I. ENVIORNMENTAL SOCIOLOGY (SOC 455) 3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Scott Byrd Class Time: TUES. 5-7:50 pm, FH 500

Office: Faculty Hall 501B Office Hours: T 3-5 MWF 10:30-12:30 (OBA)

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITES: Course will focus upon key theoretical approaches and research in the field of environmental sociology as well as the effects of population and economic growth along with technology, upon the environment. Environmental issues and disasters will be studied focusing upon the role of social organization, culture, values, and social inequality.

Prerequisites: None

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Environmental sociology brings sociological understandings to the conversation between society and "the environment" as it explores questions probing the environment-society nexus: How does society define what constitutes "the environment?" Where are its boundaries, and in what ways does society shape that environment? And, reflexively, in what ways is society shaped by it? Who has differential access to environmental resources and why? Why and how are some members of societies victims of environmental injustices?

Guided by these questions (among others), this environmental sociology course is designed to provide students with a thorough, comprehensive understanding of the key theories, literature, and issues in environmental sociology. Beginning with an overview of the foundations of environmental sociology, we will explore key topical areas within the field, including: political economy and political ecology, development, population and consumption, conservation vs. sustainability vs. deep ecology, environmental health, environmental social movements, environmental justice, the sociology of environmental science, environment and risk, ecological modernization, environmental governance and regulation, sociology of agriculture and climate change.

As part of the course we will also visit a local organic farm and confined feeding operation or CAFO.

IV. TEXTBOOK

<u>Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action</u>, Leslie King and Deborah McCarthy, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2nd Edition, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-0742559097.

Other required readings will be available on Blackboard

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

We will cover the following topics:

- Early Conservationists
- Environmentalism and Silent Spring

- Theoretical Debates (Realist, Constructivist, Marxist, Ecological Modernization)
- Political Economy and Uneven Exchanges
- Environmental Justice
- Climate change and climate justice
- Development and Carbon Intensity
- Energy and Technology
- Environmental Health
- NIMBY and Local Movements
- Food and Food Security
- Environmental Risk
- Mountaintop Removal
- Environmental Policy
- Alternatives and Future Environmental Problems

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: COURSE FORMAT AND WRITING ASSIGNMENTS The course objectives will be achieved through an integrated program of reading, lectures, class discussions, debates, a research paper, and examinations. You therefore are expected to do the assigned readings, attend class, participate in class and group discussions, write your research paper, and complete the exams.

VII. GRADING PROCEDURES: The lectures, readings, and class and group discussions are organized to complement and supplement each other. You therefore should remain current with the reading schedule, completing the reading assignments prior to the class meeting for which they are assigned, in order to gain maximum benefit from the lectures. Your grade in this course will be based on four areas: class lectures, attendance, and participation; two examinations; a research paper; and team presentations/debates.

GRADING POLICY: Your final grade will be based on the quality of your performance with respect to the above responsibilities and assignments. The allocation of points for each set of responsibilities is as follows:

Two Exams	200	Α	90%-100%	450-500 points
Debates and Participation	100	В	80%-89%	400-449 points
Research Paper	200	C	70%-79%	350-399 points
Total	500	D	60%-69%	300-349 points
		E	< 60%	299 points

VIII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

This course will adhere to the attendance policy as stipulated in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin

IX. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

- Cheating Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.
- Fabrication and Falsification Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.
- Multiple Submission The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.
- Plagiarism Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

If I receive evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, I will investigate the instance and take one of the following disciplinary actions.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.
- If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI: NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).