

SOCI 3312: Environmental Sociology

Instructor: Roslyn Schoen, PhD

Office: Heritage Hall 204

Visits can be scheduled via WebEx during spring 2022

Contact: roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu

Please download, save, and/or print this PDF of our syllabus in case you lose access to the internet:

[SOCI 3312_spring2022_sylabus_online.pdf](#)

Catalog Course Description:

This course examines relationships and interactions between society and the environment. This includes inquiries into how the natural world and its degradation influence the way societies are organized by studying human communities as part of natural ecosystems.

Detailed Course Description:

(WI) This course examines relationships and interactions between society and the environment. This includes inquiries into how the natural world and its degradation influence the way societies are organized by studying human communities as part of natural ecosystems. Using the sociological perspective, the materials presented here demonstrate the ways in which environmental issues are fundamentally structural and must be understood as such in order to be addressed. We will focus on the sociological aspects of environmental issues, drawing from literature in political economy, social inequality, social constructionism, sociology of knowledge, and social movements. We will also consider issues of development and globalization to bolster our understanding of the relationship between structural conditions and lived experiences in our own country and abroad.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the intellectual and pragmatic issues concerning the relationship between people and the environment. By the end of the course students should be able to:

- understand the role of social structure and state policy in environmental issues
- discuss the various definitions of nature and the environment and understand how those definitions inform how we approach environmental issues
- apply the major theories used to describe and analyze the relationship between humans and the environment
- identify how environmental problems intersect with social inequalities
- think critically about environmental movements and social change
- demonstrate college-level ability in written work, including ability to revise according to instructor feedback
- demonstrate improved ability in oral communication, specifically in the form of public presentation

This is a **Writing Instructive** course. That means writing will be an integral part of measuring student mastery of course content. This also means that you will have several opportunities to work on improving your writing skills. Revising is fundamental to improving writing skills, so this semester you will receive feedback on your writing that you should use to revise and improve toward producing a final version. If you have any questions about this part of the course, please do not hesitate to ask!

Contacting your professor:

The best way to contact me is through email (roslyn.schoen@tamuct.edu). I check email every day during the week and often

on the weekends as well. I do not respond to email after 7 PM; if you email in the middle of the night, please look for my response the following day. I am on campus during my office hours should you need to talk to me in person.

The best way to refer to your professor in email or in person is as “Professor Schoen” or “Dr. Schoen,” pronounced *SHANE*.

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp) [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

Required Textbook/Readings:

- Leslie King and Deborah Auriffeille. 2020. *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*, 4th Rowan & Littlefield Publishing
- Mark Everard. 2020. *The Ecology of Everyday Things*. Taylor & Francis/CRC Press. ISBN: 9780367636319
- Other materials listed on the syllabus will be available through Blackboard or the course eReserves page.

Course requirements:

Below is a description of the main activities for this course. More information beyond these descriptions is available on our course Canvas page.

1. **Reading assignments, films, and other materials:** Students are expected to complete the reading assignments before coming to class. Additional readings beyond the texts listed above will be available on the course E-Reserve page. These are listed in the course schedule as “Online” readings and are just as important as the readings from your book. Your professor will also provide you with links to news articles or video clips to consider throughout the semester.
2. **Discussions:** Students will participate on our course discussion board, with graded discussions taking place during 5 of the 16 weeks this semester. Your primary/initial postings will address my weekly discussion question(s) and should be made by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Thursday. Once several initial posts have been made, you will move on by reading and responding to at least two of your peers’ primary posts. Response posts commenting and reflecting upon the comments of your peers should be made by midnight (11:59 PM CST) each Sunday. Further details on discussion boards and our netiquette statement can be found on the Canvas page “instructions for discussion boards.”
3. **Quizzes:** Students will take 5 quizzes at regular intervals throughout the course. Quizzes are worth 40 points each and will cover the readings and other material assigned since the last quiz. Quizzes will be given online using Canvas.
4. **Writing assignments:** Students will engage in a writing project that asks them to examine the various frames through which a single environmental issue is communicated to audiences. Students will select their own topic in environmental sociology and conduct an analysis of how the issue is communicated across the following five areas/spaces: published scientific articles from **climate scientists**, **sociological** literature in environmental sociology, **journalistic** reporting on climate science, **political** claims about environmental issues, and how science

and climate issues are discussed in everyday **conversation** including on social media. The point breakdown for these assignments is in the table below. Detailed instructions for the steps involved with these assignments will be available on Canvas.

