
A- 90 - 92%	C+ 77 - 79%	D 63 - 66%
B+ 87 - 89%	C 73 - 76%	D- 60 - 62%
B 83 - 86%	C- 70 - 72%	F 59% or below

Withdrawal Policy: Please see Elmira College Bulletin for information on this policy.

Academic Honesty: Please read the section on Academic Honesty in the [Code of Conduct](#). Briefly, academic dishonesty includes: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. Ask if you have any questions on whether something constitutes as academic dishonesty. All work must be original and new. Past assignments from current or other courses will not be accepted. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. It will result in zero on the assignment, and a report will be filed with the school. Continued practice will result in failure of the class. Institutional penalties may also apply with repeated acts of academic honesty.

Student Responsibility:

- It is your responsibility to keep track of assignments and due dates.
- You should ask questions concerning assignments and lectures, if you need any clarifications.
- If you are struggling in class, have concerns, and/or unsure about expectations, please stop by during office hours or make an appointment for another time.

Tentative Schedule of Topics

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Tasks & Evaluations</u>
Introduction to Environmental Sociology	Chapter 1	
Theories in Environmental Sociology	Chapter 2	
Risk Society	Chapter 3	Assignment 1
Labor Productivity and the Environment	Chapter 4	
Corporate Power	Chapter 5	Quiz 1
The Science of Nature and the Nature of Science	Chapter 6	Assignment 2
Technological Change and the Environment	Chapter 7	
Population, Demography, and the Environment	Chapter 8	Midterm Exam
Energy, Society, and the Environment	Chapter 9	
Environmental Justice	Chapter 10	
Sociology of Environmental Health	Chapter 11	Assignment 3
Producing and Consuming Food	Chapter 12	
Understanding Disaster Vulnerability	Chapter 13	Quiz 2
Climate Change	Chapter 14	Assignment 4
Environmental Social Movements	Chapter 15	
The Paradoxes of Sustainable Development	Chapter 16	
Lifestyle Change and Consumer Citizenship	Chapter 17	Final Paper and Presentation
Seminar	Chapter 18	Final Exam