

Delta State University  
SOC 422/522 COD 522  
Spring Semester 2004

### Study Questions, Week 1

**Topic for the Week:** Conceptual Framework

**Readings for the Week:**

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

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.

**Questions:**

- (1) What are the most important distinctions between environmental and natural resources sociology?
- (2) What are the primary issues/topics that natural resources sociologists study? What concepts do they use to study these issues? What are the primary issues/topics that environmental sociologists study? What concepts do they use?
- (3) Do you think environmental sociology and natural resources sociology are distinct disciplines, or are they essentially the same field of study? Why?
- (4) Are the concepts of “supply depot,” “waste repository,” and “living space” useful for helping us to understand human-environment relations? Under what conditions are they helpful? What are some drawbacks to this typology?