Course Title:
Environment and Society: Overview of Environmental Issues from a Global Perspective

Course Number:
SOC 5970-220

Course Description:
The class explores the human interface with the natural environment through the sociological perspective, particularly in the late industrial era. We consider issues of social development and inequality, technology, demography, carrying capacity, and then consider how ‘diseases of civilization’ have become increasingly prevalent in modern society. As a central theme of the course, we consider the crucial role of culture in the relationship with the environment. The course concludes with looking at possible ways to think about the complex array of environmental issues as society moves into the Third Millennium.

The course will follow a lecture and discussion format. Discussion and questions are strongly encouraged. Students are expected to have read the text material prior to coming to class. During the course of the semester, we will cover a wide array of reading, research and ideas about the interface between humankind and the natural environment.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Location: SHAPE, Belgium. See Site Director for classroom location.
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 22, 2016

Site Director:
Shina Collins. Phone: 065-44-3654; DSN 423-3654; DSN Fax: 366-6230; Email: apshape@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Thomas J. Burns, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: OU Dept. of Sociology 331 KH
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1751
E-mail Address: tburns@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

In addition to the two books, there are a number of articles uploaded on the course website that are freely available for you to read and to download. I expect you to read the material ahead of time and to come prepared with questions and ready to discuss it. This will enhance your own and your classmates’ experience.

Many times, students find themselves wishing to dig deeper into a topic. For each of the topics, there are additional recommended readings uploaded on the class website. These are great when you start working on your class paper in particular.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

**Course Topics:**

**Course Overview and Introduction of Some Key Ideas**

- Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapters 1 & 2 (introduction and the unique view of environmental sociology) from *Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity*
- Cobb, John, article on Economism or Planetism: The Coming Choice
- Dunlap, Riley, & William Catton, article on Human Exemptionalism and Environmental Sociology
- Norgaard, Kari, article on Climate Change Is a Sociological Problem

**History of Societies from an Ecological Perspective**


**Individual and Cultural Priorities and Their Implications for the Environment**

- Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapter 3 (on the natural environment and the culture of late modernity) from *Environmental Sociology*

**Public Health Outcomes of Environmental Problems**

- Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapter 7 (on health, illness, and the natural environment) from *Environmental Sociology*
Carson, Rachel. 1962. Selection from Silent Spring
Colborn, Theo, Dianne Dumanoski, and John Peterson Myers. 1997. "To the Ends of the Earth"

Social Movements, Political Discourse and the Natural Environment

Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia. Chapter 8 on Environmental Social Movements from Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity.
Schnaiberg and Gould, Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict, Chap 7

Science and Technology in Late Modernity

Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapter 4 on Science & Technology from Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity
Schnaiberg and Gould, Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict, Chapter 4

Population and Carrying Capacity and the Ability of Technology to Alter It


Ecological Paradoxes of Modernity and Capitalism

Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapter 5 on Economics and the Environment from Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity
Schnaiberg and Gould, Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict, Chap 5

International Development, Inequality and the Environment

Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chapter 9 (environmental issues in emerging economies) from Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity
Schnaiberg and Gould, Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict, Chapter 8

As the Earth and Its Inhabitants Move into the Future

Burns, Thomas J., and Beth Schaefer Caniglia, Chap 10 on Catalysts for Change; & Chap 11 on Bringing It Together and Moving Ahead, from Environmental Sociology: The Ecology of Late Modernity
Schnaiberg and Gould, Environment and Society: The Enduring Conflict, Chapter 10
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Post Seminar Assignment:

A brief paper (approximately 12 pages) on one of the major topics covered in the course, is required. A number of guidelines are in the syllabus. Also, the professor will provide additional details when the class meets. Due date is Oct 9, 2016.

The class paper accounts for 30% of the grade. You will write a paper (in standard American Sociological Association format, a handbook for which is posted on our class site) discussing one of the major topics covered in the class. The target length is 12 pages, typed, double-spaced. While there is some flexibility here, there are numerous references generally available for virtually all of the major topics, already loaded onto the class web site. As a target, you should plan on having about 10-12 references for your paper’s bibliography. While it is OK to get a few of those from the internet, most should be from books or scholarly papers. Each reference should be properly cited. You can write your course paper on any of the major topics covered during the semester.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Seminar Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Attendance and full attention are strongly recommended. If you must miss a class, be sure to get the day's notes from a classmate. Also, you are responsible for any announcements made in class. As a general rule, assume that if you miss or come late to a class, you missed something important!

Particularly in a class such as this, in which we seek to understand a diverse array of religious institutions and practices, each member of the class has a responsibility to maintain decorum and a right to expect that of other class members.

Academic Integrity is taken seriously by Dr. Burns and by the University of Oklahoma. Please see the Official OU website containing the most current University Policies and information regarding Academic Integrity, which are given in detail at the following web address: (http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html).

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc… in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Thomas J. Burns, Ph.D.

Education

1990 Ph.D., University of Maryland

Current Positions

Professor of Sociology at the University of Oklahoma, and is active in the Religious Studies and Environmental Studies programs.

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- SOC 5970 Religion and Society
- SOC 5790 Environment and Society

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Dr. Burns’s research focuses on the outcomes, evolution and emergence of social institutions from a comparative and historical perspective, particularly as they pertain to issues of religion and the environment.

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

- University of Utah, College of Behavioral and Social Science Superior Teaching Award
- University of Oklahoma, Good Teaching Award
- Society for Human Ecology, Gerald L. Young Book Award
- Society for Human Ecology, Distinguished Leadership Award
Representative Professional Affiliations

- Book Review Editor, *Human Ecology Review*
- Editorial Board, *Journal of World-Systems Research*