Course description: This course will explore ideas and research about the ways people relate to their natural environments. A major theme in the course is the role of human consumption and production in shaping nature. A second major theme is how knowledge shapes, and is shaped by, human uses of nature. These interlinked themes will be traced through readings on industrial development, environmental justice, and corporate anti-environmentalism, and will touch on specific environmental problems such as water supply conflicts, biotechnology, and global climate change. Although the framework of the course is based in environmental sociology, we will also read work by anthropologists, historians, and environmental activists.

Course goals: After completing this course, students should be able to speak and write about major issues in environmental sociology, and should be able to conduct their own critical media analyses of environmental issues.

Required texts:
  @ Additional readings available as PDF on Blackboard.
  @ Beder, Sharon. 2002. *Global Spin: The Corporate Assault on Environmentalism*. Revised ed. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing Company. Note: We will read about half of this book, but unfortunately it is currently out of print. Students can find cheap used copies online, but I will also make PDF copies available.

Assignments:
- Attendance/Participation (10%)
- Commodity Chains Essay (15%)
- In-class Midterm Exam (20%)
- Media Analysis Essay and Presentation (25%)
- Take-home Final Exam (30%)

Class participation includes attendance in class and contributions to class discussions, group discussions, and group presentations. Please arrive for class on-time and give your fellow students and the professor the courtesy of your attention while in class.

The essays will ask you to apply concepts from the course to understanding historical and contemporary environmental issues. The media analysis essay will also feature a short in-class presentation. I will grade essays on the content of what you have to say as well as the readability of how you say it. Essay questions will be provided in class and on Blackboard.
The two exams will feature essay questions and perhaps some short answer questions. In these exams I will be looking for evidence that you understand and can therefore explain, apply, integrate, and critique concepts from the readings and class discussions. I will also be looking for your insights and originality.

All assignments will be graded on a +/- scale, but the final course grade will be reported on a ABCDF scale.

Written work: All papers and take-home exam questions have a standard format: typed in 12 point font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, printed in black ink on white paper, with pages stapled together. Page length will be specified in the assignment. Plan ahead when it comes to computers, printing, and hungry dogs (save your work early and often) because late papers will be severely penalized. Exams will be held (or are due) on the days specified in the syllabus and no extensions or make-up exams will be granted, unless you have a documented medical or personal emergency, or unless you have some other exceptional circumstance, and have made prior arrangements with me.

Accommodations: If you have a disability and would like accommodations on exams, please let me know so I can help you. Accommodations must be verified by the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) before they can be provided, so it is a good idea to start the process early in the semester. The SDS website is http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/sds/index.html.

Academic integrity: The University of Mississippi Creed affirms the values of “personal and professional integrity” as well as “academic honesty.” In the context of a class, this refers most specifically to an injunction against cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism involves taking someone else’s written work and turning it in as your own. This includes taking text from course readings without proper citation. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please come talk to me so I can help clarify this for you. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing there will be consequences, up to and including failing the course and being reported to the Dean for disciplinary action.

Course Schedule

Aug. 23 Tue. Syllabus and Reading Assignments

Aug. 25 Thr. Environmental Problems and Society
- Bell, ch. 1, pp. 1-29.

Aug. 30 Tue. Ecology of Conquest

Sep. 1 Thr. Consumption
- Bell, ch. 2, pp. 33-56.
Sep. 6 Tue.  Production
• Bell, ch. 3, pp. 57-84.

Sep. 8 Thr.  The History of Grain
• Cronon, ch. 3, pp. 97-147.

Sep. 13 Tue.  The History of Meat
• Cronon, ch. 5, pp. 207-259.

Sep. 15 Thr.  ▶ Commodity Chains Essay Due

Sep. 20 Tue.  Global Population
• Bell, ch. 4, pp. 85-110.

Sep. 22 Thr.  Water Supply

Sep. 27 Tue.  Water Wars

Sep. 29 Thr.  Nature as Social Construction
• Bell, ch. 8, pp. 185-208.

Oct. 4 Tue.  ▶ In-class Midterm Exam

Oct. 6 Thr.  Communicating Risk
• Bell, ch. 9, pp. 197-220.

Oct. 11 Tue.  Domination and Concern
• Bell, ch. 6-7, pp. 135-184.

Oct. 13 Thr.  Corporate Public Relations
@ Beder, ch. 1 & 7-8, pp. 15-25 & 107-139.

Oct. 18 Tue.  Fukushima and Public Relations
@ Readings TBA
Oct. 20 Thr. Advertising and Environment
   @Beder, ch. 10-11, pp. 161-194.

Oct. 25 Tue. Media and Environment
   @Beder, ch. 12-13, pp. 195-231.

Oct. 27 Thr. Global Climate Change

Nov. 1 Tue. Media Analysis Paper and Presentation Due

Nov. 3 Thr. Body and Health
   •Bell, ch. 5, pp. 111-131.

Nov. 8 Tue. Diamond: The Problem
   •Lerner, intro and ch. 1-5, pp. 1-65.

Nov. 10 Thr. Organizing Change
   •Bell, ch. 10, pp. 237-262.

Nov. 15 Tue. Diamond: The Conflict
   •Lerner, ch. 6-10, pp. 67-149.

Nov. 17 Thr. Diamond: The Movement
   •Lerner, ch. 11-13, pp. 153-223.

Nov. 22 & 24 Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 29 Tue. Diamond: The Compromise
   •Lerner, ch. 14-conclusion, pp. 227-286.

Dec. 1 Thr. What Is To Be Done?
   •Bell, ch. 11, pp. 263-286.

Dec 8 Thr. In-class Final Exam, 12pm