



Sociology 2220B

570

Winter 2018-2019

Sociology of the Environment

**Professor:** Dr. Don Kerr

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**Email:** dkerr@uwo.ca

**Office Hours:** Fridays 2:30 - 3:30 PM

**Ext:** 4438

**WEBSITE:** <http://dkerr.kingsfaculty.ca/teach/sociology-2220/>

**Class Times and Location(s):** Fridays 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
LH-100

**Course Description:**

This course examines environmental issues and concerns from a sociological perspective. Topics include environmental values, attitudes and behaviour; environmental movements; the political economy of the environment, and environmental risk and risk assessment. Debates surrounding such concepts as sustainable development will also be emphasized.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

**Antirequisite(s):** N/A

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Textbook:**

Paul Robbins, John Hintz and Sarah Moore. 2014. **Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction. Second Edition.** Wiley Blackwell.

Note: we are using the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and not the 1<sup>st</sup>! There are differences!

Occasionally I may post particularly relevant readings (in pdf). Many of these will be in PDF format so will require Adobe Acrobat Reader to be viewed and printed.

**Course Requirements (details follow):**

**(i) Attendance/Participation (10%)**

**(ii) Mid-term test (30%)**

**(iii) Essay Requirement (30%)**

**(iv) Final exam (30%)**

**Attendance/Participation (10%):**

The attendance/participation grade will be based on the following: 5% for attendance and 5% for class participation. Students who have full attendance will receive 5%; however, the other 5% will be allocated on the basis of their participation in class discussion. Students who do not participate in discussions and show little sign of reading required course materials prior to class should expect to receive "0" out of 5% for this component. Unavoidable absences from class should be explained to your professor if you want to maintain your "attendance/participation" grade.

**Mid-term test (30%):**

The mid-term test will comprise of both multiple choice and short essay questions (2 hours). All content from required readings and course lectures are fair game in this test. The multiple choice questions may be drawn from the required readings. By short essay questions, I am referring to questions that can be answered in a couple of paragraphs. The essay questions will come straight from the course lectures (so attendance is very important).

### **Essay Requirement (30%):**

One essay assignment is required in this course (due on the last day of class). This essay will require that you critically summarize an assigned issue and answer specific questions relating to the course content. These assignments should be roughly 8 pages long (4000 words), not including tables and references). Please use a word count to verify your paper length.

Details of these assignments and the specific issue choices will be made available on my website and discussed in class well in advance of the assignment due dates.

An electronic copy of each assignment must be submitted to Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. Instructions on how to make these submissions will be included in your assignment outline.

In submitting all assignments to your instructor, no faxed or electronic copies will be accepted. The written portions of both assignments must be typed, double-spaced, on 8 ½ X 11 paper, stapled (no paper clips or plastic coverings or binders), and handed in personally in class.

No assignments are to be handed in at the Faculty Secretaries office (they do not accept them). Late assignments can be delivered to the 'late assignment box' in the LIBRARY, or can be handed to me personally during office, lecture or consulting hours.

In the interest of fairness for all students, this assignment is due at the beginning of class of the final lecture of this term. Assignments received after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 5% daily. No papers will be accepted more than one week (7 days) after the due date. Please see each assignment outline for details (forthcoming).

*Only major illness and exceptional circumstances (with appropriate documentation) are acceptable reasons for handing in an assignment after the due date without late penalty. The professor must be contacted before the due date and appropriate documentation should be provided to the academic dean as soon as possible. This policy will be strictly enforced and no exceptions will be made.*

### **Final exam (30%):**

The final exam will occur during the university's normal examination period. This will again comprise of both multiple choice and short essay questions (3 hours). All content from required readings and course lectures are fair game in this test, although significantly greater weight will be given to material covered in the second half of the course.

### **ELECTRONICS USE -**

Please don't use your hand-held devices during lectures for any reason.

