

**University of North Texas at Dallas
Summer 2015
SYLLABUS**

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs SOCI 4260D: Special Topics - Environmental Sociology 3Hrs			
Department of	Sociology	Division of	Arts & Sciences
Instructor Name:	Dr. Baranda Fermin		
Phone:	214-244-6067		
Email Address:	baranda.fermin@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours:	Wednesdays: 11 AM – Noon by telephone or on campus		
Classroom Location:	Online - Blackboard Learn		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	I-Net		
Prerequisites:	SOCI 1510 or SOWK 1450 and other equivalents		
Required Text:	Title: Sociological Theory and the Environment: Classical Foundations, Contemporary Insights Edited by: Riley Dunlap, Frerick H. Buttel, Peter Dickens and August Gijswijt		
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com		
<p>Course Overview: The association between societal well-being and environmental quality is an important topic of sociological inquiry. The term environment is understood to encompass both the natural and built environment. The term technology is to be understood to include the origins and consequences of technology, sociological aspects of technological risk and assessment, the impacts of technology on social behavior, organization and environment.</p> <p>Environmental Sociology as a sub-discipline within sociology explores the various forms of interaction between human society and the environment. Environmental Sociologists seek to understand a variety of topics, including: agrifood systems, environmentalism as a social movement, the ways in which societal members perceive environmental problems, the origin of human-induced environmental decline, the relationship between population dynamics, health, and the environment, and the role that elites play in harming the environmental. The inequitable social distribution of environmental hazards is another central area of Environmental Sociological research, with scholars examining the processes by which socially disadvantaged populations come to experience greater exposure to myriad environmental hazards including natural disasters.</p>			

Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will	
1	Define the environment. Understand the environment and society in the United States as well as around the globe.
2	Shape personal responses to the environmental problems affecting their lives and their communities.
3	Critically analyze about the relationship between the environment and society.
4	Explain, predict, and to suggest solutions to environmental problems.
5	Understand the social and ethical values involved in our conceptions of the environment.
6	Understand the social and systemic responsibility for maintaining, improving, remediating, and protecting the environment.
7	Explore the basic rights to a healthy environment. Understand how such rights vary across populations within a country and between countries.

Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.

Module	TOPICS	Opens	Due
1	Start Here! & Introduction to Course	6/8	6/14
2	Classical & Contemporary Theories & the Environment		
3	Modernity, Culture & the Environment	6/22	6/28
4	Sociological Paradigms & the Environment	6/29	
5	*** FINAL EXAM ***	7/6	7/10

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Evaluation Methods	Total
Module Learning Activities	Guides & Rubrics provided (4 total)	315
Attendance/Participation	Log-ins; clicks; engagement; etc.	85
Final Exam	Blackboard Learn Multi-Item Test	100
	Total:	500

Grade Determination:

- A = 450 – 500 pts; i.e. 90% or better
- B = 400 – 449 pts; i.e. 80 – 89 %
- C = 350 – 399 pts; i.e. 70 – 79 %
- D = 300 – 349 pts; i.e. 60 – 69 %
- F = 299 pts or below; i.e. less than 60%

Instructor Policies and Procedures

Email: In **ALL** emails please put the course number and section number as the **subject heading (SOCI 4540D.090) as well as a summative title**, or your message may not be read. **I expect you to write your emails properly.** In other words, please address me properly, use complete sentences, proper spelling and grammar, and make sure your name is at the end of the email or I will NOT respond. Please use your name and my name in all emails. For example, I will not respond to emails that address me as “Hey,” or “Yo,” and/or that are signed off without a name or as “Peace,” or “get back.” If you email me and have not heard a response within a 36 hour time frame, I would suggest you re-read your message to see if you are missing any of these requirements.

If I have not responded to your specific email message within 48 hours, before you send me multiple messages please first check the Blackboard Learn site for an announcement or discussion board post, or an email message addressed to the entire class. Sometimes several students had similar concerns and it was more effective to send everyone a note to ensure clarity for ALL. Remember that you are not my only student and your class is not the only one I teach so it may take me an entire day before I can get to your email. Leaving numerous messages will not speed up the process. Messages sent via email can often “sound” very differently than they would if you were talking to someone in person. **Therefore, it is important to write emails properly and in a professional manner to avoid confusing, frustrating or inappropriate situations.**

Using email accounts outside of Blackboard Learn or your UNT account increases risks that you may not receive all communications as a result of spam blockers and policy regulations. **I also will not communicate information about your grades and other information covered under FERPA policies outside of your Blackboard Learn account.**

Assignment Policy: As a consequence of the format of each class session and the exams for this course section, make-up exams or assignments are at the discretion of the professor. Requests, including timeline, must be initiated by the student. **YOU** are responsible for all class announcements, all information relayed during lecture, all discussions in class, all notes, and all videos viewed in class. **I DO NOT** provide notes for students; it is in your best interest to share notes or ask other students to help you if you are absent.

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed.

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Ms. Cynthia Suarez at 972-338-1775.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be

handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic Integrity.pdf](http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received,
nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that
violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.untDallas.edu. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically. Weather will also be monitored for power outages and technological interruptions that may impact online course access and engagement.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible for coordinating arrangements with a class colleague to obtain a copy of the class session information, including notes & activities, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions that violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life, as the instructor deems appropriate.