

## ENVST 2100 / SPRING 2021

### INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Sara Grineski, Professor of Sociology

OFFICE PHONE: 801-581-6153 (sociology main office)

EMAIL: [sara.grineski@soc.utah.edu](mailto:sara.grineski@soc.utah.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: Over Zoom or phone, by appointment

### TEACHING ASSISTANT:

Yvette Hastings, Graduate Student in Geography

EMAIL: [u1105374@utah.edu](mailto:u1105374@utah.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: Over Zoom or phone, by appointment

### *Course Summary*

This online course examines human-environment relations from a variety of disciplines. The course is oriented by critical examination of dominant modes of thinking (approaches and perspectives) about environment-society relations. Then, students apply those modes of thinking to relevant environmental topics and current University of Utah research. They are introduced to University of Utah research by a series of recorded guest lectures on a wide variety of sustainability-related research. The course will engage students in a diverse range of research, viewpoints, and approaches to studying environmental and sustainability issues, and provide a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to the great wealth of research at this university. Students will read, watch lectures, discuss with peers, complete exams, and reflect on sustainability issues through writing.

### *Course Objectives*

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Discuss key topics for sustainability including how they are analyzed by various academic disciplines.
- Have a broad knowledge of environmental and sustainability issues.
- Be familiar with the development of environmental thought and concepts, including the various "modes of thinking" about human-environment interactions.
- Be able to apply those concepts to a wide variety of contemporary issues.
- Formulate potential approaches to sustainability by integrating identified research and readings.
- Investigate various solution-oriented approaches to socio-ecological conditions.

### *Required Materials*

*Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction (2nd Edition)*. Robbins, Paul; Hintz, John; Moore, Sarah A. Wiley Blackwell: 2014.

This will be our main text for this course. It is available online, for free, through the Marriott Library: [Environment and Society book](#).

### **Online Course Expectations**

While all of the academic expectations of this online course are equivalent to those in the traditional course section, there are a number of additional expectations that students should be aware of when participating in an online course.

### *Instructor Expectations*

Dr. Grineski is your instructor and the facilitator of the classroom experience, and she is aided by a graduate teaching assistant. We are committed to the following:

- We have designed the course to include lectures, readings materials, assignments and assessments that will challenge students and will provide them with opportunities to learn and practice course content.
- Though this online course includes pre-recorded lectures, it is **not** a class that is run “automatically” by technology. We will interact with the class via announcements, schedule appointments with students, emails, feedback on assignments, and comments on lecture bulletin boards, among other methods.
- We will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week (Monday to Friday). To ensure a prompt response, please contact both of us in the same message.
- We will be available for individual meetings via Zoom appointments, email, or phone. Students will never be asked to campus to meet with us in person.
- We will provide feedback on the assignments in a timely manner.
- We will follow all official University of Utah policies regarding conduct in the classroom, incompletes, and accommodations. Accommodations will be considered on an individual basis and with required documentation.

### *Student Expectations*

Although the online format allows students greater flexibility to complete their work on their own schedule, this course does have a weekly structure with due dates for course discussions and assignments. As such, the following is expected of all students in this class:

- Students will log in to the course a minimum of 3 times per week.
- Students will engage in discussions with their classmates; however, students are not expected to interact with their classmates in person. Students can interact via online video conferencing (Zoom) or whatever technology they

are most comfortable with (Groupme, FaceTime, Google Hangouts), but this is not required.

- To do well in online courses, students must be self-motivated, organized, and willing to stay on top of their schedule. Students should take control of their learning while in this course.
- Students will regularly check course announcements. The [Announcements](#) area is the instructor's official means of communication when distributing information to the entire class.
- Students will update their Canvas settings to ensure they receive timely notifications from the course.
- If students have any questions, are struggling with course materials, or need further assistance from their instructor, they will take the initiative to contact us via the **Inbox** feature in Canvas or via email.
- If you do not hear back from us promptly, please send the message again since we plan to respond promptly to your messages.
- Students will engage with the course, students, the teaching assistant and the instructor in a respectful and professional manner at all times.

### *Netiquette*

Students are expected to follow the [core rules of netiquette \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at all times while participating in the class, interacting with other students, and communicating with the course instructor and teaching assistants.

### *Technology Issues and Tech Help*

We invested time before the start of the semester to ensure that the technologies used in this online class will operate smoothly. Nevertheless, technology doesn't always do what we want it to do! As such, this course has the following expectations regarding tech problems:

- Students are **required** to contact the instructor immediately when they notice broken links or inaccessible files in the course. We assumed that the links and files work, unless students indicate otherwise
- We are committed to fixing broken links and inaccessible files as soon as possible after being notified by the students. In the case that there will be a significant delay before these items can be fixed, the instructor will post an announcement to let the class know about the problem and to describe any alternate files/links or alternate due dates for assignments, if applicable.
- Students are responsible for submitting all assignments and activities by their due dates. In the very rare case that technical problems prevent a student from submitting an assignment, students are required to—
  - Immediately contact their instructor and teaching assistant via email or the Canvas **Inbox**, to let them know about the problem and to submit a copy of their assignment as an attachment (as possible).
  - Then, promptly contact the Canvas help desk to troubleshoot and resolve the problem.

- Submit an email updating us on whether the problem was resolved and of any additional steps the student or instructor needs to take to get the assignment properly submitted to Canvas.
- It is **not** appropriate to send an email to your instructor informing them about tech problems after an assignment due date. You need to let us know before the due date/time.
- Students are expected to read all assignment instructions and to submit work in the required file formats (e.g., PDF, Word documents). Please do not submit .pages files, since they cannot be opened in Canvas.
- It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the appropriate help desk to troubleshoot and resolve tech problems in the course,

24/7 help is available to all students via the *Help* button in the far-left Canvas menu.

