

Sociology 4517 WA: Society, Culture, and Nature

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor
Class Location: Ryan Building 1021
Class Time: Thursday, 8:30-11:30am
3-0; or 3-0

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

Instructor: Dr. A. Puddephatt
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Office Phone: 343-8091
Office Hours: Thursday 2:30-4:30 PM

Goals of the Course

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

(1) Participation	(20%)
(2) Weekly Commentaries	(20%)
(2) Essay Proposal	(10%)
(3) Essay Presentation	(10%)
(4) Final Essay	<u>(40%)</u>
	Final = (100%)

Required readings:

- Anthony Giddens, 2011. *The Politics of Climate Change, 2nd Edition*. Polity Press.
- 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. **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. I will record a grade for you after each class and take the average at the end of term to assign the grade.
2. **Weekly Commentaries (2 x 10% = 20%)**
Choose 2 weeks to hand in a 4 page double spaced written commentary of your choice, based on the readings for that particular week. These should be well written and use correct ASA citation practices. I expect not only a discussion of the content of each of the readings, but also some comparative analysis between readings, and your own evaluative thoughts and critical commentary on the various issues presented.
3. **Essay Proposal (15%) and Presentation (15%):** 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 15 minute presentation of your idea for the paper. The proposal should be minimum 5 pages double spaced (times new roman) + references, handed in the same day as the presentation.

4. Final Essay (40%): 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 human groups to the nonhuman world and/or natural environment. For example, your essay might examine a theoretical debate in constructionism vs realism, consider the contributions of a specific theorist, researcher, or school of thought, analyze a specific environmental issue, analyze environmental social movements, examine the social aspects of new forms of science and technology, explore human-animal relations and animal rights issues, 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

January 8 – Introduction to the Course

January 15 – Nature and Environment in 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.

January 22 – 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]

January 29 – G.H. Mead: Nature, Technology, and the Environment

1. Puddephatt, Antony. 2005. "Mead has Never Been Modern: Using Meadian Theory to Extend the Constructionist Study of Technology," *Social Epistemology*, 19(4): 357-380.
2. Weigert, Andrew. 2008. "Pragmatic Thinking about Self, Society, and Natural Environment: Mead, Carson and Beyond," *Symbolic Interaction*, 31(3): 235-258.
3. 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*. University of Chicago Press.
[I will provide a copy of this]

February 5 – Social Constructionism, the Environment, and Technology

1. Hannigan, John. 1995. "Social Construction of Environmental Issues and Problems," pp 63-78 in J. Hannigan's *Environmental Sociology*, 2nd 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. Pinch, Trevor and Wiebe Bijker. 1987. "The Social Construction of Facts and Artefacts: Or How the Sociology of Science and the Sociology of Technology might Benefit Each Other," pp 17-50 in W. Bijker, T. Hughes, and T. Pinch (eds.) *The Social Construction of Technological Systems*. MIT Press.
(see <http://pura.ist.psu.edu/532/Readings/Bijker1984.pdf>)

February 12 – A Sociology of Objects and Artifacts

1. Latour, Bruno. 1992. "Where are the Missing Masses? The Sociology of a Few Mundane Artifacts," pp 225-258 in W.E. Bijker and J. Law (eds.) *Shaping Technology, Building Society: Studies in Sociotechnical Change*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [ON RESERVE]
2. Winner, Langdon. 1980. "Do Artifacts have Politics?" *Daedalus*... see <http://innovate.ucsb.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Winner-Do-Artifacts-Have-Politics-1980.pdf>
3. Joerges, Bernward. "Do Politics have Artifacts?" *Social Studies of Science*. See http://www2000.wzb.eu/alt/met/pdf/do_politics.pdf

February 19 – **Reading Week**

February 26 – Human and Animal Relations

1. Sanders, Clinton. 2007. "Mind, Self, and Animal-Human Joint Action," *Sociological Focus*, 40(3): 320-336.
2. Irvine, Leslie. 2004. "A Model of Animal Selfhood: Expanding Interactionist Possibilities," *Symbolic Interaction*, 27(1): 3-21.
3. Irvine, Leslie, Kristina N. Kahl, and Jesse Smith. 2012. "Confrontations and Donations: Encounters between Homeless Pet Owners and the Public," *The Sociological Quarterly*, 53(1): 25-43.

March 5 – **Free day to study!**

March 12 – Student Presentations + Proposals Due!

March 19 – 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 and 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.

March 26 – Giddens, Anthony. *Politics of Climate Change* (introduction → chapter 5)

April 2 – Giddens, Anthony. *Politics of Climate Change* (chapter 6 → afterword).

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.