

## **Sociology 4517 WA: Society, Culture, and Nature**

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor  
Class Location: RB 1021  
Class Time: Friday 11:30am-2:30pm  
3-0; or 3-0

Sociology web-page address: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

Instructor: Dr. T. Puddephatt  
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Office Phone: 343-8091  
Office Hours: Friday 8:30-10:30 AM

### **Goals of the Course**

With these goals in mind, you will be evaluated on the following:

(1) Weekly Summaries	(25%)
(2) Presentation/Proposal	(20%)
(3) Participation	(20%)
(4) Final Essay	<u>(35%)</u>
	Final = (100%)

### **Required readings:**

- Anthony Giddens, 2011. *The Politics of Climate Change, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Polity Press.
- Brewster, Brad and Antony Puddephatt (eds.) [forthcoming]. *Micro-sociological Perspectives for Environmental Sociology*. UK: Ashgate Press. Will send select, pre-reviewed copies of chapters as appropriate throughout the term.
- Package of Readings (on reserve at circulation desk, Paterson Library)
- Online articles (if not otherwise noted, you can get them through LU electronic library)

### **Explanation of Evaluation:**

1. Weekly Summaries (25%): To ensure you stay on top of the readings, I expect a short summary and critical reflection (maximum 2 pages, single spaced) for each week of readings. Only your best 5 will count toward your grade. Late summaries are not accepted (you must submit the summary on the same day as the material is discussed).
2. Presentation/Proposal (20%): The main project for the course is to develop an essay on some topic to do with sociology as it relates to the overlap of culture and nature or the environment (see more about this under point 4, final essay). Since this may be new terrain for you, and the term is a short one, I encourage you to get started reading, and sketching ideas, on your topic of choice as soon as possible. To aid this along, I have set a day aside for you to present a 10 minute presentation of your idea for the paper. On the same day, you are to hand in a 5 page (double spaced) proposal, which discusses your topic of choice, presents a thesis of some sort in relation to this topic, and provides a road-map of how you plan to support your thesis. Each is worth 10%, for a total 20% of the grade.
3. Participation (20%): This grade is intended to reflect quality, more than the quantity, of student's participation in class. "Negative participation" (e.g., distracting, rude, or counter-productive behaviour) is reflected in penalties to this grade. Try to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings, and do your part to help with a vibrant, energetic seminar discussion, fostered in a supportive atmosphere.

4. Final Essay (35%): The final essay must be written using ASA format (see department website), double-spaced, 12 point times new roman font. You are to choose a sociological topic of your choice that deals with the relationship of culture to the nonhuman world or natural environment. For example, your essay might examine a theoretical debate, consider the contributions of a theorist, researcher, or school of thought, comment on a specific environmental social issue as it is portrayed in the media or popular culture, consider the role of social institutions, politics, and social movements in dealing with the natural environment, consider new forms of science and technology (e.g. medicine, communications, health, food, entertainment, etc) and their intersection with ethics and politics, explore a topic in human-animal relations and animal rights, and so on. The possibilities are endless and I hope you will find a topic that interests you. Of course, I am always here to help – if you find you are unsure what to do, please come and see me soon, and we can get you on the right track. Even if you do think you are on the right track, it still pays to run your topic by me, as I might be able to guide/redirect you as necessary. 55% of your grade rests on this project, thus, a little early checking in about your topic is well worth it.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

September 18 – Introduction to the Course

September 25 – Nature and Environment in the History of Sociological Theory

1. Catton, William and Riley Dunlap. 1980. "A New Ecological Paradigm for a Post-Exuberant Sociology," *American Behavioural Scientist*, 24(1): 15-47.
2. Murphy, Raymond. 1995. "Sociology as if Nature does not Matter: An Ecological Critique," *British Journal of Sociology*, 46(4): 688-707.
3. Alexandrescu, Filip. 2009. "Not as Natural as it Seems: The Social History of the Environment in American Sociology," *History of the Human Sciences*, 22(5): 47-80.

