

SOCI 4104: Environmental Sociology

Instructor: Dr. Mark C.J. Stoddart

Office location: AA 4070

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs., 10.30-11.30,
2.00-3.00.

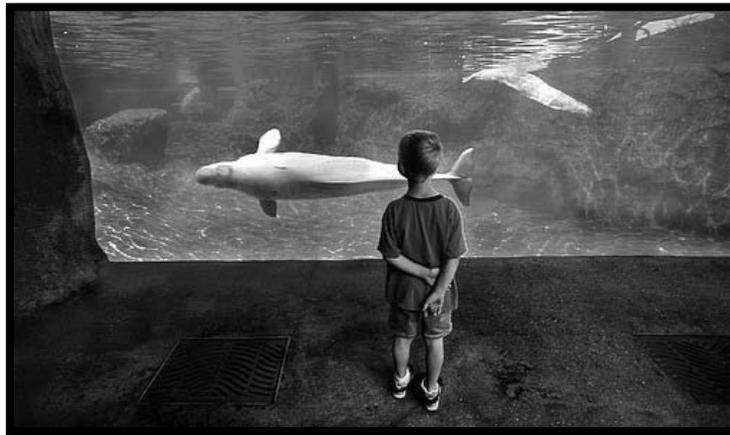
E-mail: mstoddart@mun.ca

Class location: AA 4049D

Class time: Tues. & Thurs. 3.30-4.50

About the course:

What social forces drive environmental degradation and our responses to environmental issues? How do the distribution of environmental resources and vulnerability to environmental risk intersect with patterns of social power and inequality? This course will address these questions in three parts as we focus on the social causes of environmental problems, the social consequences of environmental degradation, and social responses to environmental issues. Through this course, you will learn how the tools of sociological research may help us better understand the societal causes and potential solutions for environmental problems and conflicts.



Required readings available at MUN bookstore:

Gould, K.A., and Lewis, T.L. (2009). *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*. New York: Oxford.

Agyeman, J., Cole, P., Haluza-DeLay, R., and O'Riley, P. (2009). *Speaking for Ourselves: Environmental Justice in Canada*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Additional articles will be posted via Desire2Learn (D2L) and are available open-access from the *Canadian Journal of Sociology*.

Communications policy:

I will reply to course related e-mail within 24 hours between Monday and Friday. If you e-mail after 5pm on Friday, **do not expect a reply until Monday morning.**

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments, exams, notes
Week 1: Sept. 6	Introduction	Th: None.	
Week 2: Sept. 11 & 13	The origins & trajectory of environmental sociology (part 1)	Storm cancellation <hr/> Th: Freudenburg (2008). Thirty Years of Scholarship and Science on Environment-Society Relationships. Available on D2L.	
Week 3: Sept. 18 & 20	The origins & trajectory of environmental sociology (part 2) <hr/> Systemic causes of environmental disruption: Corporate power (part 1)	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 3 <hr/> Th: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 5 & 6	
Week 4: Sept. 25 & 27	Systemic causes of environmental disruption: Corporate power (part 2) <hr/> Systemic causes of environmental disruption: Science and technology (part 1)	Tu: Girard et al. (2010). Tracking Environmental Crime through CEPA. Available on D2L. <hr/> Th: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 7	
Week 5: Oct. 2 & 4	Systemic causes of environmental disruption: Science and technology (part 2) <hr/> In-class mid-term	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 8 <hr/> Th: None.	In-class mid-term Thursday, October 4.
Week 6: Oct. 11	Social consequences of environmental disruption: Economic inequality & environmental risk	Th: Agyeman et al., Ch. 5 Gould & Lewis, Ch. 13	Reading break – no class Tuesday, October 9.
Week 7: Oct. 16 & 18	Social consequences of environmental disruption: Environmental racism & environmental justice	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 10 <hr/> Th: Agyeman et al., Introduction & Chapter 2.	
Week 8: Oct. 23 & 25	Social consequences of environmental disruption: Climate change	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 14 Agyeman et al., Ch. 8 <hr/> Th: Young & Dugas (2012). Comparing Climate Change Coverage in Canadian English- and French-Language Print Media. Available on D2L.	
Week 9: Oct. 30 & Nov.	Social responses to environmental disruption: Environmental movements in	Tu: Agyeman et al., Ch. 11 & 12 <hr/> Th: Stoddart & MacDonald (2011). 'Keep it	

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments, exams, notes
1	Canada	Wild, Keep it Local'. Available on D2L.	
Week 10: Nov. 6 & 8	Social responses to environmental disruption: Gender, feminism & the environment	Tu: Agyeman et al., Ch. 4 <hr/> Th: O'Shaughnessy & Kennedy (2010). Relational Activism. Available on D2L.	
Week 11: Nov. 13 & 15	Social responses to environmental disruption: International environmental movements	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 15 & 16 <hr/> Th: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 17	Hard copy of research paper due in class on Thursday, November 15.
Week 12: Nov. 20 & 22	Social responses to environmental disruption: Moving beyond the nature-culture divide	Tu: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 19 <hr/> Th: Gould & Lewis, Ch. 2	
Week 13: Nov. 27 & 29	Conclusion	Tu: Haluza-DeLay & Davidson (2008). The Environment and a Globalizing Sociology. Available on D2L. <hr/> Th: None.	Take-home exam will be distributed <u>in class</u> on Thursday, November 29.

