

**ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY**  
**SOC 422/522; COD 522**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**SPRING 2004**

**Meeting Place:** 204 Kethley Hall

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30–6:00 p.m.

**Instructor:** Dr. Alan Barton

**Telephone:** (662) 846-4097

**Office:** 201A Kethley

**E-mail:** abarton@deltastate.edu

**Office Hours:** The instructor holds regular office hours at the following times:

Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00–4:30 pm

If you cannot make one of these times, contact the professor to set up an appointment.

**Webpage:**

Additional materials and updated course information can be found on the course webpage:

[http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/abarton/SOC422/SOC422Syllabus.htm](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/abarton/SOC422/SOC422Syllabus.htm)

**Course Overview:**

This course introduces students to the disciplines of environmental and natural resources sociology. The course covers environmental and resource-related issues from a theoretical and policy-oriented approach. Important environmental issues that we will discuss include deforestation, biological diversity, air and water pollution, soil erosion, and sustainable development.

**Readings:**

Allen Schnaiberg and Kenneth Alan Gould. 2000. *Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict*. The Blackburn Press.

John McPhee. 1989. *The Control of Nature*. New York: Farrar, Staus and Giroux.

Articles as assigned.

The books are available in the university bookstore. Students should purchase both books or otherwise arrange to complete all of the reading assignments.

**Study Questions:**

Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to the week's topic will be posted on the course website. These questions are designed to assist you with the week's reading assignments. It is recommended that you prepare short answers to these questions to prepare for lectures and discussions. Questions for the quizzes, the final exam, and writing assignments are frequently drawn from these study questions.

See the course website for study questions pertaining to the reading assignments.

### Course Organization and Approach:

This course uses a participatory, learner-centered, adult education approach. An adult education approach recognizes that students are responsible for their own learning. The professor can only provide opportunities to learn, but cannot force students to learn. Students are expected to work hard in this course, meaning that for every hour of class time, students are expected to spend two to three hours outside of class preparing by doing readings, assignments, studying for quizzes and exams, and thinking about the course material.

Students are expected to take responsibility for the success of the course, that is, students should take an active interest not just in the course material, but in the course itself, making it a success for all participants. Factors such as interest, motivation, creativity, and initiative are important elements in evaluating a student's performance and assigning a grade.

Course material is presented in several formats. A theoretical framework for understanding the social dimensions of environmental issues is presented in the assigned chapters in the book *Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict* by Allen Schnaiberg and Kenneth Alan Gould, and in several assigned articles. Information on social, political, and scientific dimensions of specific environmental issues is presented in other assigned articles, and in the book *The Control of Nature*, by John McPhee. Topical issues are presented in videos and in the student-led discussions on current issues drawn from newspapers and magazines.

### Assignments and Grading:

There are a total of 100 points available for the semester. Your final score is simply the sum of all points earned over the semester. If you accumulate 90 or more points over the course of the semester, you will get an "A" in the course. If you accumulate 80 to 89 points, you will get a "B," for 70 to 79 points you will get a "C," and for 60 to 69 points will get a "D." If you get less than 60 points, your final grade will be an "F." Note that you start with zero and earn points; you do not start with 100 and lose points.

If you comply with all course requirements and submit all of the assignments satisfactorily and on time, you can expect a "C" in this course. To receive a higher grade, you must demonstrate a superior grasp of course material and an ability to apply the material in productive ways. It is also helpful to show an interest in the course material and in learning, and an achievement-based orientation.

This table summarizes points for each assignment, detailed in the subsequent pages.

