

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS  
**SOC 2112 Environmental Sociology—Honors Section**

**Semester/Year:** Fall 2015

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:** --

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Class Time:** 12:30 – 1:45

**Days:** Tuesdays

**Room:** UU 410

**Instructor:** Chad Hanson, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00-12:00; T 11:30-12:30; TH 1:00-2:00; TH 3:00-4:00

**Course Description:** Environmental Sociology is focused on the intersection of the social and physical worlds. The course explores the constant interaction between human societies and the environments they depend upon. The analysis includes an examination of economic patterns like consumption, production, and the use of environmental resources. The course also includes a discussion of the social mechanisms that shape our relationship to the environment—norms, roles, values, and beliefs.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** No prerequisite

**Goal:** The goal of the course is to help students conceive environmental problems as social problems and thus envision community-based, state, national or even global solutions. By the end of the semester, students will be able to evaluate current environmental problems from the standpoint of their social, cultural, political, and economic roots. In addition, students will become better equipped to address our most pressing environmental concerns.

**Casper College General Education Outcomes:**

This course's objectives link to outcomes # 3 and 4.

- 1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
- 2. Use the scientific method
- 3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity**
- 4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives**
- 5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
- 6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
- 7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
- 8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

**Course Outcomes:** As a result of this class, students should be able to:

1. Identify environmental problems as social problems.
2. Describe the interdependence between social life and ecology.
3. Critically evaluate the roles of sentiments and values in consumption.
4. Describe the distinction between positive and negative externalities.
5. Describe how culture shapes our acceptance and knowledge of environmental risks.
6. Analyze the contradiction between our attitudes and behaviors toward the environment.

**Teaching / Learning Methods:** This course is an honors seminar that incorporates travel to Grand Teton National Park. The travel dates are October 3-6, 2015.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Term Paper .....	100 pts
Discussion Questions .....	30 pts
Participation .....	20 pts
End of Term Presentation .....	30 pts
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>180 pts</b>

A	=	90-100%	=	162 - 180 pts
B	=	80-89%	=	144 - 161 pts
C	=	70-79%	=	126 - 143 pts
D	=	60-69%	=	108 - 125 pts
F	=	< 60%	=	< 108 pts

**Term Paper:** There is a 3,000 word paper due near the end of the semester. Students have the option of writing a research paper, or an essay. We will discuss the differences between the two, and the specific requirements for the projects in class.

**Discussion Questions:** Prior to each scheduled discussion of course readings, the instructor will issue a set of questions. Students will complete the questions in writing prior to each discussion. Written responses will be turned in at the end of each in-class discussion period. Each batch of questions will be worth up to 5 points.

**Participation:** Attendance at each class meeting is worth two points. Each student is allowed to miss one class period, for the reason of his/her choice. Afterward, in the case of continued absence, the instructor will begin to deduct points from the student's total.

**End of Term Presentation:** Near the end of the term, each student will present the key findings from their work that has culminated over the course of the semester. The presentation will be graded on a scale (scale to be provided)

**Required Text:**

Reading Packet Provided

**Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade:** 11/12/15

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Chair/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty:** (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, [bheuer@caspercollege.edu](mailto:bheuer@caspercollege.edu). The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**Calendar or schedule indicating course content:** (be as complete here as possible, at least a grid showing week by week topics to be covered, assignments, due dates, readings etc. This can always be modified with a new handout later in the semester – better to send out a revised schedule than to trust verbal announcements by themselves)

**SOC 2112: Environmental Sociology**  
 Tuesday / Thursday 12:00 – 1:15

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>
1/12 – 1/14	Environmental Problems and Society	Bell, Chapter One
1/19 – 1/21	Environmental Problems and Society	Bell, Chapter One
1/26– 1/28	Consumption and Materialism	Bell, Chapter Two
2/2 – 2/4	Money and Machines	Bell, Chapter Three
2/9 – 2/11	Population and Development	Bell, Chapter Four
2/16 – 2/18	Body and Health	Bell, Chapter Five
2/23 – 2/25	Environmental Film Analysis	
3/2 – 3/4	Review and Midterm Exam	
3/9 – 3/11	SPRING BREAK	
3/16 – 3/18	The Ideology of Environmental Domination	Bell, Chapter 6
3/23 – 3/25	The Ideology of Environmental Concern	Bell, Chapter 7
3/30 – 4/1	The Human Nature of Nature <i>Alaska and the Wilderness</i>	Bell, Chapter 8 Haines, p. 3-21
4/ 6 – 4/8	The Human Nature of Nature <i>Voices from White Earth</i>	Bell, Chapter 8 La Duke, p. 247-254
4/13 – 4/15	The Rationality of Risk <i>Economic Nature</i>	Bell, Chapter 9 Turner, p. 51-68
4/20 – 4/22	Mobilizing the Ecological Society	Bell, Chapter 10
4/27 – 4/29	Governing the Ecological Society <i>The Politics of Storytelling</i>	Bell, Chapter 11 Kittredge, p. 157-168
5/4 – 5/6	<i>A Writer's Credo</i> Review for the Final	Abbey, p. 161-178
Finals Week	Refer to Final Exam Schedule	