I'm fine with other computer *use in the classroom in most circumstances. However, please don't use social media, play games, surf the web etc. during lecture time!*

A student who is found to be breaking these rules will be asked to stop and may be asked to leave since this can be very distracting to both the instructor and (perhaps more importantly) other students. If I observe this happening in class, I guarantee that I'll reduce your participation grade.

Date	Course Plan	Assigned Reading
Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction/Course logistics	Video: Mother Earth: Caring for 7 Billion
Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Global Population Growth	Robbins et al. Chapter 1 UN Concise Report on the World Population Situation, 2014 <a href="http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/trends/concise-report2014.shtml">http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/trends/concise-report2014.shtml</a>
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	Origins	Pandora's Seed (details forthcoming)
Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Population and Scarcity	Robbins et al. Chapter 2 Video: China Revs Up
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Markets and Commodities	Robbins et al. Chapter 3 & Julian Simon vs the "Neo-Malthusians" by P.D. Aligica <a href="https://mercatus.org/uploadedFiles/Mercatus/Publications/JULIAN_AND_THE_LIMITS_TO_GROWTH_NEO-MALTHUSIANISM.pdf">https://mercatus.org/uploadedFiles/Mercatus/Publications/JULIAN_AND_THE_LIMITS_TO_GROWTH_NEO-MALTHUSIANISM.pdf</a>
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Institutions and the "Commons"	Robbins et al. Chapter 4

Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	READING WEEK	
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Environmental Ethics	Robbins et al. Chapter 5 Video: Food Inc.
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Risks and Hazards	Robbins et al. Chapter 6 Video: When the Levees Brock: A Requiem in Four Acts, Act 1.
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Political Economy	Robbins et al. Chapter 7
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Carbon Dioxide	Robbins et al. Chapter 9 Video: Before the Flood
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Trees/Conservation vs Forest Management/Biodiversity loss	Robbins et al. Chapters 10 & 11
Final Examination Period	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	



## Course Outline Policies 2018-2019

### Accommodations for Tests/Examinations:

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

### How to Request Academic Accommodation – King's Students:

(<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/exams-and-tests/medical-accommodation/>)

### UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

([http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf))

Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://www.eng.uwo.ca/files/undergraduate/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

### Support Services:

Information about Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development (formerly Services for Students with Disabilities) at King's is available at

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

For emotional/mental health assistance see: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The website for Academic Services at King's University College is <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <https://uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

### Accommodations for Religious Holidays:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf)

NOTE: Students who have a Sabbath or Holy Day that conflicts with tests or exams must give written notice for accommodation by the deadlines noted in the policy above (minimum two weeks for term tests and examinations, and one week for mid-term tests).

A calendar of religious holidays may be found here: <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

### Remembrance Day Policy:

That two minutes of silence be observed on November 11 and 11:00 a.m. throughout the university and that, where this is not possible, two minutes of silence be observed between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

That students be permitted to be absent from class to attend a Remembrance Day Services, provided the instructor is informed in advance of the intended absence.

### Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom:

King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See

[https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code\\_of\\_conduct\\_2003.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf)

Inappropriate use of laptops [or smart phones] during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.”

#### **Statement on Academic Offences:**

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. <http://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/terms/plagiarism.html>

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

#### **Copyright re: Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty Members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a Faculty Member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member is interested in posting a student's answers or papers on the course web site he/she should ask for the student's written permission. (Commercial use of Course material - <http://umd.edu/legal/commercial.html>)

#### **Mailbox re Submission of Late Essays/Assignments ONLY:**

Only late essays/assignments not handed in at class may be dropped off in the drop box, located between the inner doors of the Cardinal Carter Library. Essays dropped into the mailbox will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. will be date-stamped the following business day. Essays should be placed in an envelope addressed to the professor with the course code and student number clearly indicated.

#### **Class Cancellations:**

All reported class cancellations are posted at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-life/service-disruptions/>

Revised November 13, 2018 by S. Pearson