

SOC/EVRN 385: Environmental Sociology

Fall 2021 | EVRN/SOC 385 | MW 12:30-1:45PM | FRASER 106
Dr. Paul Stock | Paul.Stock@KU.edu | Office Hrs: Tu 11-12:30p & W 1:45-3:45pm
Photo: GLeo Horizontes Mural in Wichita, Kansas



**The birds belong to all of us.
The birds don't care what
color you are.” – Christian Cooper**

What is the world? What is the place of persons in the world? How then shall we live? While there are not necessarily correct answers, environmental writer Kathleen Dean Moore’s questions help orient our quest in environmental sociology—how do we develop both the background knowledge of environmental relationships while also building a skillset to understand, debate, and develop them at the same time? This course takes the major insights of sociology (primarily how to understand power and inequity) and applies them to our relationship with the water, the land, soil, food, viruses, animals, each other, and the future.

Our diverse readings will help you develop your own curiosity



about the planet and our place on it and within its systems



to help make sense of our (collective) actions.



Required textbooks



No required texts to purchase. All material will be available on Canvas or via Google Drive Folder.

Canvas

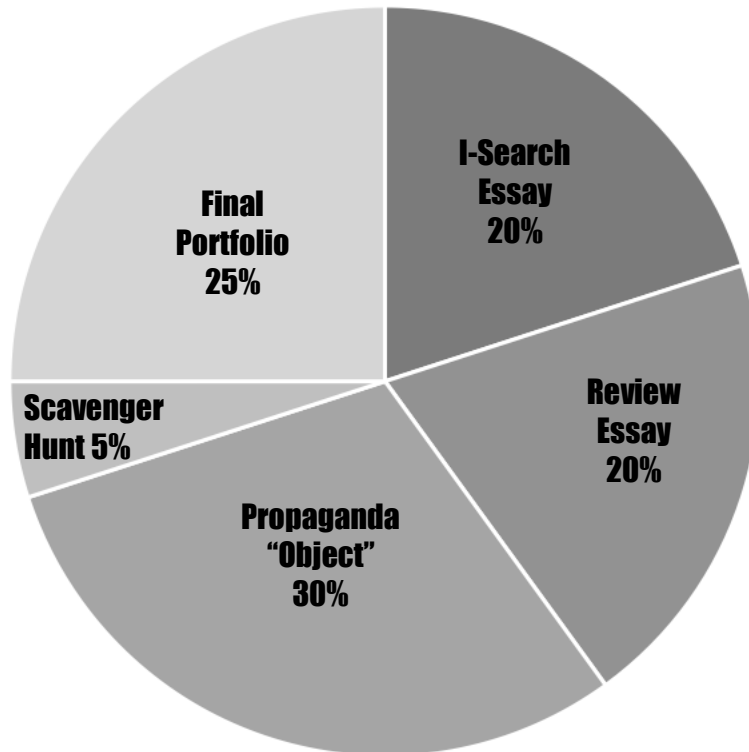
Canvas is new to all of us. I ask your patience as I learn this new platform. Be sure to utilize the “Help” options if you are need assistance with technical aspects of Canvas.

If you have questions ...

Please contact Paul at Paul.Stock@ku.edu. You can usually expect a response from within 24 hours (except on weekends). We can schedule a Zoom or phone call in addition to the listed office hours. I encourage you to read the syllabus carefully, search the help links, and contact peers to answer any questions you have.



🔍 How are you evaluated?



Assignment Details

I-Search Essay

Due date: 10/6/21
20%

What is it? A 5 to 7-page essay answering a re/search question you want to know the answer to. In addition to “library” research to answer this question you will interview an “expert” and include the annotated interview.

What’s the purpose? The I-Search assignment is meant for you to investigate something of immense interest to you around the environment understood broadly. The I-Search project is designed to develop skills in listening, interviewing, reading, discerning valuable resources, quoting, and writing in a way that benefits you and an audience.

Film Review Essay

Due date: 10/25/21
20%

What is it? Watch and review, in the context of the ideas and readings from the course, a film related to the environment. (There is a list to choose from in the assignment itself.)

What’s the purpose? This assignment aims to develop your ability to critically evaluate cultural material related to the environment. Films offer creative, but also accessible expressions of public understandings of environmental discourse. This assignment will help you identify strengths and weaknesses of these discourses in the context of course material.

Propaganda Project

Due date 11/22/21
30%

What is it? To demonstrate your knowledge of environmental propaganda through a created object. This object can be a photo essay, zine, or poster/infographic depicting propaganda related to an environmental theme. Your work will then be presented to your peers.

What’s the purpose? This assignment aims to develop your skills of observation, evidence-gathering, and visual representation of environmental propaganda.

Portfolio

Due date: By end of final exam period
25%

What is it? A compilation of items from the entirety of the semester plus some reflections on your work.

What’s the purpose? This portfolio asks you to both compile your work from the semester, but offers you a chance to reflect on what you have learned, what skills you have developed, and craft questions for future inquiry that can help inform both academic pursuits, but also personal and professional goals. This kind of reflection helps give your work meaning by having to organize it and explain it to an audience.

Scavenger Hunt

Due date: Various | 5%

What is it? Complete seven (7) scavenger hunt prompts. What is the purpose? To engage in environmental relationships using

Assignment Revisions

Due date: By end of final exam period | Up to 10% per assignment
What is it? You may revise any assignment taking comments into account. What is the purpose? To improve your score and respond to feedback.

