



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# BIO 344 Environment and Society

Summer 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This course offers a comprehensive overview of theoretical and empirical research in environment and society, covering historical evolution, contemporary topics, and empirical studies. Students analyze diverse perspectives on environmental issues globally, focusing on the impact of social institutions and human activities. Sociological approaches to environmental crises are explored, emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of the field.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish environmental sociology as a distinctive area of study;
2. Explain fundamental theories elucidating humanity's metabolic interactions with the environment;
3. Promote environmental equity and sustainable growth as pathways to a different environmental trajectory;
4. Assess the origins and impacts of significant environmental challenges;
5. Apply a structural perspective to analyze socio-environmental relationships effectively.

## **PREREQUISITES**

N/A

## **GRADING**

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
2 Projects	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
2 Papers	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F.$$

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Leslie King, *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*, 4th Edition, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Introduction to Environmental Sociology Topic 2: Historical Roots and Development of Environmental Sociology Topic 3: Social Dimensions of Environmental Issues Topic 4: The Role of Social Institutions in Shaping Environmental Impacts <b>Assessments:</b> Project 1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: Anthropogenic Drivers of Environmental Change  Topic 6: Global Perspectives on Environmental Sociology  Topic 7: Environmental Justice: Equity and Fairness in Environmental Decision-Making  Topic 8: Sociological Approaches to Addressing Environmental Crises</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Paper 1</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Structural Analysis of Socio-Environmental Relationships  Topic 10: Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental Sociology  Topic 11: Environmental Movements and Activism  Topic 12: Political Economy and Environmental Degradation</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#1  Project 2</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Environmental Policy and Governance  Topic 14: Social Construction of Nature and Wilderness  Topic 15: Environmental Health and Public Safety  Topic 16: Environmental Risks and Vulnerabilities</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#2  Paper 2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Sustainable Development: Balancing Environmental, Social, and Economic Concerns  Topic 18: Environmental Inequality and Marginalized Communities  Topic 19: Urbanization and its Impact on the Environment  Topic 20: Climate Change and Societal Responses</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.