## Evaluation and Grading

### *Assignments*

**Weekly guest lectures and video quizzes.** Weighted 20% of your grade.

- Watch the guest lecture and complete the quiz on the guest lecture by Monday at 11:59 PM.
- 12 quizzes in total (5 points each)

**Weekly reading and video quizzes.** Weighted 20% of your grade.

- Complete the reading and take the reading quiz by Monday at 11:59 PM.
- 12 quizzes in total (8 questions each)

**Weekly discussions.** Weighted 25% of your grade. See posted rubric for grading criteria.

- The discussions take the place of one class meeting each week so plan to invest at least an hour in this element of the course each week.
- Answer the initial prompt, using evidence from the reading and video, by Tuesday at 11:59 pm.
- Post a response to a group member's post by Thursday at 11:59 pm that is informed by both the course content and the posts of other students in your group.
- 13 posts in total
- 13 responses in total

**Integrating Ideas Papers.** Weighted 35% of your grade.

- You will write a short credit/no-credit reflection during the first week, which provides the basis for the mid-term reflection paper. Initial Sustainability Reflection.
- The course is divided into two sections. After each section, you will complete a 4-6 page paper that challenges you to integrate what you have learned. See posted rubrics for paper grading criteria.

- 3 Integrating Ideas papers
  - Initial sustainability reflection
  - Mid-term Paper
  - Final Paper

*Grading Scale:*

<b>A</b> 100%-94%	<b>A-</b> 93.9%-90%	
<b>B+</b> 89.9%-87%	<b>B</b> 86.9%-84%	<b>B-</b> 83.9%-80%
<b>C+</b> 79.9% - 77%	<b>C</b> 76.9%-74%	<b>C-</b> 73.9%-70%
<b>D+</b> 69.9%-67%	<b>D</b> 66.9%-64%	<b>D-</b> 63.9%-60%
<b>E</b> 59.9%-0%		

**Course Outline**

The course is organized into 15 week-long modules, with a break included that coincides with the semester break. To see the module schedule and assignment due dates, students should view the Course Summary and the course Modules.

**University Policies and Resources**

*Academic Dishonesty*

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action. Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400): "A student who engages in academic misconduct," as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, "may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing." Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

*Disabilities*

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services. *Accommodation Policy (see Section Q):*  
<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

#### *Addressing Sexual Misconduct:*

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

#### *Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language:*

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli>).

#### *Veterans Support Center:*

The Veterans Support Center is a "one stop shop" for student veterans to find services, support, advocacy, and camaraderie. They are located in the Park Building Room 201. You can visit their website for more information about their services and support at <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu>.

#### *LGBT Resource Center:*

The University of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu>.

#### *COVID-19*

Students are required to self-report the results of their COVID-19 tests. To report your test results, please contact: COVID-19 Central @ The U at 801-213-287 or

coronavirus.utah.edu. If you test positive, please let us know so that we can work together to ensure that you do not fall behind in this class, even if you have to miss several class sessions due to illness.

COURSE SCHEDULE						
Week	Dates	Topic	<u>Reading &amp; Quiz, Monday 11:59 PM</u>	<u>Video &amp; Quiz, Monday 11:59 PM</u>	<u>First Discussion Post, Tuesday 11:59 PM</u>	<u>Discussion Response Post, Thursday 11:59 PM</u>
1	Jan 18- Jan 22	Module 1: Introduction	Read Ch 1, No Quiz	N/A. Complete sustainability reflection by Friday	Discussion 1	Response 1
2	Jan 25- Jan 29	Module 2: Population & Scarcity	Ch 2 Quiz 1	Pam Perlich Quiz 1	Discussion 2	Response 2
3	Feb 1- Feb 5	Module 3: Markets & Commodities	Ch 3 Quiz 2	Tim Jackson Quiz 2	Discussion 3	Response 3
4	Feb 8- Feb 12	Module 4: Institutions & Commons	Ch 4 Quiz 3	David Carter Quiz 3	Discussion 4	Response 4
5	Feb 15- Feb 19	Module 5: Environmental Ethics	Ch 5 Quiz 4	Kelsey Leonard Quiz 4	Discussion 5	Response 5
6	Feb 22- Feb 26	Module 6: Risks and Hazards	Ch 6 Quiz 5	Aaron Flores Quiz 5	Discussion 6	Response 6
7	Mar 1- Mar 5	Module 7: Political Economy	Ch 7 Quiz 6	Grineski et al. Quiz 6	Discussion 7	Response 7
8	Mar 8- Mar 12	Module 8: Nature as Social Construction	Ch 8 Quiz 7	Diane Pataki Quiz 7	Discussion 8	Response 8
9	Mar 15- Mar 19	Module 9: Mid-Term Paper			DUE MARCH 18	
10	Mar 22- Mar 26	Module 10: Carbon Dioxide	Ch 9 Quiz 8	Kealoha Quiz 8	Discussion 9	Response 9
11	Mar 29- Apr 2	Module 11: Trees	Ch 10 Quiz 9	Nadkarni Quiz 9	Discussion 10	Response 10
12	Apr 5- Apr 9	Module 12: Uranium	Ch 12 Quiz 10	Pending Quiz 10	Discussion 11	Response 11
13	Apr 12- Apr 16	Module 13: Lawns	Ch 14 Quiz 11	Sarah Hinner Quiz 11	Discussion 12	Response 12
14	Apr 19- Apr 23	Module 14: E-Waste	Ch 17 Quiz 12	Anantharaman Quiz 12	Discussion 13	Response 13
15	Apr 27-	Module 15: Final Paper			DUE APRIL 29	