October 2 – Classical Sociology and the Environment

1. Foster, John Bellamy. 1999. "Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology," *American Journal of Sociology*, 105(2): 366-405.
2. Gross, Matthias. 2000. "Classical Sociology and the Restoration of Nature: The Relevance of Emile Durkheim and Georg Simmel," *Organization and Environment*, 13(3): 277-291.
3. Murphy, Raymond. 2002. "Ecological Materialism and the Sociology of Max Weber," pp 73-89 in R. Dunlap, F. Buttel, P. Dickens, and A. Gijswijt (eds.) *Sociological Theory and the Environment*. Rowman and Littlefield.  
(ON RESERVE)

October 9 – G.H. Mead, Nature, and the Environment

1. Weigert, Andrew. 2008. "Pragmatic Thinking about Self, Society, and Natural Environment: Mead, Carson, and Beyond," *Symbolic Interaction*, 31(3): 235-258.
2. Brewster, Bradley and Antony Puddephatt (forthcoming) "G.H. Mead as a Socio-Environmental Thinker" in D. Huebner and H. Joas (eds.) *The Timeliness of George Herbert Mead*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. [I will send pdf]
3. Zavetoski, Steven and Andrew Weigert (forthcoming) "Mead, Interactionism, and the Improbability of Environmental Selves: Toward a Meta-Environmental

Microsociological Theory,” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.).

October 16 – Social Constructionism, Phenomenology, and the Environment

1. Hannigan, John. 1995. “Social Construction of Environmental Issues and Problems,” pp 63-78 in J. Hannigan’s *Environmental Sociology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London, UK: Routledge. (ON RESERVE)
2. Burningham, Kate, and Geoff Cooper. 1999. “Being Constructive: Social Constructivism and the Environment,” *Sociology*, 33(2): 297-316.
3. Williams, Jerry (forthcoming). “The Utility of Phenomenology in Addressing Human Caused Environmental Problems” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.)

October 23 – Human and Animal Relations

1. Irvine, Leslie. 2004. “A Model of Animal Selfhood: Expanding Interactionist Possibilities,” *Symbolic Interaction*, 27(1): 3-21.
2. Gross, Matthias, and Ana Horta. Forthcoming. “Dog Shit Happens: Human-Canine Interactions and the Immediacy of Excremental Presence,” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.)
3. Irvine, Leslie. Forthcoming. “Wild Selves: A Symbolic Interactionist Perspective on Species, Minds, and Nature,” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.)

October 30 – Experiencing, Framing, and Selling “Nature”

1. Brewster, Bradley H. and Michael M. Bell. 2010. “The Environmental Goffman: Toward an Environmental Sociology of Everyday Life,” *Society and Natural Resources*, 23(1): 45-57.
2. Bonham, Megan S. Forthcoming. “Micro-interactions of Cosmic Proportions: Mediating Human-Cosmos Relationships in the Planetarium,” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.)
3. Vannini, Philip. Forthcoming. “How to Climb Mount Fuji (at your earliest convenience): A Non-representational Approach,” in Brewster and Puddephatt (eds.)

November 6 – A Sociology of Objects and the Politics of Artefacts

1. Latour, Bruno. 1992. “Where are the Missing Masses? The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts,” pp 225-258 in W. Bijker and J. Law (eds.) *Shaping Technology, Building Society: Studies in Sociotechnical Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Get it at: <http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/50-MISSING-MASSSES-GB.pdf>
2. Van den Scott, Lisa-Jo. (forthcoming). Forthcoming. “Mundane Technology in non-Western Contexts: Wall-as-Tool” in *Sociology of Home: Belonging, Community and Place in the Canadian Context*. Laura Suski, Joey Moore, and Gillian Anderson, eds. Canadian Scholars Press International. (I will provide)
3. Leuenberger, Christine. 2014. “Technologies, Practices, and the Reproduction of Conflict: The Impact of the West Bank Barrier on Peace Keeping,” in E. Vallet (ed.) *Borders, Fences, and Walls: State of Insecurity?* UK: Ashgate Press. (I will provide)

November 13 – Student Paper Presentations

[PROPOSALS DUE!]

November 20 – Risk, Climate Change, and the Canadian Context

1. Ulrich Beck. 2006. “Living in the World Risk Society,” *Economy and Society*, 35(3): 329-345.
2. Kerr, Don and H. Mellon. 2012. “Energy, Population, and the Environment: Exploring Canada’s Record on Energy Use Relative to Other OECD Countries,” *Population and Environment*, 34(2): 257-278.
3. Young, Nathan and Eric Dugas. 2011. “Representations of Climate Change in the Canadian National Print Media: The Banalization of Global Warming,” *Canadian Review of Sociology*, 48(1): 1-22.

November 27 – Giddens, Anthony. *Politics of Climate Change* (introduction to chapter 5)

December 4 – Giddens, Anthony. *Politics of Climate Change* (chapter 6 to afterword)

Essay Due : December 18 @ 4:30pm!

# Lakehead University Regulations:

## IX Academic Dishonesty

The University takes a most serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

(a) The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.

(b) A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.