Course Calendar

1	MON 8/23	Introduction to Class	Note: Work is due the date it is listed in this calendar.
	WED 8/25	What Kind of World Do You Want to Live In?	Read Meadows Watch <i>Pale Blue Dot</i> Read Assignments Complete Syllabus Quiz
2	MON 8/30	Environmental Sociological Imagination Toolkit Introduced Introduction to I-Search Assignment	Read I-Search Assignment Develop I-Search Questions Read Toolkit document
	WED 9/1	I-Search Questions and Discussion	Scavenger Hunt #1 Due
3	MON 9/6	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
	WED 9/8	I-Search Discussion	Watch <i>They Live</i>
4	MON 9/13	Nonviolent Communication Exercise	Nonviolent Communication (Various Materials on CANVAS)
	WED 9/15	Toolkit	Review Toolkit Read Montenegro and Glavin Watch Wade Davis and <i>Powers of 10</i> Watch: <i>They Live</i> Scavenger Hunt #2 Due

5	MON 9/20	Toolkit, ctd.	Read Ellul Read Nakajima
	WED 9/22	Toolkit, ctd.	
6	MON 9/27	Toolkit, ctd.	Read Bergstrom & West Read Peterson et al.
	WED 9/29	Toolkit, ctd.	Scavenger Hunt #3 Due
7	MON 10/4	Spirituality & Ecology	Read Walker Read TBD Read Glave and Tucker
	WED 10/6	I-Search Conclusions	Watch: <i>Downsizing</i> I-Search Paper with Annotated Interview Due by midnight
8	MON 10/11	NO CLASS – Fall Break	
	WED 10/13	Toolkit, ctd.	Read Farrell Read Finney Read Moore Watch: <i>Downsizing</i> Scavenger Hunt #4 Due

9	MON 10/18	Toolkit, ctd.	Read White
	WED 10/20	Toolkit, ctd.	Read Glave Read Tucker
10	MON 10/25	Toolkit, ctd.	Read Levitas Read Holthaus Film Review Due
	WED 10/27	The Toolkit in Context	Scavenger Hunt #5 Due
11	MON 11/1	The Toolkit in Context	Read Rivers
	WED 11/3	De-Extinction Exercise	Read de-extinction materials
12	MON 11/8	What kind of world do you want to live in?	Read <i>Drawdown</i> Watch: <i>2040</i>
	WED 11/10	Future Directions	Scavenger Hunt #6 & 7 Due
13	MON 11/15	Future Directions	TBD
	WED 11/17	Conclusions to course	TBD

14	MON 11/22	Reflections on propaganda project discussion	Read Bregman Read Pellow & Brehm Propaganda "Object" Due
	WED 11/24	NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break	
15	MON 11/29	Propaganda Presentations	TBD
	WED 12/1	Propaganda Presentations	TBD
16	MON 12/6	Propaganda Presentations	TBD
	WED 12/8	Propaganda Presentations	TBD
17	WED 12/15	Final exam period 10:30a-1:00pm	12/15 Portfolio due by 1pm 12/15 All revisions to previous assignments due by 1pm <u>NO WORK ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT AFTER 1pm on December 15.</u>

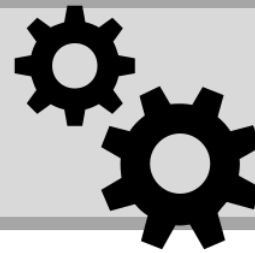


Citizenship. One last thing . . . while much of our lives are filled with conflict (e.g., the news, politics, work) about who is right or wrong, school at any level is supposed to be a place where ideas can flow freely without judgment. While we all have opinions, we have to be open to listening to what other people have to say, respectfully, in an open and fair atmosphere of dialogue. Respect is the most important attribute to any relationship and I expect this classroom to be no different. This includes civility, respectful dialogue during discussions, and all the other hallmarks of learning collaboratively.

Materials

No guns or weapons of any kind are necessary to succeed in this course. A rapier wit is always appreciated, though.

The Technical Stuff...



Course Outcomes

Develop knowledge of key concepts, terminology, skills, and theories in environmental sociology.

Develop familiarity with the diversity of writers and issues involved in this subdiscipline, but also its interdisciplinary roots.

Critically examine various case studies to illustrate the diversity of environmental conflicts, solutions, and debates.

Build research skills in critical thinking, integrated and interdisciplinary writing, observation and reporting of disparate materials.

Develop research and presentation skills.

Department Resources

Sociology Main Office
Program

Welcome Center

Location: 716 Fraser

Phone: (785) 864-4111

or (785) 864-9400

socdept@ku.edu

<http://sociology.ku.edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KUsociology/>

Environmental Studies

Location: 215 Lindley Hall

Phone: (785) 864-5355

envstudies@ku.edu

<http://esp.ku.edu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KUESP/>



<http://disability.ku.edu>

The KU Office of Disability Resources coordinates accommodations and services for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. The office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY).

University Resources

Writing Center

<http://www.writing.ku.edu/>

Office of Student Affairs

<https://studentaffairs.ku.edu/student-resources>

Student Academic Services

clas.ku.edu/undergrad/students

Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access

<http://ioa.ku.edu/>

Office of Multicultural Affairs

<http://oma.ku.edu/>

Counseling Services

<http://caps.ku.edu/counseling-and-psychological-services-0>

About Me

I have spent my entire life, since I was three years old, in school—as a student or a teacher. But as a rural and environmental sociologist and Associate Professor (that means I have tenure) of Sociology and the Environmental Studies Program, I have travelled and studied around the world including Aotearoa New Zealand where I have lived for a total of about 4 years since 2009. Mostly, I research farmers and how they try to take care of themselves, their families, animals, the soil, and the planet.