Assignment	SOC 422	SOC 522
Attendance/Class Participation	20	20
Quizzes	15	15
Writing Assignments	15	15
Discussion Leader, Current Topics	20	10
Paper & Discussion Leader, Research Papers	N/A	20
Final Exam	20	10
Discretionary	10	10
Total	100	100

**Assignments, SOC 422:**

All students taking the course for undergraduate (SOC 422) credit must complete the following assignments:

- (1) Reading, attendance and participation in class discussions (20 points)
  - You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and attend all class sessions
  - You are expected to engage in classroom discussions, reflecting on the topic and readings
  - The quality of contributions to class discussions is more important than the quantity of contributions
  - Participation in class discussions is not graded based on whether it is “right” or “wrong;” rather, you are expected to engage the material critically, and demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply the course material in productive ways
- (2) Quizzes (15 points)
  - You will take four in-class quizzes during the semester
  - Quizzes consist of short answer questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, matching terms, etc.)
  - The first quiz covers the course material presented since the beginning of the semester, including readings, lectures, films, and discussions; subsequent quizzes cover material since the previous quiz
  - Each quiz is worth 5 points; the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester
- (3) Writing assignments (15 points)
  - You will prepare and submit four two-page papers on assigned topics pertaining to the videos and/or field trips
  - The papers should be typed, 10 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced
  - Each writing assignment is worth 5 points; the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester
  - For out-of-class assignments, you are expected to do your own work – check the course web site for the policy on plagiarism and cheating; this policy will be enforced with no exceptions
- (4) Discussion leader on current topics (20 points)
  - You will lead two 15 minute discussions on topics of current interest pertaining to the environment or natural resources management
  - You should select your topic from a current newspaper or magazine, and should submit the article to the professor one week before their discussion with a list of discussion questions
  - You should prepare and give a short presentation on the article to the class, focusing on the social and policy dimensions of the environmental issues
  - You should then facilitate a class discussion on the topic, encouraging participation by all members of the class; your responsibility in this exercise is not to act as “expert” or “judge;” rather, you are to get other students talking about the topic, mediate the contributions of other students to keep the discussion focused, and guide the discussion to ensure that the social and policy issues are covered
- (5) Final Exam (20 points)
  - You **MUST** take the final exam, at a time to be arranged
  - The final exam is comprehensive, and consists of short answer and essay questions
- (6) Discretionary (10 points)
  - The instructor will evaluate each student’s performance based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement the student demonstrates

**Assignments, SOC 522:**

All students taking the course for graduate (SOC 522) credit must complete the following assignments:

- (1) Reading, attendance and participation in class discussions (20 points)
  - You are expected to do all of the assigned readings and attend all class sessions
  - You are expected to engage in classroom discussions, reflecting on the topic and readings
  - The quality of contributions to class discussions is more important than the quantity of contributions
  - Participation in class discussions is not graded based on whether it is “right” or “wrong;” rather, you are expected to engage the material critically, and demonstrate an understanding and ability to apply the course material in productive ways
- (2) Quizzes (15 points)
  - You will take four in-class quizzes during the semester
  - Quizzes consist of short answer questions (multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, etc.)
  - The first quiz covers the course material presented since the beginning of the semester, including readings, lectures, films, and discussions; subsequent quizzes cover material since the previous quiz
  - Each quiz is worth 5 points; the lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester
- (3) Writing assignments (15 points)
  - You will prepare and submit four two-page papers on assigned topics pertaining to the videos and/or field trips
  - The papers should be typed, 10 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced
  - Each writing assignment is worth 5 points; the lowest grade will be dropped
  - For out-of-class assignments, you are expected to do your own work – check the course web site for the policy on plagiarism and cheating; this policy will be enforced with no exceptions
- (4) Discussion leader on current topics (10 points)
  - You will lead one 15 minute discussion on a topic of current interest pertaining to the environment or natural resources management
  - You should select your topic from a current newspaper or magazine, and should submit the article to the professor one week before their discussion with a list of discussion questions
  - You should prepare and give a short presentation on the article to the class, focusing on the social and policy dimensions of the environmental issues
  - You should then facilitate a class discussion on the topic, encouraging participation by all members of the class; your responsibility in this exercise is not to act as “expert” or “judge;” rather, you are to get other students talking about the topic, mediate the contributions of other students to keep the discussion focused, and guide the discussion to ensure that the social and policy issues are covered
- (5) Paper/discussion leader on research papers (20 points)
  - You will select one of the research papers assigned for class reading and prepare a 5-page essay in which you discuss the environmental and social issues raised in the paper
  - You will lead a 30 minute discussion on the day the research paper is assigned, teaching the class about the paper and relating the material to the course topic
- (5) Final Exam (10 points)
  - You **MUST** take the final exam, at a time to be arranged
  - The final exam is comprehensive, and consists of short answer and essay questions
- (6) Discretionary (10 points)
  - The instructor will evaluate each student’s performance based on factors such as the motivation, interest, and improvement the student demonstrates

