

Delta State University
SOC 422/522 COD 522
Spring Semester 2005

Study Questions, Week 1

Topics for the Week:

Conceptual Framework

Readings for the Week:

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

Riley E. Dunlap and William R. Catton, Jr. 2002. Which function(s) of the environment do we study? A comparison of environmental and natural resources 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?