SOC465 ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY*

Instructor: Jen Loomis, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate  
Lectures: Monday – Thursday 10:30am – 12:50pm in Nueberger Hall 388  
Office Hours: After class each day and by appointment in Cramer 263  
Email: jloomis@pdx.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
The purpose of this course is for you to critically analyze how people and societies impact the natural environment as well as how the environment differentially impacts groups of people. We will examine the social, cultural, and economic forces that give rise environmental problems and how societies choose to address and remedy environmental problems. We will review foundational theories and examine substantive issues such as natural resource management, food systems, fresh water use, pollutants, environmental justice, and environmental health. The course will end with a focus on solving environmental problems with discussion of the environmental movement and sustainability.

REQUIREMENTS  
Readings: There is no text book for the class. Instead, there will be required readings posted in our Desire-to-Learn (D2L) course website under the Course Content. These will often be PDF documents to journal articles, reports, or book chapters. Materials are to be read before class the day they are listed.

Exams: (60% of Final Grade). Exams are a mix of multiple choice and written questions. The final will not be cumulative. Bring a scantron/bubble sheet to each exam.  
Midterm – Wednesday July 3rd  --30% of final grade.  
Final – Thursday July 18 – 30% of final grade.

Written Assignments: (30% of Final Grade). There will be two written assignments; each is worth 15% of your final grade. The first will be due Monday July 1st. The second will be due Monday July 15. Further instructions will be given in class.

Quizzes: (10% of Final Grade). There will be two quizzes; each is worth 5% of your final grade. These will be online through our D2L course page. The first will open Monday July 8 and close at midnight on Tuesday July 9. The second will open Monday July 15 and close at midnight Tuesday July 16. Be sure to save each answer before moving on to the next and hit submit as many times is as needed at the end.

* The instructor reserves the right to modify this document. If changes are made, they will be announced.
POLICIES

Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory, but you should know that irregular attendance inevitably impacts the final grade. I will occasionally take attendance and use the record to decide borderline cases in final grades. Therefore, it is to your advantage to attend class as much as possible. If you miss a class period, it is up to you to obtain notes from a classmate.

If you are going to miss an exam or a deadline for a quiz or writing assignment, you must contact me before the deadline and provide documentation of the extenuating circumstance in order for special arrangements to be made.

Classroom Conduct: Since this is a 400-level class, discussions will be part of the learning experience. This means you will need to come to class having read the assigned reading, thought about it, and brought something to say. We will be discussing controversial issues sometimes so please demonstrate respect for other’s opinions. Please turn off and refrain from using cell phones and ipods during class time. Laptop computers and tablets will be permitted only for the purposes of note-taking. Please arrive on time and stay until the end of class.

Email: Please allow the instructor 24 hours to respond to an email. Oftentimes a response will be quicker than that, but particularly over the weekend, allow 24 hours. jloomis@pdx.edu

Academic Honesty: Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to this website for more details about PSU’s academic misconduct policies - http://www.pdx.edu/dos/academic-misconduct

Students with Disabilities: Students with special needs are encouraged to work with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you are working with this center, please let the instructor know at the beginning of class.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 – June 24 – June 27
June 24: Overview of course.
   Lorax movie and discussion.

June 25: Social Construction of Nature. What are Environmental Problems?
   Read: Hardin – Tragedy of the Commons

June 26: Common Property Resource Systems
   Read: Schnaiberg – Treadmill of Production
   Pass out Writing Assignment # 1

June 27: Energy Use, Population, and Development
   Read Roberts – Global Inequality and Climate Change
   Pass out study guide for exam 1
Week 2 – July 1 – July 4

July 1: Agriculture and Food Systems
    DUE: Writing Assignment #1
    Read Carolan – Chapter 10 in Sociology of Food and Agriculture

July 2: Agriculture and Food Systems cont.
    Read Curry – Seeds of Conflict

July 3: EXAM # 1

July 4: No Class – Independence Day

Week 3 – July 8 – July 11

July 8: Fresh Water
    Read World’s Water – Chapter 1
    QUIZ 1 opens today (On D2L)

July 9: Fresh Water
    Read Postel and Richter – pages 1-26
    QUIZ 1 closes tonight at 11:59pm

July 10: Environmental Health
    Read WHO Report on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals – Only sections 4-12
    Pass out Writing Assignment # 2

July 11: Solving our Problems through Capitalism
    Read Maniates – Individualization
    Pass out Final Exam Study Guide

Week 4 – July 15 – 18

July 15: The Environmental Movement
    DUE: Writing Assignment #2
    Read Kline – Chapter 6
    QUIZ 2 opens

July 16: Sustainability
    Reading TBD
    QUIZ 2 closes at 11:59pm.

July 17: Natural Hazards
    No reading for today.

July 18: FINAL EXAM