Coursework	Points
Discussions (5 @ 20 points)	100
Quizzes (5 @ 40 pts)	200
Writing project	200
Genre activity 20 pts	
Knowledge essay 20 pts	
Topic selection 5 pts	
Fake news reflection 15 pts	
Frame analysis 40 pts	
Paper (including draft) 100 pts	
Total:	500

Posting of Grades:

- All student grades will be posted using the Canvas gradebook and students should monitor their grade status through this tool.
- Students should always refer to the syllabus for total points and points possible. The Canvas gradebook tool has been known to misinform students from time to time.
- Grades will usually be posted within 7-10 days of due dates. Some assignments, like our research paper, require more personalized instructor feedback. These assignments could take longer to grade and so you may need to be patient.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Points	Percent	Grade
450-500	90 – 100%	A
400-449	80 – 89%	B
350-399	70 – 79%	C
300-349	60 – 69%	D
299 or below	0 – 59%	F

COURSE SCHEDULE

Assigned chapters are from your book, Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action.

Week 1.

Topic	Read	Complete
Course orientation and Introduction to Environmental Sociology	Syllabus, course intro	
	Auriffeille & King's Introduction: "Environmental Problems Require Social Solutions" p.1 Film - <i>Dry Season: Living Dangerously</i>	Discussion

Week 2.

Topic	Read	Complete
What is nature?	Angelo and Jerolmack, "Nature's Looking Glass" Online: Čapek, Stella M. "The Social Construction of Nature: Of Computers, Butterflies, Dogs, and Trucks"	Rhetorical genre activity

Week 3.

Topic	Read	Complete
Nature and Society	Chapter 1 "The Nature of Modern Society" in Everard Online: William Cronon's "The Trouble with Wilderness"	Discussion

Week 4.

Topic	Read	Complete
Theories of Environmental Sociology	Online: Barbosa, Luiz C. "Theories in Environmental Sociology" p. 25-46 Chapter from <i>Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology</i> .	Quiz 1
	2. Foster's "Why Ecological Revolution?" p.35 4. Longo & Clausen, "The Tragedy of the Commodity: The overexploitation of the Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishery" p.63	

Week 5.

Topic	Read	Complete
Knowledge production	Online: Bonds, Eric. 2011. "The Knowledge-Shaping Process: Elite Mobilization and Environmental Policy." <i>Critical Sociology</i> . WI focus week.	Writing project topics due

Week 6.

Topic	Read	Complete
Political Economy	5. Benjamin Vail, "Ecological Modernization at Work? Environmental Policy Reform in Sweden at the Turn of the Century" p.81 6. York et al. "A Tale of Contrasting Trends: Three Measures of the Ecological Footprint in China, India, Japan, and the United States" p.97 Chapter 2 "Reading the Tea Leaves" in Everard	Discussion board

Week 7.

Topic	Read	Complete
Environmental Inequalities	7. Clark, Auerbach, and Zhang, "The DuBois Nexus" p.113 10. Bryson et al. "Turning Public Issues into Private Troubles: Lead Contamination, Domestic Labor, and the Exploitation of Women" p.159 Chapter 3 "My Trendy Tee Shirts" and Chapter 4 "Yesterday's Papers" in Everard	Quiz 2

Week 8.