### Policies and Expectations:

- (1) **YOU are responsible** for learning the course material and for your progress in the course
  - You are expected to **attend class regularly** and **complete all of the assignments**.
  - You are expected to know **all** material presented during class sessions, whether you attended the class or not. If you miss a class session, you should check with another student to see what you missed.
  - "I didn't know" is **NEVER** a valid excuse. If you don't know something, it is your job to find out.
  
- (2) Missed assignments **CANNOT** be made up
  - It is assumed that if you miss class or an assignment, you are making a choice that prioritizes other activities above the class. For this reason, none of the assignments or coursework can be made up.
  - Assignments are due at the time specified; **no late assignments will be accepted**.
  - If you miss a quiz or writing assignment, you will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. In the first instance, this will count as your lowest grade and will be dropped. Subsequent instances will be scored as zero.
  - If you must miss a presentation or other in-class activity, it is up to you to arrange to trade with another student before the event. Please notify the instructor of such changes.
  
- (3) Illnesses and emergencies **MUST** be documented
  - If you must miss a class due to illness or another personal emergency, notify the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class period either by e-mail or telephone.
  - If you cannot notify the instructor in advance, bring a note from a doctor or other professional to the next class meeting.
  - Illnesses and emergencies pertain **only** to the student, not to the student's family, friends or others.
  - If you must miss class for an official university activity, you should make arrangements with the instructor **BEFORE** the missed class. Appropriate documentation is required.
  - Notified absences (i.e. you notify the instructor before the event) count as one-half absence. Excused absences (i.e. you bring a note from a doctor or other professional) will not count against you for the first two; after that, each excused absence counts as one-half absence.
  - You are responsible for all material presented in the class, even during an excused absence. You should get class notes from another student for all class sessions you miss.
  - It is in your interest to provide the instructor with **written** notification (e.g. note or e-mail) or documentation for any missed class. It is risky to simply tell the instructor and expect him to remember.
  
- (4) Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with medical problems or diagnosed disabilities. Have Dr. Richard Houston at the Reily Health Center (846-4690) contact the course instructor to make arrangements.
  
- (5) Class **discussion** is an important element in this course
  - The purpose of the discussion is to provide you with an opportunity to practice thinking skills in a safe environment.
  - In discussions, you are encouraged to explore ideas presented in the readings and lectures, to think about and apply concepts, and to develop arguments and evaluate evidence.
  - You must demonstrate **appropriate respect** the opinions and ideas of other students. If you repeatedly show disrespect for other students, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Class discussions are **NOT** a time to chat with other students about topics not related to the course. Talking privately with other students while the rest of the class is trying to carry on a discussion is disruptive, bothersome, and disrespectful to other students and to the professor. If you repeatedly talk out of turn, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