Evaluations

Assignment	Description	Value	Due date
Reading responses	Throughout the term, you must submit 6 responses to the course reading (typed, 1-page double spaced, with 12-pt font and 1" margins). The responses should <i>briefly</i> summarize the reading, but also go beyond summary as you discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the reading. You may submit reading responses at any time during the term. However, each of your reading responses must be submitted IN CLASS ON THE DAY we are discussing that reading.	20%	Ongoing. Responses will only be accepted <u>IN CLASS ON THE DAY</u> we are discussing that reading.
In-class mid-term	The mid-term exam covers the reading and classroom discussion from weeks 2 through 4. It will consist of 6 open-ended questions, of which you must answer 5.	20%	<u>Thursday,</u> <u>October 4</u>
Research paper	<p>The research paper is an opportunity to explore the theme from one week of the course in greater detail.</p> <p>I encourage you to draw on real world examples for your paper (web resources, media coverage, personal experience). However, your analysis must draw from the course material and also incorporate at least 5 academic sources beyond the course reading (academic journal articles or books).</p> <p>The paper should be 10 pages, not counting title page and references. The paper must be double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. Please include a title page with your name and title of paper, as well as a bibliography. APA style should be used for in-text citations and bibliography. An APA style guide is at: http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/apa.php</p>	30%	<u>Hard copies</u> of the paper are due <u>in class</u> on <u>Thursday, November 15.</u>
Take-home exam	<p>This exam is comprehensive, covering the reading and classroom discussion from the whole course. It will consist of 5 essay questions, of which you must answer 3. Each short essay should be 4 pages, and should demonstrate your knowledge of material covered throughout the course.</p> <p>The final exam must be double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins. Please include a title page with your name, as well as a bibliography of work cited in the exam. APA style should be used for in-text citations and bibliography. An APA style guide is at: http://www.library.mun.ca/guides/howto/apa.php</p>	30%	<p>The take-home exam will be distributed <u>in class</u> on <u>Thursday, November 29.</u></p> <p><u>Electronic copies</u> of the exam are due <u>via D2L</u> by <u>5.00pm</u> on <u>Monday, December 10.</u></p>

Criteria for Grading

Adapted from 2010/2011 *Memorial University Calendar* (Section 5.8.1/5.8.2)

Letter Grades	Numeric Grades
A	80-100%
B	65-79%
C	55-64%
D	50-54%
F	below 50%
PWD (pass with distinction) - indicates excellent performance	no numeric grade
PAS (pass) - indicates performance meets expectations	no numeric grade
FAL (fail) - indicates failing performance	no numeric grade
DR (drop) - drop without academic prejudice	no numeric grade
DRF (drop fail) - drop with academic prejudice	0%
ABS (absent) - absent for acceptable cause	no numeric grade
INC (incomplete) - incomplete pending final grade	no numeric grade
AEG (aegrotat)	no numeric grade

Descriptions of Letter Grades

- "A" indicates excellent performance with clear evidence of:
 - comprehensive knowledge of the subject matter and principles treated in the course,
 - a high degree of originality and independence of thought,
 - a superior ability to organize and analyse ideas, and
 - an outstanding ability to communicate.
- "B" indicates good performance with evidence of:
 - substantial knowledge of the subject matter,
 - a moderate degree of originality and independence of thought,
 - a good ability to organize and analyse ideas, and
 - an ability to communicate clearly and fluently.
- "C" indicates satisfactory performance with evidence of:
 - an acceptable grasp of the subject matter,
 - some ability to organize and analyse ideas, and
 - an ability to communicate adequately.
- "D" indicates minimally acceptable performance with evidence of:
 - rudimentary knowledge of the subject matter,
 - some evidence that organizational and analytical skills have been developed, but with significant weaknesses in some areas, and
 - a significant weakness in the ability to communicate.

- "F" indicates failing performance with evidence of:
 - an inadequate knowledge of the subject matter,
 - failure to complete required work,
 - an inability to organize and analyse ideas, and
 - an inability to communicate.

Late assignments and missed exams policy

Unforeseen circumstances may arise that cause you to miss an exam or an assignment deadline (illness, family emergency). **It is your responsibility to provide written documentation** (from a doctor or counsellor) if you need to take a make-up exam or turn in a late assignment. Otherwise 5% per day will be deducted on late work. Make-up exams are allowed at the instructor's discretion.

Additional Information

Inclusion and Equity

This course brings together students from a variety of academic disciplines, as well as ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Learning from our diversity of experience, values and world views is a strength of the university experience. In order for all students to get the most from this course, dialogue should be respectful across disciplinary, cultural and personal differences.

Students with Disabilities

Students who require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to speak privately to the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be made in order that you may participate fully in the course. All conversations will remain confidential.

Campus Support

Writing Centre <http://www.mun.ca/writingcentre/about/>
Counselling Centre <http://www.mun.ca/counselling/home/>
QEII Library – Sociology http://library.mun.sirsidynix.net/rooms/portal/page/21617_Sociology

Disclaimer

While we will stick to this syllabus as closely as possible, I reserve the right to make changes as we go along in response to unforeseen events.