Topic	Read	Complete
Framing environmental conversations	Read Part V Media: 11 "Media Framing of Body Burdens" and 12 "Legitimizing the Environmental Injustices of War" pgs. 171 to 204 Watch film - <i>Post Truth Times: We the Media</i>	Fake news reflection

SPRING BREAK**Mar 14-18 No class this week.****Week 9.**

Topic	Read	Complete
Environmental Disasters	13. Ritchie et al. "The BP Disaster as an Exxon Valdez Rerun" p.207 14. Thomas Beamish, "Silent Spill: The Organization of an Industrial Crisis" p. 215 Chapter 5 "A Simple Bowl of Rice" and Chapter 6 "Bath Time" in Everard	Discussion board

Week 10.

Topic	Read	Complete
Globalization and the environment	3. Daniel Faber, “The Unfair Trade-off: Globalization and the Export of Ecological Hazards.” P.49 eRes: Freund & Martin, “Driving South: The Globalization of Auto Consumption and its Social Organization of Space.” Chapter 7 “A Breath of Fresh Air” in Everard	Quiz 3

Week 11.

Topic	Read	Complete
The role of identity and emotion in environmental issues	16. K.M. Norgaard, “People Want to Protect Themselves a Little Bit” p.239 eRes: Bell & York, “Community Economic Identity: The Coal Industry and Ideology Construction in West Virginia” Chapter 8 “The Wood for the Trees” in Everard	Frame analysis

Week 12.

Topic	Read	Complete
Things that sting, stink, and swim	Chapters 9-13 in <i>The Ecology of Everyday Things</i> by Everard	Paper drafts due

Week 13.

Topic	Read	Complete
Everyday eco-efforts	eRes: Juliet Schor “Cleaning the Closet: Toward a New Fashion Ethic” Chapters 14-17 in <i>The Ecology of Everyday Things</i> by Everard	Quiz 4

Week 14.

Topic	Read	Complete
Social and Environmental Change I	eRes: Michael Maniates, “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?” Online: “Mobilization in the Global South.” Chapter 17 from <i>Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology</i> .	Discussion board

Week 15.

Topic	Read	Complete
Social and Environmental Change II	18. David Pellow, "Politics by Other Greens" p.272 Chapters 20 and 21 in <i>The Ecology of Everyday Things</i> by Everard	Quiz 5

Week 16.

Topic	Read	Complete
Finals week	No readings for this week	Papers due

Highlighted university dates and deadlines:

February 2, 2022	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
April 8, 2022	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
March 14-18, 2022	Spring Break (University Closed)
May 14, 2022	Spring Commencement Ceremony at 7 PM (tentative)
May 17, 2022	Final grades submitted by this day

For all university dates, see: [TAMUCT Academic Calendar](#)

Make-up and late policies

This is an online hybrid course. You are responsible for managing your time to make sure you complete all assignments on time. In the event that a student experiences an illness, injury, or other emergency that causes them to miss a discussion board or quiz, the student has the right to an alternative assignment to make up missed points. The instructor will choose the alternative assignment. In this case, the student must provide official documentation that includes their name and the dates of the illness or emergency (e.g. doctor's note, police report).

A student may only make up an **exam** if there is illness, injury, or another *documented* excuse. If a student misses an exam due to illness, injury, something out of their control they must 1. Provide documentation (doctor's note, police report, etc), 2. Notify Dr. Schoen as soon as possible of intent to take a make-up exam, and 3. Prepare to take the make-up exam within 1 week of the excused absence. Students who miss an exam with no excused absence will receive a zero for that exam. If the student foresees that s/he will be unable to complete the course, then s/he should drop the course or accept the posted grade.

Plagiarism policy

Plagiarism on any assignment (discussion boards, quizzes, journals, etc) will not be tolerated. Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are confused, please ask me.

If an assignment is found to be plagiarized, the student will receive a zero for that assignment and a referral to Student Affairs.

If the plagiarism is egregious, the student will receive an F for the course. See also: section below on Academic Integrity.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title

IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](#) [<https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT>] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (A&M—Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M—Central Texas students. For the Spring 2022 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually

through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](#) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

[http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](#) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

Copyright Notice.

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