- It is acceptable (and encouraged) to disagree with the perspectives of other students, but you should phrase this to show disagreement with the idea or opinion, not with the person presenting the idea or opinion.
  - Please make sure that all pagers, cell phones, etc. are **turned off** during class time. If your phone or pager repeatedly interrupts class, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
  - Any work missed by a student that was asked to leave the classroom **cannot** be made up under any circumstances.
- (6) You are expected to **comply with all academic standards and ethics** as defined in the DSU Bulletin and Handbook
- You are expected to do their own work in this course. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated.
  - See the course web page if you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism. If it is still unclear, see the instructor. **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UNDERSTAND THESE GUIDELINES.** If at some point in the semester you are suspected of committing plagiarism, pleas of "I didn't know what plagiarism was" will not be accepted.
  - The sanctions for plagiarism are outlined on the web page. Make sure you are aware of these **BEFORE** you submit any work in this class.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Week 1: Conceptual Framework</b>			
Tuesday Jan 13	<i>Course Introduction; Themes and Topics; Review Syllabus</i>		
Thursday Jan 15	<i>Natural Resources &amp; Environmental Sociology</i>		Dunlap & Catton (2002) Buttel (2002)
<b>Week 2: Ecological Disorganization</b>			
Tuesday Jan 20	<i>Why Should We Protect the Environment?</i>		Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 1
Thursday Jan 22	<i>Ecological Limits</i>		Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 2
<b>Week 3: The Treadmill of Production</b>			
Tuesday Jan 27	<i>Paradigms and Theories</i>		Catton & Dunlap (1978) Buttel (1976)
Thursday Jan 29	<i>The Logic of Industrial Organization</i>		Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 3
<b>Week 4: Social Responses to the Treadmill</b>			
Tuesday Feb 3	<i>Population, Consumption and/or Technology</i>		Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 4
Thursday Feb 5	<i>Quiz 1 Video: "Forest Wars"</i>	<b>Quiz</b>	Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 5
<b>Week 5: Land I</b>			
Tuesday Feb 10	<i>Discussion on Current Topics</i>	<b>Discussion Leaders (Current Topics)</b>	
Thursday Feb 12	<i>Property</i>	<b>Writing 1 Due Discussion Leaders (Research)</b>	Bromley (1989) Geisler (1993)

Day/Date	Topic	Assignment	Readings
<b>Week 6: Land II</b>			
Tuesday Feb 17	<i>Protected Areas</i>	<i>Discussion Leaders (Research)</i>	McNeely (1994) Wright & Mattson (1996)
Thursday Feb 19	<i>Land Trusts</i>		Land Trust Resources
<b>Week 7: Land III</b>			
Tuesday Feb 24	<i>Soil Erosion</i>		McPhee, pp. 183–221
Thursday Feb 26	<i>Erosion Control Quiz 2</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	McPhee, pp. 221–272
<b>Week 8: Plants &amp; Animals I</b>			
Tuesday Mar 2	<i>Discussion on Current Topics</i>	<i>Discussion Leaders (Current Topics)</i>	
Thursday Mar 4	<i>Video: TBA</i>		TBA
<b>Week 9: Plants &amp; Animals II</b>			
Tuesday Mar 9	<i>Forests</i>	<i>Discussion Leaders (Research)</i>	Kummer & Turner (1994) Lynch (1998)
Thursday Mar 11	<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Writing 2 Due</i>	TBA
<b>Spring Holiday, Mar 15–19</b>			
<b>Week 10: Plants &amp; Animals III</b>			
Tuesday Mar 23	<i>Discussion on Current Topics</i>	<i>Discussion Leaders (Current Topics)</i>	
Thursday Mar 25	<i>Environmental Justice</i>		McGowen (2003) Mohai (2003)



