



The Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**SA 371: Environment and Society
Spring 2015**

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Course Description:

SA 371 will investigate environmental conflicts transforming cities, politics and culture in Vancouver and around the world. The course will explore causes and effects of environmental crises, such as urbanization, climate change, biodiversity loss and car traffic. It will highlight different ways people value nonhuman environments, and connect these environments to the common good and the notion of leading a 'good' life. Students will examine real world struggles in which environmental values come into conflict with a range of other common goods, including democratic equality, industrial planning, local tradition and global commerce. To bring these environmental conflicts to life, students will examine and debate moral struggles over oil and gas pipelines, animal captivity, national parks, Aboriginal title and hegemonic automobility. To begin examining these struggles between humans and the global environment, we will challenge artificial barriers between society and nature, cities and wilderness.

Teaching Methods and Social Contract:

SA 371 will involve periodic field trips (outside) that may involve walking, taking public transit, and otherwise leaving the mountain. Please bring practical footwear and rain gear, because it rains a lot here this time of year. Failure to complete course readings or attend lectures will impair your ability to do well (get an A or B or even C) on the course evaluations listed below (written and oral). I will present audiovisual slides on a projector with useful information. I will not post these slides online, so you might want to take notes from time to time (I recommend taking notes by hand, because of the way handwriting relates to the ability to remember things). I will maintain a website on CANVAS where you will find descriptions for course assignments, supplemental readings (like news articles) and course communications. I will respond to email via CANVAS within 48 hours (weekends, give me a break). Bring laptops to class, if you can. One significant course evaluation (40%) involves participating in a class debate, in which you will disagree with one another, but not disrespect, alienate or belittle one another. All course evaluations will be submitted and returned online via (you guessed it) CANVAS.

Grading:

Where a final exam is scheduled and you do not write the exam or withdraw from the course before the deadline date, you will be assigned a N grade. Unless otherwise specified on the course outline, all other graded assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade other than N to be assigned.

Your final mark in the class will be based on the following:

Debate (Dossier, Presentation and Audience Participation)	40%
Course Assignments	20%
Research Paper	40%

Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct Policy:

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (S10.01– S10.04). Unless otherwise informed by your instructor in writing, in graded written assignments you must cite the sources you rely on and include a bibliography/list of references, following an instructor-approved citation style. It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of SFU policies available on the SFU website: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html>.

Required Texts:

Phillip, V & J Taggart (2014) *Off the Grid: Re-Assembling Domestic Life*. Routledge
A course reader available at the bookstore

Prerequisites:

REQ- SA 101 or 150 or 201W.

Course evaluations:

Assignment 1: Personal Dossier (5%)

Assignment 2: Ecological Material (5%)

Assignment 3: Get off the Grid (10%)

Debate: Dossier, Presentation and Gallery Participation (40%)

Research Paper: Due on the last class (40%)

Course Schedule:

	Topic	Reading(s)
Jan 12	Course Introduction: What are nonhuman environments worth?	
Jan 19	Nature & Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. B. MacKinnon (2010) “Ten Percent World,” <i>The Walrus</i> • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 1 • Lund K. (2013) “Experiencing nature in nature-based tourism,” <i>Tourist Studies</i> <p>Assignment #1 due: Personal Dossier</p>
Jan 26	City & Wilderness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vannini & Taggart <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapters 2 & 3 • Haupt (2013) <i>Urban Bestiary</i>, Chapters 1 & 3 <p>Assignment #2 due: Ecological Material</p>
Jan 27	Environments & The Common Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thévenot L, M Moody and C Lafaye (2000) “Forms of valuing nature: arguments and modes of justification in French and American environmental disputes” in (eds) <i>Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology: Repertoires of Evaluation in France and the United States</i> • Vannini & Taggart <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 4
Feb 2	Cycling & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P. McIlvenny (2014) “The Joy of Biking Together: Sharing Everyday Experiences of Vélocity” <i>Mobilities</i> • Urry J Climate change, travel and complex futures • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 5 <p>Assignment #3 due: Getting Off Grid</p>
Feb 9		
Feb 16	Pent up Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheller M (2014) Chapter 1, <i>The Making of Light Modernity</i> • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 6
Feb 23	Famous Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samuels, D (2012) “Wild things: Animal nature, human racism, and the future of zoos,” <i>Harper’s Magazine</i> • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 7
Mar 2	Pipelines for the Future?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 8

	Topic	Reading(s)
Mar 9	Parks and Nation Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacEachern A (2001) Chapter 1, <i>Natural Selections: National Parks in Atlantic Canada, 1935-1970</i> • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 9
Mar 16	Marketing Mobilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecofiscal Report (November 2014) http://ecofiscal.ca/reports/report/ • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 10
Mar 23	Aboriginal Title	Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i> , Chapter 11
Mar 30	Religious Environmentalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veldman R, A Szasz and R Haluza-DeLay (2012) "Climate Change and Religion - A Review of Existing Research" A Review of Existing Research" • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 12
Apr 6	Is Ecology a Common Good?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latour B (1999) "To modernize or to ecologize? That's the question" • Vannini & Taggart, <i>Off the Grid</i>, Chapter 13 <p>Final Papers due</p>

Coursepack Contents:

- MacKinnon JB (2010) "Ten Percent World," *The Walrus*
- Lund K (2013) "Experiencing nature in nature-based tourism," *Tourist Studies*
- Haupt (2013) *Urban Bestiary*, Chapters 1 & 3
- Thévenot L, M Moody and C Lafaye (2000) "Forms of valuing nature: arguments and modes of justification in French and American environmental disputes" in (eds) *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology: Repertoires of Evaluation in France and the United States*
- McIlvenny P (2014) "The Joy of Biking Together: Sharing Everyday Experiences of Vélomobility" *Mobilities*
- Urry J (2008) "Climate change, travel and complex futures" *The British Journal of Sociology*
- Sheller M (2014) Chapter 1, *The Making of Light Modernity*
- Samuels D (2012) "Wild things: Animal nature, human racism, and the future of zoos," *Harper's Magazine*
- MacEachern A (2001) Chapter 1, *Natural Selections: National Parks in Atlantic Canada, 1935-1970*
- Veldman R, A Szasz and R Haluza-DeLay (2012) "Climate Change and Religion - A Review of Existing Research" A Review of Existing Research" *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*
- Latour B (1999) "To modernize or to ecologize? That's the question" in N Castree and B Willems-Braun (editors) *Remaking Reality: Nature at the Millenium*