

# Environmental Sociology, SOC 532

Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Emily Huddart Kennedy  
Ph: 335-7513  
Email: [emily.kennedy@wsu.edu](mailto:emily.kennedy@wsu.edu)

Hours: Friday, 2:50-5:50  
Location: Wilson-Short 201

## Course Overview

Many of you are already on your way to being environmental sociologists, meaning that you think about the connections between humanity and the natural world and understand the social relations, habits and ways of being in the world that both cause and seek to ameliorate environmental problems. But you are also well on your way to being sociologists, meaning that you have an understanding of the social structures that shape everyday life, the ways in which outcomes can differ based on race, gender and class, the antecedents and outcomes of inequality, and the importance of accounting for power when considering the social world.

In this class you will meld both of these identities. The course will begin with an overview of the scope of environmental sociology – it has broadened considerably since its beginnings at WSU in the 1970s. I approach this course from the perspective that climate change is the most significant challenge of our time and that daily struggles for most of the world's population eclipses direct concern for a warming planet. Much of the course will therefore have a focus on climate change.

Though this course is a survey of environmental sociology, it is already a very heterogeneous subdiscipline and I've made the choice to focus on where I think the discipline is going rather than an extensive exegesis of the past. We will spend our time thinking about several broad questions: *What are the root-causes of human-environment problems? How do we approach resolving those problems? Who is affected – and how are they affected – by environmental problems and their solutions?* Because these questions are so broad, we will anchor the course (somewhat) within the topic of sustainable consumption in the context of climate change.

## Assessment

- Term paper: The term paper provides you the opportunity to prepare a chapter for your thesis or dissertation, work toward a publication, or spend time getting up to speed on a topic that interests you. You will submit your paper as you would to a journal. A peer and I will each review it and you will need to revise and resubmit as you would to a journal. Details on how to write your paper will be handed out in class.
  - *The first draft is worth 15% and is due on March 25*
  - *The second draft is worth 30% and is due on the last day of class*
  - *Your peer review is worth 10% and is due on April 8*
  - *Your presentation is worth 5% and will be presented in the last class*
- Blog: I want you all to be reminded always of the social importance of what you study. I will ask each student to prepare a 500-800 word blog post that relates to the topic of sustainable consumption and climate change. I will also mark these and expect you to revise your material and will submit strong submissions to be posted to the teaching section of the website for SCORAI (the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative). If your blog is posted, you can add this to your CV.

- The first draft is worth 5% and can be turned in at any point in the semester (but before April 8). Email it to me please.
- The second draft is worth 15% and is due on the last day of class (email or hard copy is fine).
- Student-led class: Students will each be responsible for leading a class based on a chapter from the *Climate Change and Society* reader. You should plan to be responsible for approximately 2/3 of the class time. This should be broken up into some lecturing (raise the main points of the reading, identify the theoretical tradition within which the reading fits, and provide critical commentary. By 'critical commentary' I mean you should identify the author's assumptions, discuss how you might use this article in your research, and discuss how you might improve upon the article.) You should break up your lecture with facilitate Q&A.
  - Your class lead is worth 10%.
- Review: As we will be reading all of *Climate Change and Society*, I would like you each to prepare a review of the book. I suggest that you choose one of two formats: (1) An Amazon review: should say what the book is about, what you enjoyed about it (if anything), what you did not enjoy about it (if anything), who might be interested in it. (2) A journal book review: you could try to get yours published in an environmental sociology journal that has not already published a review of this book. See the journal *Environmental Politics* or *Society and Natural Resources* for examples. If you choose this option see me for more advice.
  - Your book review is worth 10%

## Course Texts:

We will be reading chapters from the following books:

1. *An Invitation to Environmental Sociology, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.* By Michael Bell and Loka Ashwood.
2. *Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives.* Edited by Riley Dunlap and Bob Brulle.
3. *Living in Denial.* By Kari Norgaard.

The only one we will be reading all of is the *Climate Change and Society* reader. I would like everyone to have a copy of that. Other than that book, save your money unless you think a book is going to be well-used in your thesis research. Other readings are journal articles that are available through the library or, if not, will be made available through Blackboard.

## Course Outline

Week	Date	Readings
1	Jan 15	<p><i>What are the origins of environmental sociology? What does it mean to "do" environmental sociology? How is environmental sociology organized, institutionally?</i></p> <p>M.M. Bell and L.L. Ashwood, Ch 1 in <i>An Invitation to Environmental Sociology, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.</i></p> <p>Lockie, S. What is environmental sociology?</p> <p><i>Discussion: Intellectual history of environmental sociology.</i></p>
2	Jan 22	<p><i>Root-causes of human/environment conflicts.</i></p> <p>Dunlap, R.E. and R.J. Brulle. 2015. <i>Climate Change and Society: Sociological Perspectives.</i> [Henceforth "CCS"]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1: <i>Sociology and Global Climate Change: Introduction</i></li> <li>• Chapter 2: <i>The Human (Anthropogenic) Driving Forces of Global Climate Change</i></li> <li>• Chapter 3: <i>Market Organizations and Environments</i></li> <li>• Chapter 4: <i>Consumption and Climate Change</i></li> </ul>