Day/Date	Topic	Assignment	Readings
<b>Week 11: Air &amp; Water I</b>			
Tuesday Mar 30	<b>Video: TBA</b> <b>Quiz 3</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	
Thursday Apr 1	<b>Pollution</b>	<b>Discussion Leaders</b> <b>(Research)</b>	Ringquist (1993) Hockenstein et al. (1997)
<b>Week 12: Air &amp; Water II</b>			
Tuesday Apr 6	<b>Flood Control on the Mississippi</b>	<b>Writing 3 Due</b>	McPhee, 3–42
Thursday Apr 8	<b>Flood Control on the Mississippi</b>		McPhee, 42–92
<b>Week 13: Air and Water III</b>			
Tuesday Apr 13	<b>Field Trip: Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge (Tentative)</b>		USFWS (2004)
Thursday Apr 15	<b>What Can You Do For the Environment?</b>		Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 6 & 7
<b>Week 14: Sustainable Development I</b>			
Tuesday Apr 20	<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Writing 4 Due</b> <b>Discussion Leaders</b> <b>(Research)</b>	Herremans & Reid (2002) Cernea (1993)
Thursday Apr 22	<b>Quiz 4</b> <b>Social Movements</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	Schnaiberg & Gould, Ch. 8
<b>Week 15: Sustainable Development II</b>			
Tuesday Apr 27	<b>Population and Environment</b>	<b>Discussion Leaders</b> <b>(Research)</b>	Population Reports (2000)
Thursday Apr 29	<b>Conflict, Coalition &amp; Sustainable Development</b>		Schnaiberg & Gould Ch. 9 & 10
<b>Week 16: Dead Week</b>			
Tuesday May 4	<b>Video: TBA</b>		
Thursday May 6	<b>Course Evaluation; Review for Final Exam</b>		

### Additional Readings

Bromley, Daniel W. 1989. Property relations and economic development: the other land reform. *World Development* 17(6):867–877.

Buttel, Frederick H. 1976. Social science and the environment: competing theories. *Social Science Quarterly* 57(2):307–323.

Buttel, Frederick H. 2002. Environmental sociology and the sociology of natural resources: Institutional histories and intellectual legacies. *Society and Natural Resources* 15:205–211.

Catton, William R., Jr. and Riley E. Dunlap. 1978. Environmental sociology: a new paradigm. *The American Sociologist* 13:41–49.

Cernea, Michael M. 1993. The sociologist's approach to sustainable development. *Finance & Development* 30(4):11–13.

Dunlap, Riley E. and William R. Catton, Jr. 2002. Which function(s) of the environment do we study? A comparison of environmental and natural resource sociology. *Society and Natural Resources* 15:239–249.

Geisler, Charles. 1993. Ownership: an overview. *Rural Sociology* 58(4):532–546.

Herremans, Irene M. and Robin E. Reid. 2002. Developing awareness of the sustainability concept. *Journal of Environmental Education* 34(1):16–20.

Hockenstein, Jeremy B., Robert N. Stavins, and Bradley W. Whitehead. 1997. Crafting the next generation of market-based environmental tools. *Environment* 39(4):12–33.

Kummer, David M. and B.L. Turner II. 1994. The human causes of deforestation in Southeast Asia. *BioScience* 44(5):323–328.

#### Land Trust Resources:

Land Trust Alliance, <http://www.lta.org/>

Delta Land Trust, <http://www.deltalandtrust.org/>

Nature Conservancy, <http://nature.org/>

National Trust for Historic Preservation, <http://www.nationaltrust.org/>

Lynch, Owen J. 1998. Law, pluralism and the promotion of sustainable community-based forest management. *Unasylva* 49(3):52–56.

McGowan, Alan H. 2003. Environmental justice for all. *Environment* 45(5):1.

McNeely, Jeffrey A. 1994. Protected areas for the 21st century: working to provide benefits to society. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 3:390–405.

Mohai, Paul. 2003. African American concern for the environment. *Environment* 45(5):10–26.

Population Reports. 2000. The Earth and its people/Toward a livable future. *Population Reports* 28(3).

Ringquist, Evan J. 1993. Does regulation matter? Evaluating the effects of state air pollution control programs. *Journal of Politics* 55(4):1022–1045.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 2004.

(1) *Conserving the Nature of America*. <http://training.fws.gov/library/Pubs/conserving.pdf>

(2) *Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge*. <http://dahomey.fws.gov//index.html>

Wright, R. Gerald and David J. Mattson. 1996. The origin and purpose of national parks and protected areas. In R. Gerald Wright (editor), *National Parks and Protected Areas: Their Role in Environmental Protection*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Science.