3	Jan 29	<p><i>Root-causes II: Work hours.</i></p> <p>Schor, Juliet B. "Sustainable consumption and worktime reduction." <i>Journal of Industrial Ecology</i> 9, no. 1-2 (2005): 37-50.</p> <p>Knight, Kyle W., Eugene A. Rosa, and Juliet B. Schor. "Could working less reduce pressures on the environment? A cross-national panel analysis of OECD countries, 1970–2007." <i>Global Environmental Change</i> 23, no. 4 (2013): 691-700.</p> <p>Schor, Juliet. "Climate, Inequality, and the Need for Reframing Climate Policy." <i>Review of Radical Political Economics</i> 47, no. 4 (2015): 525-536.</p>
4	Feb 5	<p><i>Root causes III: Cultural underpinnings.</i></p> <p><i>Living in Denial.</i> Chapters Intro, 1, 4, 5.</p>
5	Feb 12	<p><i>Solutions to human/environment conflicts</i></p> <p>CCS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6: <i>Adaptation to Climate Change</i></li> <li>• Chapter 7: <i>Mitigating Climate Change</i></li> <li>• Chapter 10: <i>Challenging Climate Change: The Denial Countermovement</i></li> </ul>
6	Feb 19	<p><i>Solutions II: Social Movements.</i></p> <p>Social Movements. E. Johnson guest lecture.</p> <p>Readings TBA.</p>
7	Feb 26	<p><i>Solutions III: Sustainable consumption.</i></p> <p>Kennedy, Emily Huddart, Harvey Krahn, and Naomi T. Krogman. "Downshifting: an exploration of motivations, quality of life, and environmental practices." In <i>Sociological Forum</i>, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 764-783. 2013.</p> <p>Shwom, Rachael, and Janet A. Lorenzen. "Changing household consumption to address climate change: social scientific insights and challenges." <i>Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change</i> 3, no. 5 (2012): 379-395.</p> <p><b>+ About the Term Paper...</b></p>
8	Mar 4	<p><i>Solutions III: Alternatives.</i></p> <p>Willis, M.M. and J.B. Schor. 2012. Does changing a light bulb lead to changing the world? Political action and the conscious consumer, <i>The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 644(1):160–190.</p> <p>Baumann, S, A Engman, and J Johnston (2015) Political consumption, conventional politics, and high cultural capital. <i>International Journal of Consumer Studies</i> 39(5):413-421.</p>
9	Mar 11	<p><i>Solutions IV: Theoretical perspectives.</i></p> <p>CCS, Chapter 8: <i>Civil Society, Social Movements, and Climate Change.</i></p> <p>Chapters 1 and 2 from <i>Putting Sustainability into Practice</i></p>
10	<i>Spring Break</i>	
11	Mar 25	<p>Bill McKibben. <i>Deep Economy.</i></p> <p>Chapters TBA</p> <p><b>Paper is due</b></p>
12	Apr 1	<p><i>Impacts of human/environment conflicts.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCS, Chapter 5: <i>Climate Justice and Inequality.</i></li> <li>• Mohai, P. Pellow, D. and J.T. Roberts. 2009. Environmental Justice. <i>Annual Review of Environmental Resources</i>, 34:405-430.</li> </ul>
13	Apr 8	<p><i>Impacts II: Gender.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennedy, Emily Huddart, and Liz Dzialo. "Locating Gender in Environmental Sociology." <i>Sociology Compass</i> 9, no. 10 (2015): 920-929.</li> <li>• Braun, Yvonne A., and Assitan Sylla Traore. "Plastic Bags, Pollution, and Identity Women and the Gendering of Globalization and Environmental Responsibility in Mali." <i>Gender &amp; Society</i> 29, no. 6 (2015): 863-887.</li> <li>• Ergas, C. and R. York. 2012. "Women's Status and Carbon Dioxide Emissions: A</li> </ul>

		Quantitative Cross-national Analysis." <i>Social Science Research</i> 41(4): 965-976. <b>Blog is due.</b>
14	Apr 15	<i>Paper Workshop</i> We will review one another's papers in a workshop format. Please print two copies of your paper and bring to class.
15	Apr 22	<i>The next wave of environmental sociology</i> CCS, <i>Chapter 10: Concluding Remarks.</i> Lidskog, Rolf, Arthur PJ Mol, and Peter Oosterveer. "Towards a global environmental sociology? Legacies, trends and future directions." <i>Current Sociology</i> 63, no. 3 (2015): 339-368.
16	Apr 29	Student paper forum. Present your paper to the class <b>Revised paper is due.</b> <b>Revised blog is due.</b>

### Authors Not Covered (Abbreviated list):

Ulrich Beck	John Parkins	Robert (Bob) Bullard
Allen Schnaiberg	Randolph Haluza-DeLay	Michael Carolan
Kenneth Gould	David Tindall	Liam Downey
Fred Buttel	Raymond Murphy	Thomas Schriver
Shannon E. Bell	Stephen Brechin	Melanie DuPuis
William (Bill) R. Catton, Jr.	Phil Brown	Bob Edwards
Scott Frickel	Steve Picou	Kai Erickson
Robert (Bob) Gramling.	Rachael Schwom	Elizabeth Shove
Andrew Jorgenson	Thomas Dietz	John Bellamy Foster
Brett Clark	Thomas Princen	John Hannigan
David Pellow	Arthur Mol	Robert Jones
Holly N. Brehm	Gert Spaargaren	Linda Kalof
Dana Fisher	Magnus Bostrom	Stephanie Malin
Debra Davidson	Dorceta Taylor	Sandy Marquart-Pyatt
Jennifer Givens	Lori Peek	John Urry
Jill Harrison	Paul Mohai	Immanuel Wallerstein
Joshua Sbicca	James O'Connor	Raoul Liévanos
Stephen Zavestoski	Gregory Hooks	Steven Yearley
Aaron McCright	Charles (Chick) Perrow	